

COMMISSION AGENDA

Item No: 4E

Meeting: Nov 25, 2019

DATE: November 6, 2019
TO: Port Commission
FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director

Sponsor: Sean Eagan, Government Affairs Director
Project Manager: Evette Mason, Local Government Relations Manager
Presenter: Leslie Barstow, Community Relations Manager

SUBJECT: Scope change for a Local Economic Development Investment Fund project

A. ACTION REQUESTED

Request approval of a scope change and continued funding from the Local Economic Development Investment Fund for a study of possible boat launch sites on or near the Foss Waterway.

B. BACKGROUND

The Port of Tacoma's Local Economic Development Policy authorizes the port to make investments with local governments and federally-registered non-profit organizations that seek to promote Washington state based international trade, tourism, or infrastructure efforts in Pierce County. In February 2019, the Port of Tacoma issued a Request for Proposals (RFP), and 25 project applications were received. A review committee composed of two port commissioners and three staff members reviewed and evaluated the proposals. Ten projects advanced for Commission approval on July 18, 2019. One of those projects was submitted by Pierce County for the design of a boat launch on the Foss Waterway beneath the Murray Morgan Bridge.

Following the July approval process, the Tacoma Fire Department raised concerns with the proposed ramp's location and interest in other sites surfaced. Pierce County councilmembers Pam Roach and Connie Ladenburg convened a stakeholder meeting in September to discuss the topic. Attendees included the port (Commissioner McCarthy and staff), Pierce County, City of Tacoma, Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA), Metro Parks Tacoma and a local boating advisory group.

The group requested FWDA's Executive Director Norm Gollub to prepare a draft RFP to study various sites on and near the Foss Waterway; they also requested FWDA be the fiduciary agent for the study.

While they agreed to these changes at the meeting, commissioners McCarthy and Petrich felt these were significant changes from the original application and that the scope change required visibility and re-approval by the commission.

The Local Economic Development Investment Fund 2019 budget is \$250,000 and the slate of approved projects totaled \$197,500. The project sites are throughout Pierce County with approximately 75 percent of the funding allocated for infrastructure projects.

C. SPECIFIC PROJECT SCOPE AMENDMENT

The original application was a request for a funding partnership with the Port of Tacoma for a “one-time, capital investment in a new boat ramp, located on the East side of the Thea Foss Waterway, on the North side of East 11th Street Bridge.” Pierce County Councilmember Roach submitted the application.

The amended request would fund a feasibility study of several locations in the vicinity of the Thea Foss Waterway, and their viability for the construction of a public boat launch for trailered vessels. Councilmember Roach supported the modified project scope, the larger geographic study area and shifting the fiduciary responsibility to FWDA.

D. TIMEFRAME/PROJECT SCHEDULE

The release of the RFP is contingent on the port commission’s approval of this amended project scope. Study completion is dependent on several factors; however, a third quarter delivery timeframe is reasonable

E. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Cost – This action has no additional cost for the port related to this action. The amount of the financial partnership remains the same \$30,000, and the funds are in the 2019 budget.

F. ECONOMIC INVESTMENT / JOB CREATION – This action does not create additional economic investment or job creation beyond what was already anticipated when the commission acted in July. The boat launch would support the local tourism economy through the purchase of recreational boating supplies and services, such as fishing gear, fuel, marine services and food.

G. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS / REVIEW – Not applicable

H. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS

1. Alternative 1: Do nothing

The Commission could decline to act and insist on the funds being used to design of a boat launch on the Foss Waterway beneath the Murray Morgan Bridge. This would conflict with Tacoma Fire and could jeopardize funding from other sources who are desirous of looking more broadly for a suitable location.

2. Alternative 2: Ask the County to withdraw their application and re-apply in 2020

The Commission could decline to act and ask the County to withdraw their application and re-apply in 2020. This could incentivize other funding partners to redirect their financial commitments elsewhere, thereby jeopardize funding from other sources who are desirous of looking more broadly for a suitable location.

3. Alternative 3: Preferred alternative

Approve a scope change and continued funding from the Local Economic Development Investment Fund for a study of possible boat launch sites on or near the Foss Waterway.

I. NEXT STEPS

If approved, port staff will prepare an Interlocal Agreement with the FWDA in accordance with RCW 39.34.

Scope change for 2019 Local Economic Development Investment Fund project

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Background



Organization	Project	Requested	Total Project	Award Recommendation
City of DuPont	Dupont/Steilacoom Road Improvements	\$50,000	\$4,650,000	\$50,000
City of Fife	Science & Family Fair Volcanic Bash	\$10,000	\$35,000	\$5,000
City of Fife	54th/Taylor Way study	\$75,000	\$100,000	\$50,000
City of Lakewood	Summer Fest	\$14,000	\$95,000	\$5,000
Pierce County	11 th Street Boat Ramp Design	\$50,000	\$500,000	\$30,000
Gig Harbor Boat Shop	Marine Railways at Eddon Boatyard	\$165,000	\$755,000	\$25,000
Pierce County Parks & Rec	Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail Analysis Study	\$20,000	\$200,000	\$20,000
Tacoma South Sound Sports Commission	Seventy/48 Race	\$15,000	\$102,000	\$5,000
Visit Rainier	Mobility Tourism Guide	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
City of Orting	Tourism Video	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$2,500

Summary of Scope Change



Original Application	Modifications
Funds used for design/construction of a boat launch	Funds used to identify suitable sites for a boat launch
Specific site on Foss Waterway was identified	Geographic scope increased to several sites on and near the Foss Waterway
Fiduciary agent = Pierce County	Fiduciary agent = FWDA

Timeframe – An RFP for a consultant is prepared and is contingent on the Commission’s funding partnership approval.

Financial Summary – The Port’s financial partnership is unchanged at \$30,000 and is in the 2019 budget.

Alternatives – If the Commission does not approve the scope changes, funding from other sources could be lost.

Next steps – If approved, Port staff will prepare an ILA with the FWDA in accordance with RCW 39.34.

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