

TO: Salem Planning Commission

THROUGH: Lisa Anderson-Ogilvie, AICP, Planning Administrator
Community Development Department

FROM: Julie Warncke, Transportation Planning Manager
Public Works Department

DATE: July 21, 2020

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for Urban Trails Implementation Plan Grant Application

The Public Works Department is preparing to apply for a grant to develop an Urban Trails Implementation Plan for the City of Salem. We are seeking a letter of support for our application from the Salem Planning Commission. A draft letter is attached for your consideration.

Urban Trails Implementation Plan—Summary of Proposed Project

Public outreach has consistently identified urban trails as a priority in Salem. The City of Salem has adopted plans that call for a significant network of future off-street trails. Off-street paths are included in both the *Salem Transportation System Plan* and the *Comprehensive Parks System Master Plan*. A recent code amendment (SRC 800.065(4)) increased the City's ability to require connections to existing or planned paths and trails. This new code language has drawn attention to the need for more clarity in the hierarchy of trails, appropriate design standards, and guidelines for trail alignments. Action items include: differentiating between classifications of trails, similar to the classification of roadways; developing design standards; establishing implementation guidance; and possibly refining code language to support development requirements. The goal is to have a unified urban trail plan with clear priorities and a path toward implementation.

Transportation and Growth Management Program Planning Grants

The funding opportunity is through the Oregon Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) program, a joint program of the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The mission of TGM is to support community efforts to expand transportation choices. By linking land use and transportation planning, TGM works with local governments to create vibrant, livable places in which people can walk, bike, take transit, or drive where they want to go.

The TGM Program typically awards between \$2 and \$2.5 million per year. Applications for the current round of funding are due July 31, 2020. Project awards generally range between \$100,000 and \$250,000. Awards will be announced in September 2020. Grants generally have two years after award to be completed. TGM requires a local grant match of 12 percent of the total project cost.

Additional information on the TGM Grant Program is available at:
<https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/TGM/Documents/2020ApplicationPacket.pdf>

Attachment: Draft Letter of Support

July 21, 2020

David Helton
Transportation and Growth Management Program Lead Grant Manager
ODOT Region 2
2080 Laura Street
Springfield OR 97477

Dear Mr. Helton:

The Salem Planning Commission supports the City of Salem's grant application to fund an Urban Trails Implementation Plan. Urban Trails are an important element of the transportation system, creating opportunities for people to walk and bike to destinations away from busy traffic. Increased walking and bicycling trips help to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and resultant climate change. Trails also play a role in supporting public health goals.

The City has a strong network of trails in certain parts of the city, including Minto Brown Island Park and Riverfront Park. The trail network is more fragmented in most other areas of the City. The City's adopted plans call for many miles of new or upgraded trails connecting people to destinations. What is important now is to have a plan that will guide implementation and help target allocation of limited resources. This plan also needs to address design standards for different classifications of trails and clarify when trail construction can be a condition of a land use decision.

The Salem Planning Commission looks forward to participating in developing an Urban Trails Implementation Plan that works for the City of Salem and its citizens.

Sincerely,

Chane Griggs, President
Salem Planning Commission