



**MULTNOMAH COUNTY
AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST
NOTICE OF INTENT**

(Revised: 9/23/13)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 1/8/15
 Agenda Item #: R.5
 Est. Start Time: 10:00 am
 Date Submitted: 12/19/14

Agenda Title: NOTICE OF INTENT for a Regional Transportation Options grant for developing the East Multnomah County Safe Routes to School Program

Requested Meeting Date: January 8, 2015 **Time Needed:** 5 minutes
Department: Community Services **Division:** Land Use/Transportation
Contact(s): Joanna Valencia, Senior Transportation Planner
Phone: 503-988-0219 **Ext.** **I/O Address:** 455/116
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Joanna Valencia, Senior Transportation Planner

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Approval of a grant application requesting \$142,162 from the Metro Regional Transportation Options (RTO) program to fund the development of an East Multnomah County Safe Routes to School Program.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Multnomah County Land Use and Transportation Division is proposing to fund the continued development of the East Multnomah County Safe Routes to School Program through Metro's Regional Travel Options grant program. Since 2011, County Transportation Planners have been implementing a small-scale Safe Routes to School program, focusing on education and encouragement events to elementary schools in Troutdale to encourage children to walk, bike, scooter or skate to school. Safe Routes to School programs focus on using active transportation (like walking and bicycling) to increase physical activity in kids, reducing vehicle emissions and air pollutants surrounding schools, and reducing traffic congestion on our transportation system.

For the past year, County Transportation Planners focused on opportunities to leverage other east county efforts and building a coalition of existing and new partners to develop

and grow the Safe Routes to School movement in East Multnomah County. County staff has met with the City of Gresham, Fairview, Wood Village and Troutdale staff, the Bicycle Transportation Alliance, and the Safe Routes to School National Partnership to provide a coordinated effort of walking and bicycling events in East County schools. This RTO grant proposal is a direct product of the County's East County partnerships and commitment to building a robust, self-sustaining Safe Routes to School program.

The primary component of the grant proposal is to fund a Safe Routes to School Coordinator for two years that will work with schools in the cities of Gresham, Fairview, Wood Village and Troutdale. For the first year, the Coordinator position will be an AmeriCorps volunteer. For the second year, the Coordinator position is proposed to be a full time, limited duration County staff position (Program Coordinator). The combination of these two position types is not only cost effective, but also takes advantage of diversity and outreach benefits associated with AmeriCorps.

The grant proposal also requests funding for the Coordinator to complete a high-level regional needs assessment of all area schools that will identify the opportunities and barriers for East Multnomah County schools to participate in Safe Routes to School programming. The requested funds will also develop common resources for East Multnomah County schools, support training opportunities for school and school district staff, and support education and encouragement events with the school communities. The grant proposal will help build the capacity in East Multnomah County to have a stronger role and program in regional and statewide Safe Routes to School efforts.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

Multnomah County Transportation Planning Division will contribute \$5,000 per year (total of \$10,000 over two years) for the Regional Coordinator position. Multnomah County and City of Gresham transportation planning staff will contribute staff time as in-kind match to the project. Staff time is included in the County's Planning work program.

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

There are no anticipated legal issues. Developing a Safe Routes to School program for East Multnomah County fulfills the County's transportation goals to reduce reliance on the automobile and supports active transportation.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

This RTO grant builds on the strong partnerships built around Safe Routes to School in East Multnomah County. Through the East Multnomah County Transportation Committee (EMCTC), partners have included Gresham, Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village. The City of Gresham Transportation Planning staff have been more involved partners in providing coordinated Safe Routes to School programming throughout East County due to their own administration of their own program. As part of this grant application, the City of Gresham is committed to help oversee the Coordinator position especially when working with schools in the city of Gresham's jurisdiction. It is anticipated that the cities of Troutdale, Fairview and Wood Village, as well as school districts in East Multnomah County will be participating by providing a staff liaison to participate in an Advisory Committee that will oversee the program's work plan. Citizen participation may include participation of school district

volunteers and parent organizations in implementation of the program via school events and activities.

Grant Application/Notice of Intent

If the request is a **Grant Application** or **Notice of Intent**, please answer **all** of the following in detail:

- **Who is the granting agency?**
Metro
- **Specify grant (matching, reporting and other) requirements and goals.**
The purpose of the Regional Travel Options Program is to carry out regional transportation demand management strategies to increase the use of travel options, reduce pollution and improve mobility. Regional travel options include all of the options to driving alone: carpooling, vanpooling, riding transit, bicycling, walking and telecommuting. The Regional Transportation Options grant requires a 10.27% match.
- **Explain grant funding detail – is this a one time only or long term commitment?**
The grant funding is for two years and is a one time only award. Future RTO funding may become available in which applications and projects will be solicited via a process similar to the grant process in which the application is currently being submitted. The County’s Land Use and Transportation Division has been providing small-scale Safe Routes to School programming since 2011 and will continue to be a long term commitment within the Division.
- **What are the estimated filing timelines?**
The RTO grant application is due to Metro on December 19, 2014.
- **If a grant, what period does the grant cover?**
July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2017
- **When the grant expires, what are funding plans?**
Funding for a regional Safe Routes to School Coordinator staff position will expire with the grant. However, as part of the Transportation Planning Division’s work plan, County Transportation Planners will continue to seek on-going funding for Safe Routes to School programming in East Multnomah County.
- **Is 100% of the central and departmental indirect recovered? If not, please explain why.**
Yes, the grant funds will cover central and department indirect costs associated with the new Regional Coordinator position.

Required Signatures

Elected Official or Department/ Agency Director:	<u>Kim Peoples /s/</u>	Date:	<u>Dec 18, 2014</u>
Budget Analyst:	<u>Ching Hay</u>	Date:	<u>Dec 19, 2014</u>