

CLARK COUNTY STAFF REPORT

DEPARTMENT: Public Works, Parks and Lands Division

DATE: June 16, 2020

REQUESTED ACTION: Authorize the County Manager to sign a letter of support for the Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad to apply for the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program grant through the Federal Railroad Administration.

Consent Hearing County Manager

BACKGROUND

Clark County owns the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad, which is used for freight and excursion. Currently, the line is being operated under lease agreements for freight use south of Mile Post 18.7 and for excursion use north of Mile Post 20.0. The Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad is applying for a Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program grant administered by the Federal Railroad Administration. The grant application is due by June 19, 2020. If approved, the funding could add an additional \$4.15 million to improve both the condition of the railroad and its overall reliability. Funding will be allocated to the county to manage including scoping and project administration logistics.

The county was previously awarded various Washington State Department of Transportation Rail Division grants, which can be used as a match. No additional funds, including General Fund, is requested with this request. There is the potential to save as much as \$1,450,000 in Real Estate Excise Tax II previously authorized by Council by replacing it with this CRISI grant. This action would also provide an additional \$2,700,000 for a total \$4,150,000 to be administered by the county for the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad.

COUNCIL POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None. This project supports the council's policy of providing a safe and efficient railroad system in the county.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This action is consistent with current county policies and the railroad lease, lease-back and sub-lease agreements to support the efforts to improve the condition of the county owned railroad.

If awarded, Public Works will come back before council to execute grant agreements and seek additional budget authorization to add these funds to the program at that time.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This action is coming before council during their normal bi-monthly hearing for public input. There is not other outreach that has been completed other than to work with Amber Carter, PVJR's lobbyist on this matter.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

YES	NO	
X		Action falls within existing budget capacity.
	X	Action falls within existing budget capacity but requires a change of purpose within existing appropriation
	X	Additional budget capacity is necessary and will be requested at the next supplemental. If YES, please complete the budget impact statement. If YES, this action will be referred to the county council with a recommendation from the county manager.

BUDGET DETAILS

Local Fund Dollar Amount	N/A
Grant Fund Dollar Amount	N/A
Account	N/A
Company Name	N/A

DISTRIBUTION:

Council staff will post all staff reports to the web. <https://www.clark.wa.gov/council-meetings>

ATTACHMENTS: (1) Letter of Support for CRISI Grant

Galina Burley

Galina Burley, MPA
Parks and Lands Division Manager

Ahmad Qayoumi
Ahmad Qayoumi, PE
Public Works Director/County Engineer

Eva Haney

Eva Haney, CGFM
Finance Division Manager

Primary Staff Contact Name and Extension: Carolyn Heniges, PE x 1676

APPROVED: *Eileen J. ...*
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON
CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: *June 16, 2020*

SR# *082-20*





Ms. Frances Bourne
Office of Policy and Planning, Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Room W38-207,
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Eric Temple, Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (Operator)
2265 116th Avenue NE STE 210-8
Bellevue, WA 98004

Re: County Support for Chelatchie Prairie Railroad Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant

Ms. Frances Bourne:

The Clark County Council recognizes the importance of investing in the rail infrastructure and safety improvements. We are pleased to support the Portland Vancouver Junction Railroad (PVJR) grant application to improve the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad in response to the Federal Railroad Administration 2020 call for projects from CRISI.

In support of this grant application, Clark County has the following state grant funds that could be used as matching funds if the scope of the CRISI grant can be harmonized with the scope of these state grants.

Whereas, 2016 and 2018 Washington State Legislature authorized \$2,801,000 for the replacement of Bridge 12 on the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad at Milepost 12.45 of which \$2,579,026 is available;

Whereas, the 2018 Legislature authorized \$150,000 for Bridge 20 (Basket Flatts) repair on the Chelatchie Prairie Railroad at Milepost 20.45 of which \$148,500 is available;

Whereas, the 2019 Legislature authorized \$1,500,000 for railroad rehabilitation from Milepost 0.0 to 14.12 to replace/repair ties, ballast and the grade of which \$1,480,000 is available.

There are several priority projects for the railroad. CRISI grant dollars can advance the timetable for fulfilling these projects. As such, the county supports this application with the understanding that the PVJR is responsible for overages thereof.

Kathleen Otto, County Manager
On behalf of the Clark County Council

