



TO: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager
FROM: Elliott Barnett, Associate Planner, Planning and Development Services;
Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Prairie Line Trail Historic Interpretation Project** – Resolution authorizing staff to accept a \$400,000 Washington State Capital Heritage Grant – May 17, 2016
DATE: April 28, 2016

SUMMARY:

The Planning and Development Services Department requests authorization for the appropriate City staff to accept a \$400,000 Washington State 2015-2017 Heritage Capital Projects Fund grant for the Prairie Line Trail Historic Interpretation Project.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

State and briefly explain which strategic policy priority is best aligned to this action. Please remove the statements below you are not directly addressing.

- Cultivate a vibrant cultural sector that fosters a creative, cohesive community
- Assure outstanding stewardship of the natural and built environment

The Prairie Line Trail is a signature project meeting multiple goals including place-making, catalyzing development, providing active transportation options, and celebrating Tacoma's history and culture. This project provides a unique opportunity to document, elucidate and celebrate the historical significance of this former railroad corridor through an integrated historic interpretation and public art approach.

BACKGROUND:

Through multiple policy actions, including the 2013 adoption of the South Downtown Subarea Plan, the City Council has recognized the Prairie Line Trail as a unique opportunity to build on Downtown Tacoma's assets, highlight its historic character, connect existing public spaces and neighborhoods, and improve its economic position and livability. Substantial progress has been made toward achieving these objectives. The University of Washington Tacoma has completed construction on the Prairie Line Trail corridor through its campus. The City is now poised to begin construction of the segment connecting Pacific Avenue to the Foss Waterfront, has completed the design for the Brewery District segment, and is initiating the design process for a public park abutting the trail at Pacific Avenue.

On May 13, 2014 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 38904 authorizing City staff to submit an application to the Washington State Historic Society for a \$400,000 grant for the Prairie Line Trail Historic Interpretation Project. In August 2014, the Capital Heritage Projects Fund Advisory Panel recommended that the project be funded as part of the 2015-2017 statewide Capital Heritage Projects package, which the state Legislature approved in 2015.

ISSUE:

A key theme emerging from the Prairie Line Trail public design process is the significance of the corridor as one of Tacoma's most important historic landscapes. Prior to the arrival of the railroad, the area generally was the cultural center of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians. As the site of the original 1873 transcontinental railroad connection to the Puget Sound, the Prairie Line served as the spine for commerce and travel for over a century, exerting a formative influence on the City's economy, history and culture. Today, many of the historic rail features and its character remain in place. Transforming the corridor into a public space presents a unique opportunity to connect people to this history.

The Washington State Historical Society administers the Heritage Capital Projects Fund for the purpose of partnering with local communities to preserve, interpret and provide public access to sites and facilities of historic significance to the state. This grant would fund the development and implementation of an historic interpretation



The granting agency requires a 2-to-1 local funding match. In this case, \$2.465 million in grant funds already secured by the City for the design and construction of segments of the trail are considered eligible local match, and are more than sufficient to meet the match requirement. Since the grant may not reimburse work by City staff, the project scope includes \$40,000 budgeted from the Open Space Fund to cover administrative and project management tasks to be conducted by City staff.

EXPENDITURES:

FUND NUMBER & FUND NAME *	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
1195-BUILD, PDS Planning Grant	753200	various	\$440,000
TOTAL			\$440,000

REVENUES:

FUNDING SOURCE	COST OBJECT (CC/WBS/ORDER)	COST ELEMENT	TOTAL AMOUNT
Washington State Heritage Society	753200	4334370	\$400,000
Open Space Fund Transfer	753200	6311000	\$40,000
TOTAL			\$440,000

POTENTIAL POSITION IMPACT:

POSITION TITLE	PERMANENT/ PROJECT TEMPORARY POSITION	FTE IMPACT	POSITION END DATE
Historic Preservation Intern position	Temporary	0.2	
TOTAL			\$3,000

This section should only be completed if a subsequent request will be made to increase or decrease the current position count.

FISCAL IMPACT TO CURRENT BIENNIAL BUDGET: \$440,000

ARE THE EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES PLANNED AND BUDGETED? NO

IF EXPENSE IS NOT BUDGETED, PLEASE EXPLAIN HOW THEY ARE TO BE COVERED.

The activity for this grant will be moved later this year and budgeted in the new Capital Fund.