



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 09/23/13)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 4/24/14
Agenda Item #: R.5
Est. Start Time: 11:10 am
Date Submitted: 4/14/14

Agenda Title: **Resolution Supporting and Acknowledging the Westside Trail Master Plan**

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but sufficient to describe the action requested. Title on APR must match title on Ordinance, Resolution, Order or Proclamation.

Requested

Meeting Date: April 24, 2014 **Time Needed:** 10 minutes

Department: Community Services **Division:** Land Use & Trans

Contact(s): Joanna Valencia, Senior Transportation Planner

Phone: 503-988-3043 **Ext.** 29637 **I/O Address:** 455/1/116

Presenter

Name(s) & Title(s): Joanna Valencia, Senior Transportation Planner and Robert Spurlock, Trails Planner for Metro

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Resolution Supporting and Acknowledging the Westside Trail Master Plan.

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.

The Westside Master Plan was led by Metro beginning in early 2012 and funded by a state of Oregon grant to begin developing the conceptual alignment and design of the Westside Trail. This trail has been identified as a regional priority since 1993 and included in the 2006 voter-approved Natural Areas Bond Measure. Since 1993, the vision for the Westside Trail has been to provide a north-south connection from the Tualatin River to the Willamette River, providing a separated paved trail for Washington County residents to recreate and commute through the urban areas and to provide a connection to the region's largest public park, Forest Park.

A short segment of the Westside Trail (identified as "Trail Segment 5" in the Plan) traverses through rural unincorporated Multnomah County and has been identified in the earliest planning stages as likely to be the most difficult alignment to plan due to topography and concerns about impacts to natural resources. For Trail Segment 5, the Plan recommends two alternative parallel routes through rural unincorporated Multnomah County. One route is an in road right of way along $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of NW Springville Road which is paved which pedestrians and bicyclists could use. The second route is an off-road, narrow, paththrough private property which Metro will need to acquire public right-of-way (ROW) for

which **pedestrians**, hikers and **trail bycyclists could** use. Metro applied leftover contingency funds to complete an in-depth biological and engineering analysis for the **alternative** alignments in Trail Segment 5 to fully understand the potential impacts to natural resources and to recommend implementation strategies to avoid, lessen, and mitigate for impacts.

A vote of support, acknowledges the planning effort conducted thus far including segments of the trail located within Multnomah County. The Board's vote of support is conditioned on the understanding that moving forward, further refinement to the Westside Trail Master Plan, specifically Segment 5 through Multnomah County, will occur to address impacts to items such as wildlife and water quality prior to implementation of the final plan.

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

There is no impact to the Transportation Planning and Roads Budget. Staff time is identified within the Planning budget that supports review of regional plans for consistency, including the Westside Trail Master Plan, to complete future land use and transportation plan updates.

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

As noted above, the Westside Trail Master Plan proposes alternative trail alignments through unincorporated West Multnomah County that include a road right of way option along NW Springville Road for a trail option that will weave through what is currently private property zoned for farming and forest use. The road alignment is consistent with the Multnomah County Capital Improvement Plan, last updated 2012, which identifies a shoulder widening project to accommodate bicyclists on NW Springville Road. The off-street alignment will require Metro (or another trail agency) to acquire property and to undergo an extensive land use review through Multnomah County Land Use to ensure the trail details are consistent with Multnomah County zoning and code. The West Hills Rural Area Plan (1996) contains goals to support recreational values of Forest Park and adjacent areas, as well as to support and promote the placement of links within a regional trail system for the use of bicyclists and pedestrians in the West Hills. The Westside Rural Multnomah County Transportation System Plan (1998) contains the goal of developing a transportation system that supports the rural character of Multnomah County with the objective that the County work with Metro to coordinate multi-use trail transportation needs in the Westside of the County.

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

The Westside Trail Master Plan has undergone extensive public engagement. The Stakeholder Advisory Committee consists of agency staff and residents of the relevant neighborhood groups and communities, including the Forest Park Neighborhood Association, the Forest Park Conservancy, Portland Parks and Recreation, and the County's Bicycle and Pedestrian Citizen Advisory Committee. In the 27-month long planning process, the project directly engaged with 1,400 citizens through six open-houses, hard copy and online questionnaires, neighborhood meetings and other organization meetings. During the additional biological and engineering analysis completed for Trail Segment 5 at the end of the project, Metro completed nine interviews with "local" experts including several neighborhood residents and conducted a 5-hour site tour with the neighborhood association and staff to review and confirm study findings. It is anticipated that future project plan refinement and implementation will continue to require public engagement opportunities.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department
Director:**

Kim Peoples

Date:

4/14/14