



City Council Agenda Bill

19904

Bill Number

Subject: Direction on replacement of Whatcom Creek Trail Railroad Avenue Bridge

Summary Statement: This is a request for Council Direction for the replacement of the Whatcom Creek Trail Railroad Avenue Bridge. The bridge was damaged beyond repair by a fire that occurred over Thanksgiving weekend, 2012. This recreational route has been heavily utilized for transportation. The Greenway Advisory Committee, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and Transportation Commission all recommend approval of the proposal to replace the bridge using a combination of Beyond Greenway, Greenway 3 and Transportation Benefit District Funds. Staff recommends proceeding with design and permitting using 2013 budgeted funds. The remaining funds will be requested in the 2014 budget. Staff also recommends Council refer this to the TBD Board.

Previous Council Action: March 25, 2013 Direction to Staff, 1983-Approved acquisition of right-of-way with Federal Land, Water & Conservation funds. 1994-Approved pedestrian bridge with Federal Transportation Funds..

Fiscal Impact: \$500,000

Funding Source: \$100,000 2013 Beyond Greenway budgeted funds, \$250,000 TBD, \$150,000 Greenway 3 Levy

Attachments: Funding proposal, project summary, project location

Meeting Activity	Meeting Date	Staff Recommendation	Presented By	Time
Committee Briefing Council Direction Requested	16-Sep-2013	Provide Direction to Staff	James King, Parks Director	5 min

Council Committee:

Parks & Recreation

Gene Knutson, Chair
Stan Snapp; Terry Bornemann

Committee Actions:

Agenda Bill Contact:

James King, Parks Director

Reviewed By	Initials	Date
James King, Parks Director	<i>[Signature]</i>	9/10/13
Ted Carlson, PW Director	<i>TNC</i>	9/10/13

Legal	<i>AAM</i>	9/11/13
Mayor	<i>SL/134</i>	9/11/13

Council Action:

Funding Proposal for Whatcom Creek Burned Bridge

Estimated Cost: \$500,000. based on average costs and 25% contingency

Staff proposes a 50/50 split with Transportation Funds and Park Funding, or \$250,000 each.

Transportation Funds (TBD Transit 1/3)	\$250,000
Beyond Greenway Funds(budgeted for Civic Turf, but not needed)	\$100,000
Greenway 3 Funds	
Whatcom Creek Area Project Completion	\$ 50,000
Whatcom Falls Park, Heritage Park Improvements	\$ 25,000
Lake Padden Park, Heritage Park Improvements	\$ 50,000
Undesignated South Acquisition. So Bay Trail/Sehome Bluff	<u>\$ 25,000</u>
Total Funding Package	\$500,000

Approval Process:

- Proposed by Bellingham Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments; July 29, 2013.
- Greenway Advisory Committee: Voted unanimously to approve; August 1, 2013.
- Transportation Commission: Voted unanimously to approve using the transit portion of the TBD funding; August 13, 2013.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board: Voted unanimously to approve; August 14, 2013.
- Transportation Benefit District Board:
- Bellingham City Council:

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Whatcom Creek Trail Railroad Bridge Replacement

Section 1: Scope

This project replaces an existing creosote-treated timber trestle located near the Railroad Avenue crossing of Whatcom Creek. The bridge was damaged as a result of a fire in November of 2012. The bridge stringers and pile caps also have a significant amount of rot from water intrusion and is at the end of its life cycle. This project includes demolition and complete removal of the existing structure and replacing it with a new, clear-span prefabricated bridge with new concrete bridge abutments supported by two steel piling at each abutment.

Section 2: Background & Need

The Railroad Bridge is located along a popular non-motorized commuter route connecting downtown to Bellingham High School, the Bellingham Food Bank, and the Whatcom Creek Trail via Kansas and Ellis Street to Meador Avenue. This bridge is within the existing trail inventory system of over 67 miles of trails provided to the citizens of Bellingham. Fire damage to the bridge warped the bridge deck, damaged the guardrails, and exposed significant wood rot in the main bridge stringers and pile caps. Approximately 45 creosote-treated wood piling support the failing bridge superstructure. Removal of the piling and bridge structure will improve water quality of Whatcom Creek.

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Project Area

