



CITY OF WHITE SALMON

MEMORANDUM

Meeting Date:	February 2, 2022	Meeting Title:	City Council
Submitting Department:	Planning Department	Presenter:	Brendan Conboy, City Planner
Agenda Item:	Grants Overview	Public Comment:	No

Current Grants

FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Grant

Department of Commerce

Economic Development Administration

Amount Requested: \$625,000

Matching Requirement: Up to 20%, however EDA anticipates funding 100% of non-construction projects.

The City of White Salmon has applied for a grant from the Economic Development Administration in the amount of \$625,000 for the design and engineering of proposed bluff stairs and a future funicular tramway. The proposed staircase and funicular tramway aims to connect the City of White Salmon (elev. 623') to the Columbia River below (elev. 114'). The proposed stairway and funicular is proposed to be run from the base of the Columbia River adjacent to the existing Park-and-Ride lot, north directly up the bluff, across Dock Grade Road along dedicated easements, to a connection point with downtown White Salmon at Northwest Garfield Street. The proposal contemplates a landing and loading area approximately 100 yards west of the downtown commercial core of Jewett Avenue near the intersection of Jewett and Northwest Garfield Street.

The design and engineering of a stairway and future funicular will require the following tasks to be undertaken, at a minimum, in roughly the following order:

1. Community engagement and charettes on the proposed route, design, and aesthetics of future improvements.
2. Environmental Impact Statement preparation, and state SEPA requirements.
3. Surveying of the site.
4. Geotechnical analysis.
5. Consultation with design and engineering professionals for both the stairway and funicular.
6. Retainer of design and engineering firm(s) for the preparation of plans and alternatives.
7. Completion of EIS and SEPA
8. Final public process for adoption of proposed plans and next steps.

MEMORANDUM

Housing Action Plan and Implementation (HAPI) Grant

Washington State Department of Commerce

Amount: \$25,000

Matching Requirement: N/A

The City of White Salmon has applied for a Housing Action Plan and Implementation grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce. This grant is specifically for partially-planning entities and provides up to \$25,000 for the creation or implementation of a housing action plan. The objectives of this grant are to create a Housing Action Plan for the City of White Salmon to identify the need, location, and methods for producing affordable housing. During public outreach for our recently adopted Comprehensive Plan, creating a variety of housing types – especially affordable ones – was the most frequently given feedback for what residents would like to improve. It also continues to be one of the most frequently mentioned topics during public comment at council meetings, and in interactions with various organizations in our community.

As such, the city has continued to prioritize work related to improving housing access and affordability by: working with the county to conduct a comprehensive buildable lands study focused on the City of White Salmon and the Urban Exempt Area surrounding our boundaries; hiring the city's first full-time land-use planner; amending short-term rental ordinances to address impacts on local long-term rental opportunities; and collaborating with local housing organizations throughout our neighboring Gorge communities to raise awareness of housing issues.

Undertaking a Housing Action Plan will help us turn these initial education and outreach activities into tools that will ensure a Plan that is reflective of our needs and informed by local limitations and opportunities. We'll specifically work to:

- review land capacity analysis and review ability of existing zoning to provide for housing needs and all income brackets;
- review the effectiveness of current programs, development regulations and permitting processes related to housing development;
- conduct community survey to identify demand for housing types among current population;
- review strategies to plan for and accommodate existing and projected needs of all economic segments of the community, including documenting programs and actions needed to achieve housing availability including gaps in local funding, barriers such as development regulations, and other limitations;
- develop strategies to increase the supply of housing, and variety of housing types, needed to serve the housing needs identified;

develop anti-displacement strategies, including strategies to minimize displacement of low-income residents resulting from redevelopment.