

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve Resolution 2021-07 on first reading supporting the City's application to the 2021 Alaska Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) program for \$1.2 million for construction of Jarvis Hillside neighborhood connector of the Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway.




City and Borough of Sitka

PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

Coast Guard City, USA

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

From: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

Date: March 17, 2021

Subject: Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant Application

Background

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is a USDOT funding opportunity to improve transportation routes to federal public land. The construction of the Cross Trail has successfully competed for funds in the past since the Trail connects to the Tongass National Forest across a barrier of private and municipal land ownership.

From Indian River north to Starrigavan, many inland neighborhoods have easy access to the Cross Trail via short connecting spur trails. However, the estimated 270+ households and 80 businesses in the Price Street-Hillside Subdivision Neighborhood lack easy access, despite being a mere 1,600 from the Indian River Trailhead.

This project seeks to provide direct walking and biking access to the dense neighborhood with a connector trail from Price Street and a bridge across Indian River. The proposal also includes planning for a reroute of the Verstovia Trail from Price Street, at the future terminus of the Cross Trail. The current route of the Verstovia Trail trespasses across private property in two places and overflow parking at the trailhead results in parking on private property. This situation has the potential to close the trail and its resolution is a long-standing Forest Service goal.

During their March 9, 2021 meeting, the Parks and Recreation Committee approved advancing the project to the Administrator for presentation to the Assembly.

Analysis

The total project cost is estimated to be \$1.2 million. The program requires a 9.03% match, or approximately \$110,000. Sitka Trail Works has offered to cover the match through foundation grants and membership donations raised by Sitka Trail Works; participation by the City through in-kind staff time, materials and cash match has occurred previously. However, the CBS would need to appropriate General Fund working capital to cover the "in-kind" match.

In the draft application, Sitka Trail Works has estimated that CBS administrative staff time is covered by \$30,000 of funds from the FLAP project, however, no analysis has been completed to date by CBS staff to determine actual project administration costs by CBS, and we feel that the estimate may be insufficient to cover actual administration and project management efforts. There may be significant engineering costs to design the project which would be taken on by the CBS Public Works department and have not been factored in to the \$30,000 estimate.

The application is due March 26, 2021, and funding will become available by FY 2024 at the earliest. If the Assembly decides prior to 2024 that it is not in the best community interest to construct the neighborhood connector, CBS can de-obligate funds without penalty.

The trail is to be constructed to a similar standard as the existing Cross Trail, providing vehicle passage across Indian River if the SMC Road bridge were to fail. Any vehicle bridge will require in-depth engineering and routine inspections for safety. Once constructed, the trail will be owned and maintained by CBS.

Fiscal Note

A match of 9.03%, or approximately \$110,000, will be required for the estimated \$1.2M project. In the application prepared by Sitka Trail Works, an allocation of up to \$30,000 is included for CBS administrative oversight, engineering, and project management. The CBS feels that this estimate may be low, and we have not had the opportunity to fully evaluate the accuracy of the cost estimates. The Finance Department must account for the funding and submit reimbursement requests to Western Federal Lands, ensure procurement meets federal guidelines, and manage the project as a likely major program under the Federal Single Audit. Under the current project, the Public Works Project Manager reviews the monthly pay requests as well as inspections of the progress.

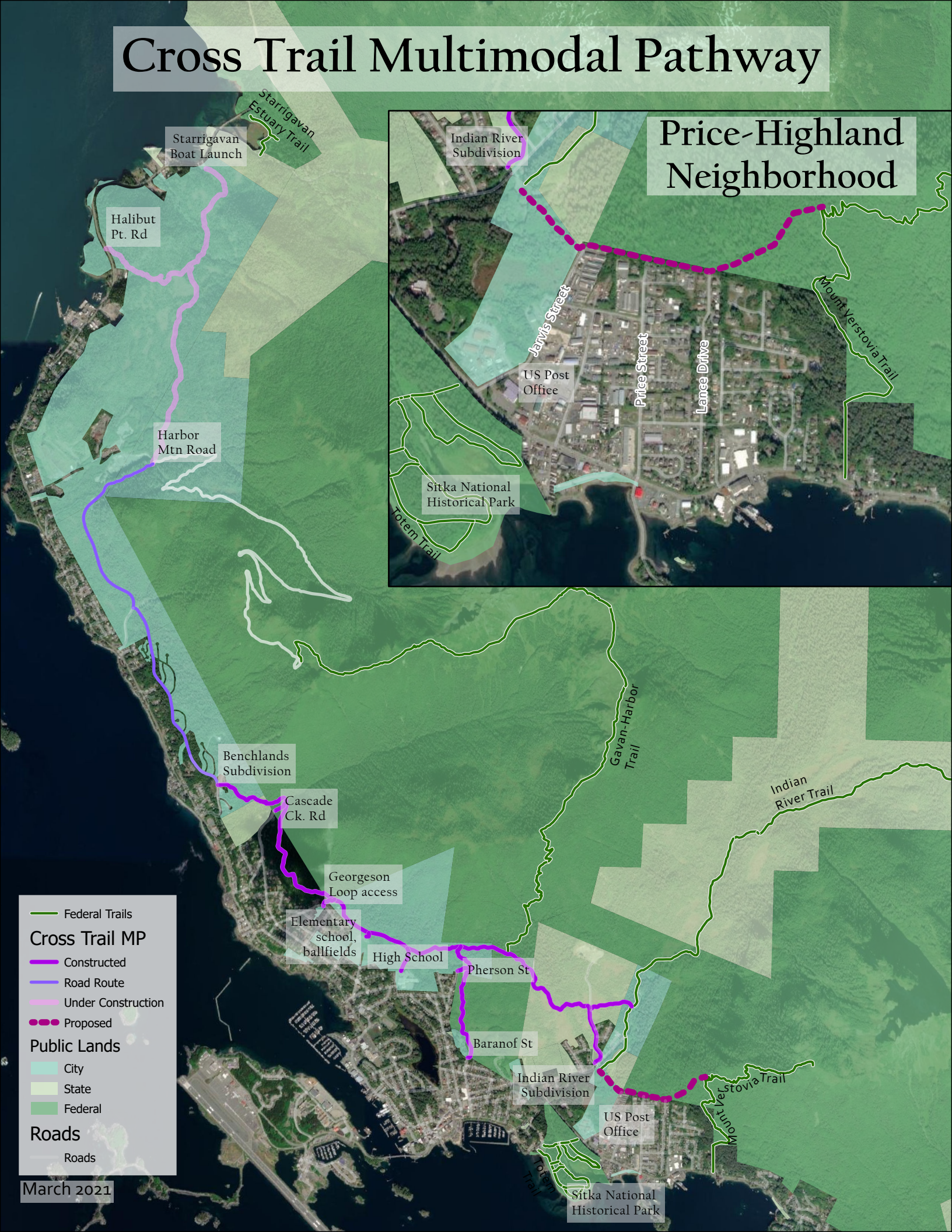
Most recently, for the Cross Trail Phase 6, the CBS has a sole source authorization from the granting agency to contract with Sitka Trail Works. However, as this is federal funding, the CBS would be required to follow all federal procurement code and competitively bid for the proposed project to ensure subgrantees could meet the federal procurement requirements. A sole-source authorization from the granting agency to use Sitka Trail Works is not guaranteed but can certainly be explored.

If the funding is received, additional staff resources may be necessary to administer the grant, but those costs are not currently known by the CBS. The size of the grant is large enough where the spending threshold would put the CBS into a situation where a single audit would be triggered, prompting the CBS to manage the procurement. The CBS must still obtain expenditure appropriations of funds in upcoming budgets. Receipt of the funding does not provide an automatic appropriation to spend.

Recommendation

Consider the points presented in this memo and provide guidance to the Administrator through Assembly consideration of Resolution 2021-07 authorizing CBS to apply for funding from the Alaska Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP). This is an opportunity to bring the funding into the CBS and given that the funding will not become available until FY2024 (if awarded), we will have the time to analyze the out-years' needs for maintenance and staffing.

Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

Thru: John Leach, Municipal Administrator; Michael Harmon, Public Work Director

From: Sitka Trail Works, Inc., Lynne Brandon, Executive Director

Date: March 12, 2021

Subject: Cross Trail – Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) application for Price-Hillside Neighborhood Connector

Background

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) is a USDOT funding opportunity to improve transportation routes to federal public land. The construction of the Cross Trail has successfully competed for funds in the past since the Trail connects to the Tongass National Forest across a barrier of private and municipal land ownership.

From Indian River north to Starrigavan, many inland neighborhoods have easy access to the Cross Trail via short connecting spur trails. However, the estimated 270+ households and 80 businesses in the Price Street-Hillside Subdivision Neighborhood lack easy access, despite being a mere 1,600 from the Indian River Trailhead.

This project seeks to provide direct walking and biking access to the dense neighborhood with a connector trail from Price Street and a bridge across Indian River. The proposal also includes planning for a reroute of the Verstovia Trail from Price Street, at the future terminus of the Cross Trail. The currently route of the Verstovia Trail trespasses across private property in two places and overflow parking at the trailhead results in parking on private property. This situation has the potential to close the trail and its resolution is a long-standing Forest Service goal.

The Parks and Recreation Committee has approved advancing the project to the Administer at their 3/9/21 meeting for presentation to the Assembly.

Analysis

The total project cost is estimated to be \$1.2 million. The program requires a 9.03% match, to be composed of foundation grants and membership donations raised by Sitka Trail Works, participation by the City through in-kind staff time, materials and cash match has occurred previously. CBS administrative staff time is covered by \$30,000 of funds from the FLAP project.

The application is due March 26, 2021 and funding will become available by FY 2024 at the earliest. If the Assembly decides prior to 2024 that it is not in the best community interest to construct the neighborhood connector, CBS can de-obligate funds without penalty.

The trail is to be constructed to a similar standard as the existing Cross Trail, providing vehicle passage across Indian River if the SMC Road bridge were to fail. Once constructed, the trail will be owned and maintained by CBS.

Fiscal Note

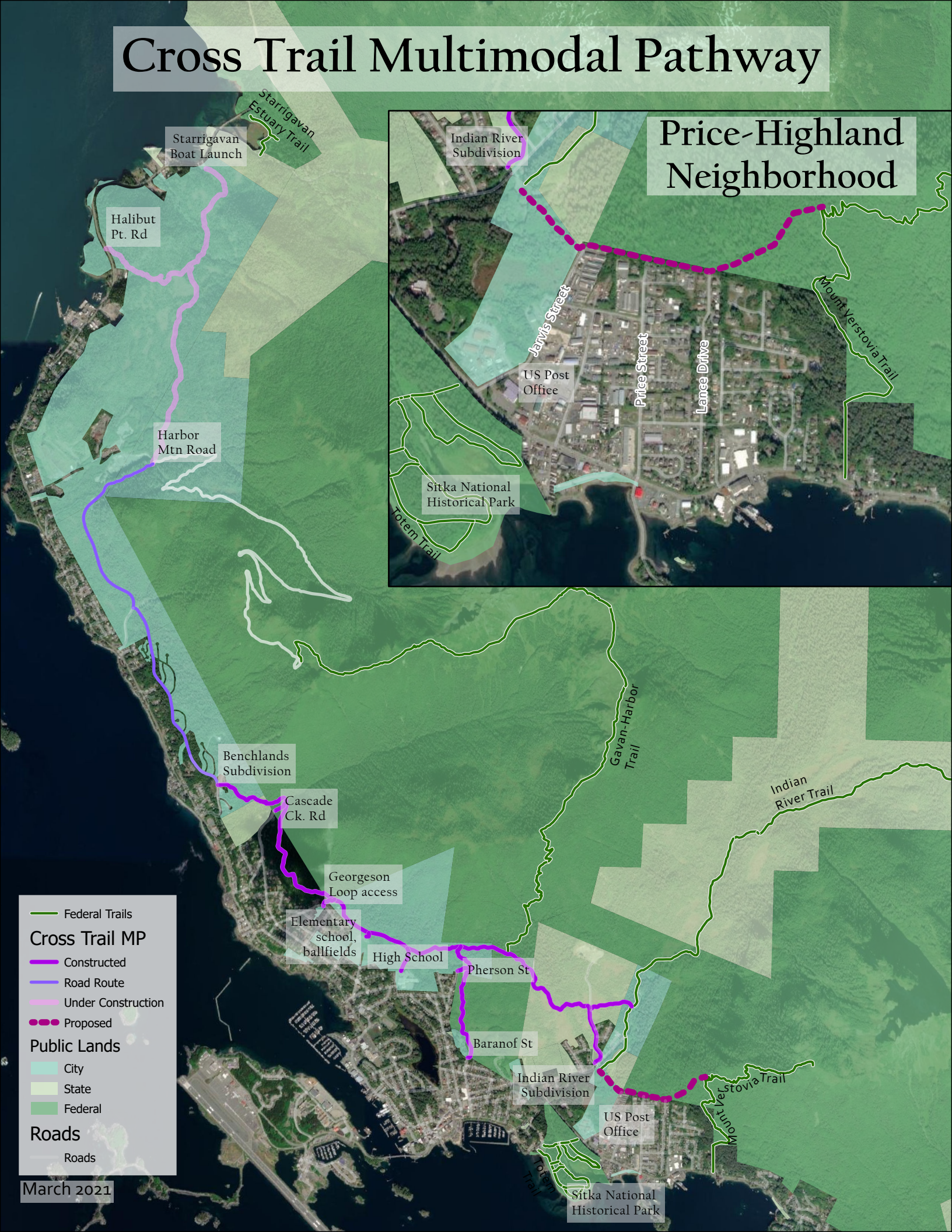
The funds will allocate up to \$30,000 for CBS Administrative oversight. The Finance Department must account for the funding and submit reimbursement requests to Western Federal Lands. The Public Works Contract Manager oversees the monthly pay requests. Most recently, project management for the Cross Trail Phase 6 is primarily Sitka Trail Works' responsibility.

If the funding is received, the Municipality must still obtain expenditure appropriations of funds in upcoming budgets. Receipt of the funding does not provide an automatic appropriation to spend.

Recommendation

Approve Resolution 2021 – 07 authorizing CBS to apply for funding from the Alaska Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).

Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA (CBS) SUPPORTING THE CITY'S APPLICATION TO THE 2021 ALASKA FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS PROGRAM (FLAP) PROGRAM FOR \$1.2 MILLION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF JARVIS-HILLSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTOR OF THE CROSS TRAIL MULTIMODAL PATHWAY

WHEREAS, federal aid from the Alaska Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), if awarded, will fund the a planning and construction for a Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway (Cross Trail MP) connector trail to the Price-Highland neighborhood from Indian River Trailhead to Price Street; and

WHEREAS, the federal aid will also initiate planning for a reroute of the Verstovia trail in support of the US Forest Service's long term goal to eliminate the trail's current trespass on private property; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Cross Trail multimodal pathway project is a community priority since the pathway provides a non-motorized transportation alternative to Sitka's roads and links schools, recreation facilities, downtown, trails, subdivisions and other major public destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Sitka Cross Trail is a publicly-identified priority in the 2003 Sitka Trail Plan to which the City is a MOU partner, the 2002 Sitka Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, Sitka Parks and Recreation Plans, 2030 CBS Comprehensive Plan and 2011 Sitka Outdoor Recreation Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City and Borough of Sitka Assembly has passed eleven separate resolutions since 1998 in support of the Cross Trail project; and

WHEREAS, the Cross Trail MP Price-Highland neighborhood connector construction provides a link to a large neighborhood with 270 dwelling units and 80 businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Cross Trail MP connector will provide the Price-Highland neighborhood residents access to safe and pleasant non-motorized pathway to multiple destinations, recreation sites and trails and schools; and

WHEREAS, the Cross Trail MP connector will provide an alternative emergency evacuation route if Sawmill Creek bridge becomes impassible as a result of a catastrophic earthquake and/or tsunami; and

WHEREAS, the Cross Trail MP connector will be a sustainable, multimodal pathway design requiring little to no major maintenance over time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Municipal Administrator of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska is hereby authorized to negotiate, execute and administer any and all documents required for the application and acceptance of funding from the Alaska Federal Lands Access Program and to manage those funds on behalf of the City and Borough of Sitka.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Administrator of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska is hereby directed to execute any and all agreements with the Alaska Federal Lands Access Program in such a way as to provide for the maximum amount of indirect cost reimbursement to the City and Borough Sitka allowable under Federal guidelines and regulations.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska
on this 23rd day of March 2021.

Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk

1st and final reading 3/23/2021

Sponsors: Knox and Himschoot