

TO: URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY BOARD
THROUGH: *Linda Norris*
LINDA NORRIS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: *John H. Wales*
JOHN H. WALES, DIRECTOR
URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT: OREGON DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION GRANT
APPLICATION FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF MINTO
ISLAND PEDESTRIAN TRAIL

ISSUE:

Shall the Urban Renewal Agency Board authorize the Executive Director to apply for and accept up to \$867,759 from the Oregon Department of Transportation Flexible Funds Program for design and construction of a pedestrian trail across Minto Island, and if awarded authorize the use of up to \$121,366 in matching funds from the South Waterfront Urban Renewal Area?

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Urban Renewal Agency Board authorize the Executive Director to apply for and accept up to \$867,759 from the Oregon Department of Transportation Flexible Funds Program for design and construction of a pedestrian trail across Minto Island, and if awarded authorize the use of up to \$121,366 in matching funds from the South Waterfront Urban Renewal Area.

BACKGROUND:

Over the last several years, the City and Urban Renewal Agency (Agency) have been working towards the goal of constructing a pedestrian bridge and trail system to connect Riverfront Park with Minto Brown Island Park. The Minto Island multi-use trail is included as a project in the South Waterfront Urban Renewal Plan, Section V.A.2.

In 2008, OBEC Consulting Engineers prepared a concept design study, as well as a hydraulic analysis related to access by the Willamette Queen Sternwheeler. In the concept design, the City considered alternatives including long and short bridge spans as well as high- and low-level bridge crossings of the Slough. On October 18, 2010, Council approved a tied arch bridge design with a 14-foot wide deck which provides a low profile, clear span of the Willamette Slough. On December 17, 2010, an easement agreement was executed with Boise Cascade, LLC to allow construction of the bridge landing and connecting trail from the privately owned portion of Minto Island to Minto Brown Island Park. On August 26, 2011, the Executive Director of the Agency signed an agreement with the owners of the Willamette Queen Sternwheeler to accommodate their business loss, assuming the low span tied arch bridge is constructed across the Willamette Slough, blocking the Sternwheelers right to

commercial navigation of the Slough. The City and Agency are now in a position to move forward with design and permitting of the bridge and adjoining trail system across Minto Island.

The Minto Island Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge (Bridge) and related infrastructure are located in two Urban Renewal Areas; the South Waterfront and Riverfront Downtown Urban Renewal Areas (URA) (Attachment A). The Riverfront Downtown URA FY 11-12 budget includes \$749,000 for design and permitting of the Bridge. Additional Riverfront Downtown URA funding is expected to be allocated for the project in FY 12-13 and FY 13-14. Staff expects sufficient Riverfront Downtown URA funding to be available to fund the design and permitting of the Bridge. The trail connection across Minto Island will require additional funding. Staff does not expect sufficient funds will be available in future years in the South Waterfront URA to fund the design and permitting of the trail due to the limited amount of tax increment the URA is generating.

The Minto Island Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge and connecting trail to Minto Brown Island Park are both needed to complete the connection between Riverfront Park and Minto Brown Island Park. Grant funding will allow the trail component of the project to keep pace with the Bridge design and permitting. The City and Agency will pursue grant funding for construction of the Bridge, beginning in 2012.

FACTS AND FINDINGS:

The Bridge and a connecting trail to the Minto Brown Island Park is an adopted FY 11-12 Council goal and is identified in several supporting plans and policies, including Riverfront Downtown Urban Renewal Plan, South Waterfront Urban Renewal Plan, Comprehensive Park System's Master Plan, the Salem Transportation Plan, 2011 - 2035 Regional Transportation Systems Plan, Salem's Vision 2020 Action Plan, and the Urban Land Institute's 2006 'Strategies for Redevelopment of the Downtown Boise Cascade Site' study.

Scope of ODOT Grant Application

ODOT is currently accepting applications for the Flexible Funds Program, a grant program for which the trail component of the project has been determined eligible. The Agency is requesting \$867,759 in funding to support design and construction of approximately 3800 linear feet of permanent surface 12 foot wide trail that will connect the Minto Island Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge with Riverfront Park and Minto Brown Island Park. ODOT requires a minimum match of 10.27 percent. Staff recommends contributing \$121,366 in South Waterfront URA matching funds. Increasing the match to 12.27 will increase the score of our application. The South Waterfront URA has sufficient cash on hand, and budget authority, to expend the funds for the match if authorized by the Agency.

Grant Requirements and Schedule

- Minimum of 10.27 percent match; additional match increases an applicant's score
- Minimum funding request of \$50,000; maximum request of \$2,100,000
- Project demonstrates local political and financial support and coordination with the necessary parties
- Adherence to Program criteria, including connectivity, environmental sustainability,

- community livability, and mobility, access, and health
- Requires final design completion by May, 2013
- Requires bid package preparation by July, 2013
- Requires construction completion by December, 2014

Next Steps

Staff will continue to pursue design and permitting of the Bridge, beginning with selection of a design consultant by January, 2012. The project schedule assumes completion of design and permitting of the Bridge by October 2013. Assuming the ODOT schedule requirements, and funding for the Bridge and Trail, the Agency is prepared to start construction of both project components by 2014. Award notification for the Flexible Funds Program is expected in March 2012. Staff will continue to pursue additional funding for the projects, including funding for construction of the Bridge.

Attachment A: Map

Report Prepared By: Annie Gorski, Project Manager
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Legend	
Pedestrian Bridge Urban Renewal Areas	
Type	NAME
Bridge	RIVERFRONT DOWNTOWN
Trail	SOUTH WATERFRONT
Contours	parks