

Transportation Alternatives Program 2013 Application

Instructions

Complete application in the space provided. Applicants are limited to application form and 5 pages of attachments. Submit completed application and attachments electronically to dale.robins@rtc.wa.gov. You will receive an e-mail confirmation within one business day of submittal. If you do not receive confirmation or have questions about the application contact Dale Robins at 360-397-6067 x5212.

General Information

Project Title: Chelatchie Prairie Rails-with-Trails

Project Location and Limits: Battle Ground - East Main Street to SE Rasmussen Boulevard

Project Length (miles): 0.39

Agency: City of Battle Ground / Clark County

Contact Person: [REDACTED]

Telephone: [REDACTED] Email: [REDACTED]

Certified Acceptance Agency: City of Battle Ground

Project Screening Criteria

Check all that apply.

- Project is consistent with the MTP/RTP
- Project contains at least one eligible Transportation Alternatives Category
- Project is directly related to the surface transportation system (except trails)
- Project does not supplement the construction of an existing project
- Project is open to public access

Cost Summary

Project Phase	Start Date	TAP Funds	Other Funds	Total Cost
Design	02/01/2014	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
Right of Way		\$0	\$0	\$0
Construction	06/11/2015	\$225,000	\$380,000	\$605,000
Totals	n/a	\$275,000	\$430,000	\$705,000
Overall Match Ratio:				60.99%

Project Type

Check all that apply.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bike/Pedestrian facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation management practices |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safe routes for non-drivers | <input type="checkbox"/> Archaeological activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Abandoned railroad corridors for trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental mitigation activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational Trails Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Control of outdoor advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Safe Routes to School Program |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic preservation of transportation facilities | |

Project Information

1. Project Description:

The intent of this project is to construct a 0.39 mile section of the Chelatchie Prairie Rail-with-Trail between East Main Street and Rasmussen Boulevard. The 12' wide paved non-motorized shared use path will include amenities such as benches, litter receptacles, dog waste pickup stations and informational and trail etiquette signage. The first 1,250 feet of the trail will require replacing the existing ditch section with culvert pipe and area drains. This will allow the path to be constructed adjacent to the railroad tracks. Fencing will be installed to separate the path from the railroad tracks. The remaining 810 feet has sufficient right-of-way to permit the construction of the path to west of the existing ditch thereby creating a natural barrier between the path and the railroad tracks.

Project Information

2. Describe how the project will improve the public travel experience, and travel options, including the benefit to the community:

North/South pedestrian and non-motorized modes of traffic are currently not available along this corridor and adjacent streets. Construction of this trail is anticipated to increase the transportation options available for residents within the East side of the City of Battle Ground by providing a safe and inviting trail as an alternative to using motorized vehicles to travel between the residential areas to the various business, retail, and entertainment portions of the City. Eventually this trail will just be a portion of the 33 miles of the planned Chelatchie Rail with Trail system and will connect with other key destinations and communities within the county.

3. Describe how the project provides a connection between modes, or improves transportation choices, or connects to land use services such as job locations, a civic center, library, grocery market, playground, retail center, medical office, school, and other. (Include modes and list of specific land uses connect within 1/2 mile of project):

This trail is anticipated to increase the rate of bicycling, jogging, skating, and walking within the east side of the City of Battle Ground by providing a safe and inviting trail that connects two distinct districts. Old Town Battle Ground and the Battle Ground Village. Old Town is an historic commercial and residential district which includes amenities such as the Battle Ground High School, various municipal services (including city hall, and the post office), Battle Ground Community Center which provides daily service to the elderly, a popular skate and bike park, medical offices, grocery shopping, and other retail and dining options. Battle Ground Village offers the city library, a playground, retail and dining options, live-work residential opportunities, and an outdoor farmer's market from April through September. Connecting these districts provides increased use opportunities for many of the citizen's and visitors to Battle Ground.

Project Information

4. Describe how the project relates to an adopted plan such as the GMA plan, modal plan, neighborhood plan or other planning process. (Include name of Plan and attach a copy of page from plan that including project by name):

This project is identified on page 17 of the Chelatchie Prairie Rail-with-Trail Corridor Study adopted by Clark County in 2008 (See Attached).

5. Describe to what extent the project will improve mobility for disadvantage populations, including elderly, disabled minority, and low income populations:

In addition to the economic, transportation and recreational benefits of this proposed trail, certain demographic groups will benefit enormously from a multi-use non-motorized trail, including children, the elderly and those without vehicles. More than 9% percent of the population in Clark County are over the age of 65. Children ages 5 through 14 compose over 16% of the total population (Chelatchie Prairie Rail-with-Trail Corridor Study , Clark County August 2008). Construction of this trail will provide an excellent opportunity for every member of the population by providing a trail that is accessible to people in wheelchairs and senior citizens with walking aids who require a smooth surface. The trail will also provide excellent access for seniors that currently live in the Battle Ground Village District to the Community Center where senior related services are provided daily.

6. List affordable house complex and number of housing units that are within 1/2 mile of project:

The proposed trail is located less than 1/2 mile of several apartment complexes including a 60 unit complex within the Battle Ground Village area (an additional 60 unit apartment complex is anticipated to begin construction in the near future), the Mallard Landing assisted living retirement complex , and over 500 single family households.

Project Information

7. Identify the safety issues addressed by project (collision data, lack of adequate safe crossing or access, lack of separated facility, high speed or volume, other):

SE Grace Avenue is currently the primary way for citizens to reach the Old Town business district. Currently, SE Grace Avenue is very narrow, and is without sidewalks along a large portion of the roadway. These unsafe conditions discourage travel on SE Grace Avenue and has resulted in some pedestrians walking on the railroad tracks to reach the amenities between the two districts.

8. Describe how the project addresses the safety issues identified:

Construction of this trail will separate non-motorized modes of traffic from vehicular traffic along SE Grace Avenue and train traffic on the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad tracks and will provide a safe and inviting connection between the Old Town business district and the Battle Ground Village District.

9. Readiness:

- Design at 70% or higher
 Right of way acquisition complete or not needed
 Environmental permits approved

Please explain:

The trail is proposed to be constructed within right-of-way currently owned by Clark County. Additional right of way acquisition is not anticipated.

Project Information

10. Describe how the local community and other agencies have been involved in the planning process for the project.

List any opposition to the project and how it was overcome:

Involvement in the planning and support for this project is widespread including the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce, the Battle Ground Parks Advisory Board, Clark County Public Works, and the City of Battle Ground.

Support and participation in the overall planning associated with the entire Chelatchie Rails with Trails program also included the following:

Board of County Commissioners
Clark County Planning Commission
Vancouver Clark Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad
Chelatchie Prairie Rail Board
Battle Ground Lake State Park
Town of Yacolt
Clark County Planning Department Staff
Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation Staff

11. Describe how the project improves public health and increase physical activity:

Construction of this trail provides an alternative to motorized transportation and encourages walking, jogging, biking, and other non-motorized means of transportation that benefits the health and wellness of those that use the trail by providing a means of obtaining physical activity.

12. Describe how the project includes design elements that contribute to quality of life:

In order for this trail to be a successful community resource, the trail should appeal to a wide variety of users with trail amenities such as benches, litter receptacles, dog waste pickup stations and informational and trail etiquette signage which clearly spell out proper rules and behavior for trail users, including rules related to more vulnerable trail users and safety around trains and equipment. That portion of the trail built adjacent to the railroad tracks will include a fence to prevent pedestrians from encroaching onto the tracks. Sign messages and trail design will be based on national standards and locally accepted trail practices.

Project Information

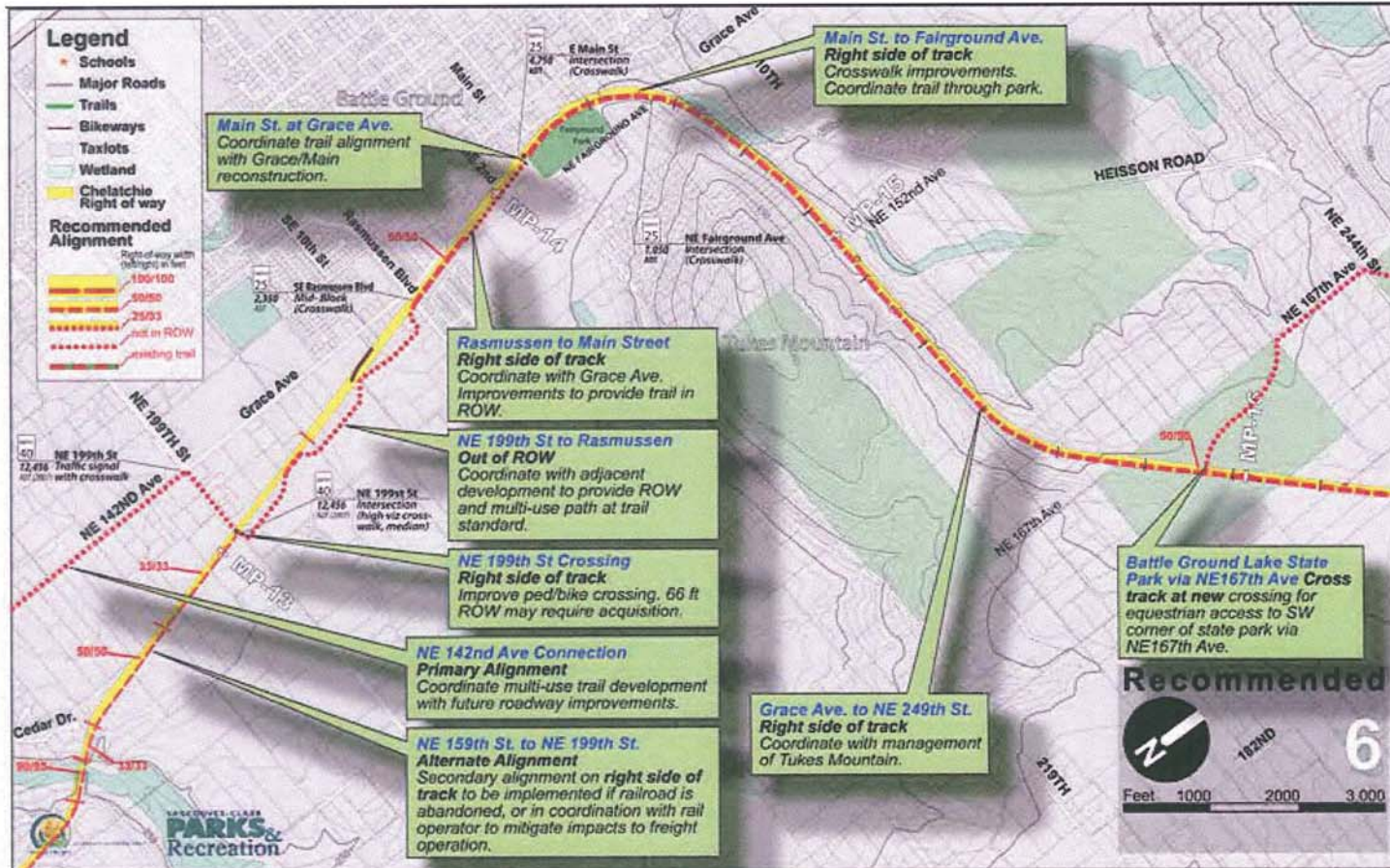
13. List all funding partners contributing to the project:

Funding Source	Amount
State Legislator's Discretionary Stormwater Funding	\$430,000

Other Information

You may use this space to provide any additional project information considered worth noting:

Please see attached letter of support from Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director of the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce. Please also see attached page 17 of the Chelatchie Prairie Rail-with-Trail Corridor Study as adopted by the Clark County Commissioners and required in Subsection 4 of this grant application.



The interim route following NE 142nd Avenue to NE 199th Street.



Coordinate alignment north of NE 199th Street with adjacent development.



Battle Ground Yard at MP-14 approaching East Main Street in downtown Battle Ground.



Left: The steep terrain around Tukwa Mountain, between Battle Ground and Battle Ground Lake State Park at MP-14.5.



Far left: Crossing NE Fairground Ave.



3-27-13

Dale Robins
Transportation Alternatives Program
Regional Transportation Council

RE: City of Battle Ground TAP Grant Application 2013

Dear Dale,

Connections are important in a community: connections with others, with resources, with employment, and with activity options.

Connecting Old Town Battle Ground along Main Street with Battle Ground Village along Rasmussen through an improved, safe trail system would make positive differences in our community in a number of ways. These positive changes include: improved safety and community connections, increased commerce opportunities, improved access, and enhanced encouragement of healthy activities.

Currently the road (Grace) that connects Main in Old Town with Rasmussen in Battle Ground Village is unsafe for pedestrians, runners, bikers, or skaters because of lack of sidewalks, bike lanes, or safe shoulders. There is no safe non-motorized connection between these two districts of Battle Ground. Old Town is an historic commercial and residential district of Battle Ground. Battle Ground Village is a newer commercial, residential, and mixed use district. Both areas have struggled heavily during the economic downturn, and having a safe, inviting way to travel back and forth between these areas would increase activity in both of these districts. Improving activity, vibrancy, and connections is very important in keeping communities viable.

Old Town amenities include Battle Ground High School, municipal services (including City Hall and the post office), Battle Ground Community Center (which offers daily Meals on Wheels), Skate and Bike Park, medical offices, North County Food Bank, grocery shopping, and other retail and dining options. Battle Ground Village offers the City library, a playground, retail and dining options, and an outdoor farmer's market from April through September. There is affordable housing in both of these districts. Connecting these districts provides increased use opportunities for all of the above.

Providing a safe way for our citizen's to travel between these two areas on an improved trail will provide increased use of community amenities such as the library, parks, community center, and retail and dining options which provide not only resources, but connections with other community members. Even connections with others while on the trail can be a valuable part of a healthy lifestyle. Staying active and fit requires a safe and welcoming place and an improved trail will provide this.



In summary, the .39 mile length of improved trail would make a substantial difference in Battle Ground. Pedestrians, bikers, runners, skaters, and people out for a stroll with their families and pets would be able to have a safe and welcoming area to enjoy exercising, being together, and the ability to connect with needed resources.

We ask that this grant be considered for the health and safety of our Battle Ground community.

Sincerely,

Carrie Schulstad
Executive Director
Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce