



Snohomish County Council

Committee: Operations
ECAF: 7-1235/2021-0103
Proposal: Mot. 21-108

Analyst: Heidi Beazizo
Date: March 25, 2021

Consideration:

The Executive's Office requests Council consider approving proposed Motion 21-108, which would approve and authorize the acceptance of the consolidated rail infrastructure safety improvement grant from the Federal Railroad Administration for the Meadowdale Beach Park Project.

Background

Snohomish County purchased the property known as Meadowdale Beach County Park in 1968 with the intent to create a public park that has beach access. In furtherance of this goal, Snohomish County entered into an agreement with BNSF in 1987 to allow the County to have shared-use of the culvert that conveys Lunds Gulch Creek, a salmon bearing stream under the railroad embankment within the railroad's right-of-way. The County installed a wooden boardwalk (later steel grating) above the stream within the tunnel for pedestrian access to the beach in 1988.

Over time, changes within the watershed resulted in flooding issues and accumulation of gravel at the culvert entrance hampering fish passage and pedestrian access. Through a public process the County developed a plan to replace 128 feet of railroad embankment with a railroad bridge, create an estuary for salmon habitat, provide a separated ADA-accessible path for pedestrian beach access, install picnic areas, a footbridge, and interpretive signage.

On September 14, 2018, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism submitted a grant application to the Federal Rail Administration requesting \$3,500,000 for construction of the railroad bridge portion of the Meadowdale Beach Park and Estuary Restoration Project.

On June 13, 2019, the Parks Department was notified that based on the total bridge cost of \$7,522,629, the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) would contribute up to 46.5263% of the cost, not to exceed \$3,500,000. The County would be required to match 53.4737%, or \$4,022,629.

On November 10, 2020, the Council approved Ordinance 20-071¹, approving the six-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which included funding for the Meadowdale Beach Park Project.

On December 14, 2020, the Council approved Motion 20-401, declaring the county's official intent to reimburse expenditures for the Meadowdale project through the proceeds from tax exempt bonds.²

For the county to receive the grant funds by the FRA, an Underpass Agreement between the County and BNSF must be completed and submitted. On February 1, 2021, the Council approved Motion 20-037³ pre-authorizing the matching funds allowing reimbursement of costs associated with the review of project submittals and the procurement of certain construction materials.

The BNSF agreement is under final review and once received by the FRA, the final grant agreements will be sent to the county for execution.

¹ [Public Hearing - 2021 Budget Hearing - SPECIAL MEETING \(granicus.com\)](#)

² [Administrative Session \(granicus.com\)](#)

³ https://snohomish.granicus.com/GeneratedAgendaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=7670

Current Proposal

Scope: Motion 21-108 authorizes the County Executive to sign the FRA Grant Agreements and any future related agreement amendments for the purposes of constructing the railroad bridge improvements at Meadowdale Beach Park. The FRA has outlined the deliverables and approved project schedule in Attachment 3.

Duration: Upon execution through the end of the closeout period. Termination allowed for non-compliance with the grant agreement, including failure to make reasonable progress. (Full list of termination provisions in Section 11 of the grant agreement.)

Fiscal Implications: FRA Grant will contribute up to \$3,500,000 (46.5263% of the total projected cost of \$7,522,629). \$1,758,824 for Temporary Construction, Demolition and Site Work; \$1,302,736 for Bridge Construction; and \$438,440 for Project Administration and Construction Management.

2021 Budget: YES. Included in the 2021-2026 CIP. Expenses for this body of work not reimbursed by the FRA Grant will be reimbursed from the tax-exempt bonds approved by Motion 20-401⁴.

Future Budget Impacts: YES. This is a multi-year project with REET 2 and Grant funds committed in all outyears of the CIP.

Handling: URGENT. This project is on a critical path for moving forward and the department is requesting urgent council consideration in order to keep the project timeline in place.

Approved-as-to-form: YES.

Risk Management: APPROVE.

Executive Recommendation: APPROVE.

Attachments: Meadowdale Summary of Pending Actions.

Amendments: NONE.

Request: Move to GLS on April 14, 2021 for council to consider taking action.

⁴ [Finance and Economic Development Committee \(granicus.com\)](https://www.granicus.com)