



October 12, 2005

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Paul Thompson

Subject: Item 4.b: Amendment to Central Lane MPO Regional Transportation Plan for Middle Fork Willamette River Loop Path

Action Recommended: Approve Resolution 2005-12 adopting an amendment to the Central Lane MPO Regional Transportation Plan

Issue Summary

In February 2004, MPC reviewed and reaffirmed support for projects that had been forwarded through the United Front effort for consideration in the federal reauthorization of the transportation bill. Among these projects was the “Rivers to Ridges Bicycle and Pedestrian Paths” which included the Middle Fork Willamette River multi-use path from Dorris Ranch Living History Farm to Clearwater Park in Springfield.

This project is contained in the Willamalane Park and Recreation Comprehensive Plan, a part of the Eugene-Springfield Metro Area General Plan, and is included as a priority project in the plan’s Phase 1 Capital Improvement Plan. The Middle Fork Path feasibility study is on the Financially Constrained list of the Regional Transportation Plan (Project #792), while the construction phase is on the Illustrative list (Project # 21).

With recent United States congressional approval of the SAFETEA-LU bill, the Middle Fork Willamette River Path project received an authorization of \$3 million, and Willamalane has pledged \$308,100 in local match. Project #21 can thus now be moved onto the Financially Constrained projects list of the RTP. This action will not trigger an air quality conformity determination as bicycle and pedestrian projects are exempt from conformity requirements.

Willamalane intends to now move forward by including this trail in an expanded project comprising an 8 mile loop path along the Middle Fork Willamette River and the Springfield Mill Race, connecting downtown Springfield to Dorris Ranch Living History Farm and Clearwater Park. In addition to the section described by Project 21, the other sections of this multi-use loop path are currently described in the fiscally constrained RTP as:

Project #840: South 2nd Street to South 28th Street (“Millrace Path”)

Project #859: 28th Street to 32nd Street (“Millrace Path”)

Project #793: Agnes Stewart Middle School to Clearwater Park (“Upper Millrace Path”)

The total estimated cost of the entire combined loop path projects is \$6 million.

MPC approval of staffs' recommended action will move Project #21 from the Illustrative list onto the Fiscally Constrained list of the RTP. It will consolidate Project #21 with Projects #840, #859 and #793 and will henceforth be reflected in the constrained list as:

Name: Middle Fork Willamette River Loop Path

Phase 1: MF Willamette River--Dorris Ranch Living History Farm to Clearwater Park

Phase 2: Mill Race--Clearwater Park to S. 32nd Street

Phase 3: Mill Race--S. 32nd Street to S. 28th Street

Phase 4: Mill Race--S. 28th Street to S. 2nd Street

Geographic Limits: South 2nd Street to Clearwater Park

Description: Multi-Use Path

Jurisdiction: Willamalane/Springfield

Estimated Cost: \$6 million

Length: 8 miles

Number: 21

Willamalane indicates that the local matching funds for the initial phases are available and committed for FY06-07 and are reasonably expected in FY08-09. Following MPC's action, initial phases of the loop path project will be programmed into the Central Lane MPO FY06-09 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP): design work will occur in FY06, right of way acquisition in FY07, and construction in FY09.

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Resolution 2005-12

Attachment 2 – Information Package - Middle Fork Willamette River Loop Path