

Possible Motion

I MOVE TO approve Resolution 2014-06 on
first and final reading.

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor McConnell and Assembly Members
Mark Gorman, Municipal Administrator

From: Michael Harmon, P.E., Public Works Director *MA*
Gary Baugher, Maintenance and Operations Superintendent *GEB*
Lynne Brandon, Parks and Recreation Manager

Reviewed: Jay Sweeney, Finance Director *J*
Tori Fleming, Contract Coordinator *T*

Date: April 16, 2014

Subject: Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway - Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) Grant Application for Phase 6 Planning and Design

Background:

The Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway (TMP) along with Sitka multimodal pathway (Sawmill Creek and Indian River Road separated pathways) are planned to stretch from Harbor Mountain Road to Sawmill Cove Industrial Park. Phase 6, once constructed, will extend the Cross TMP to the Alaska Marine Highway terminal, Starrigavan Recreation Area and establish a connector to the Old Sitka Dock at HPM. The pathway provides a non-motorized transportation alternative to Sitka's roads and links schools, recreation facilities, downtown, subdivisions and other major public and visitor destinations.

Since 2007, 1.4 million dollars have been expended to construct and reconstruct 3.5 miles of the Cross TMP. Cross TMP, Phases 4 and 5, funded by 1.8 million dollars (FY14 and FY15) from the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), will reconstruct and construct over 2.0 miles of the pathway, adjacent to downtown over the next two summers.

Analysis:

It's anticipated that the Alaska FLAP will receive approximately \$7 million for each of the next five years. The program is designed to assist state agencies and municipalities with transportation projects that enhance access to federal lands, assist municipalities economically, and improve safety and transportation networks. Construction of the trails and transportation facilities, and projects that improve public safety for pedestrians and bicycles are high priorities for funding

This project is a partnership effort with Sitka Trail Works and the US Forest Service. Applicants for funding are required to work closely and coordinate with a Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) in development of the project proposals. Since the Cross TMP provides multiple access points to the forest, crosses USFS land and the USFS is a Sitka Trail Plan partner in the project. The Forest Service has indicated they will provide joint project endorsement. The Cross TMP will provide critical access to high use USFS recreational facilities: the Gavan Trail, Indian River Trail, Harbor Mountain Trail, Starrigavan Recreation Area and Campground, and Harbor Mountain recreation area therefore will rank high in the grant evaluation criteria.

The Sitka Fire Department views the Cross TMP as a priority community safety project and the municipal emergency evacuation plan calls for use of the Cross TMP. Once completed, it will function as a primary emergency evacuation route since it is capable of sustaining vehicle traffic. Sitka Search and Rescue (SAR) has used the Cross TMP to provide better access to their search and rescue operations in the National Forest. When accidents occur or hikers are missing they have used four wheelers on the Cross TMP to transport patients and SAR personnel.

Fiscal Note:

The grant request is for \$250,000 for Phase 6 planning and design services, NEPA surveys and public scoping, wetlands delineation and preliminary design and engineering for two prefabricated bridges. Once this plan is complete staff will have a project cost estimate to use in applying for construction money.

The required match for funding is 9.03%. This match will be comprised of in-kind CBS staff time to manage the project, and cash from Sitka Trail Works trail maintenance

Sources of matching funds:

STW Members Cash	\$ 4,000
<u>CBS Personnel In-Kind</u>	<u>\$18,575</u>
	\$22,575

Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2014 – XX authorizing the City and Borough of Sitka to apply for and execute a grant for the Phase 6 of the Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway to the Federal Lands Access Program.

RESOLUTION 2014-06

**A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA
SUPPORTING THE CITY'S APPLICATION TO THE ALASKA FEDERAL LANDS ACCESS
PROGRAM (FLAP) GRANT PROGRAM FOR \$250,000 FOR PLANNING AND DESIGN OF
PHASE 6 OF THE CROSS TRAIL MULTIMODAL PATHWAY.**

WHEREAS, a grant from the Alaska Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), if awarded, will fund the preliminary planning and design of Phase 6 Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway (Cross TMP) from Kramer Drive to the Alaska Marine Highway Terminal.

WHEREAS, the Sitka Cross Trail multimodal pathway project is a priority to the community of Sitka 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 Plan, CBS Comprehensive Plan and 2011 Sitka Outdoor Recreation Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Cross TMP Phase 6 provides the final link to the Alaska Marine Highway and Starrigavan Recreation area and campground with neighborhood access to Old Sitka Rocks; and

WHEREAS, the Cross TMP Phase 6 will provide a safe and pleasant non-motorized transportation alternative to Halibut Point highway for residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Cross TMP Phase 6 will provide an alternative emergency evacuation route if Halibut Point Road becomes impassible as a result of a catastrophic earthquake and/or tsunami;

WHEREAS, the Cross TMP Phase 6 will be a sustainable, multimodal pathway design to minimize future maintenance; and

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

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.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 22nd day of April 2014

Mim McConnell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Colleen Ignman, MMC
Municipal Clerk