



Sitka Trail Works, Inc

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

From: Lynne Brandon, Executive Director, Sitka Trail Works

Date: April 20, 2016

Subject: Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway - Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) Grant Application for \$1,819,400 for Phase 6 Construction

Background:

The City and Borough of Sitka, in partnership with Sitka Trail Works, has an opportunity to apply for another MAP-21 Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant for the Cross Trail multimodal pathway (Cross TMP) Phase 6 construction for \$1,819,400. Funding will be available October 2018 for construction in 2019.

The FLAP provided funding for the construction of Cross TMP Phases 4 and 5 and planning and design for Phase 6 which is now underway. Since 2007, 2.4 million dollars have been expended to construct and reconstruct 5.5 miles of the Cross TMP.

The Cross TMP along with Sitka multimodal pathway (Sawmill Creek and Indian River Road separated pathways) will soon 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 Rocks cruise ship dock. 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.

Analysis:

It's anticipated that the Alaska FLAP will receive approximately \$7.9 million annually. Grant applications are accepted every two years. If funded, the grant award will be in October 2018.

The FLAP 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 trail 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

Sitka Trail Works Mission Statement: To contribute to the overall health of the community through the development, maintenance and promotion of a comprehensive trail system in the Sitka area.

partner in the project, the Forest Service has said 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 ranks high in the grant evaluation criteria.

The Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway Phase 6, when constructed, will provide adequate and safe non-motorized facilities along State managed Halibut Point Road. According to DOT, any upgrade to non-motorized facilities along HPR is unlikely in the near term so the Cross TMP Phase 6 will provide a safe, pleasant alternative route for bicyclists and pedestrians.

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.

The Cross Trail is a low maintenance, high use trail that provides maximum public benefit. Trail tread has an indefinite service life and won't require capital replacement. Any bridges will have a projected life of fifty to seventy years. Sitka Trail Works will continue to partner with the City and Borough for trail maintenance.

Fiscal Note:

The grant request is for \$1,819,400 for Phase 6 construction. Funds will be available October 2018 for construction in 2019.

The required match for funding is 9.03% of the total project cost of \$2 million. This match will be comprised of in-kind CBS staff time to manage the project and Sitka Trail Works will provide the rest of the match with support from foundation donors. Major funders have expressed an interest in helping finish this last Phase of this project. If matching grant funds are not in place by October 2018, the project will not proceed.

Sources of matching funds:

STW Grant Funds	\$176,600
<u>CBS Personnel In-Kind</u>	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	\$180,600

Recommendation:

Approve Resolution 2016 – 08 authorizing the City and Borough of Sitka to apply for and execute a Federal Lands Access Program grant for the Phase 6 construction of the Cross Trail Multimodal Pathway.