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- Puget Sound Regional Council
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- Thurston Economic Development Council
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Transportation Policy Board

FROM: Paul Brewster, Senior Planner

DATE: February 6, 2019

SUBJECT: Federal Funds Reprogramming and STIP Amendment

PURPOSE

To review and forward a funding recommendation to the Council to reprogram \$657,000 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds from the Tumwater *Old Hwy 99/79th Avenue Roundabout Project* to two separate projects: \$389,250 to the *Old Hwy 99 Corridor Study*; and \$267,750 to the *Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project*.

Summary:

- TRPC, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Thurston Region, has authority for selecting and programming priority transportation projects funded by several federal transportation grant programs.
- In August 2018 TRPC awarded \$657,000 federal STBG grant funds to the *Tumwater Old Hwy 99/79th Avenue Roundabout Project*. The project included both design and right-of-way phases.
- Mazama Pocket Gopher habitat surrounds the project site and a delay in the National Environmental Protection Act project review process prevents the original project scope from proceeding as planned.
- To overcome the challenge and maintain the city's obligation commitments, the city requests TRPC reprogram \$389,250 to a new project, the *Old Hwy 99 Corridor Study*.
- In addition, Tumwater requests TRPC reprogram \$267,750 to an existing project, the *Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project*.
- TRPC staff will present the details of these requests to the TPB on February 13.
- Staff recommends the TPB forward a funding recommendation to the Council and approve the necessary Regional Transportation Improvement Program Amendment.
- The Council will receive its first reading on March 1 and is expected to take action on April 5th.

REQUESTED ACTION

Forward a funding recommendation to the Council to approve Tumwater's request to reprogram \$657,000 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds from the Tumwater *Old Hwy 99/79th Avenue Roundabout Project* as follows: \$389,250 to the *Old Hwy 99 Corridor Study*; and \$267,750 to the *Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project*. In addition, recommend TRPC approve the associated RTIP amendments

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BACKGROUND

Old Hwy 99 Corridor Study Federal Funding Reprogramming Request

In August 2018 TRPC awarded Tumwater \$657,000 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds to the *Old Hwy 99/79th Avenue Roundabout Project*. The award required Tumwater to obligate the project's design phase (\$346,000 STP) in 2020 and the right-of-way phase (\$311,000 STP) in 2022. At present, it is impractical for Tumwater to proceed with the roundabout project due to a prolonged delay in the environmental permitting process. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review process for Mazama Pocket Gopher considerations is expected to take three to five times the length that was originally expected for the project.

To maintain momentum on improving mobility and safety on Old Hwy 99 and fulfill the city's obligation schedule, Tumwater is shifting its direction to perform a study on Old Hwy 99 from 73rd Avenue to 93rd Ave (southern limits of the urban growth boundary). This new *Old Hwy 99 Corridor Study* will replace the roundabout project. The study will produce a corridor plan to include traffic modeling, pre-NEPA/SEPA activities, and preliminary design as necessary to determine alignment, cross sections, intersection control, right-of-way needs and project cost estimates. Tumwater requests TRPC reprogram \$389,250 STBG funds from the *Old Hwy 99/79th Avenue Roundabout Project* to accomplish this effort. This request includes a \$60,750 local match. If approved, the city plans to obligate all the reprogrammed Old Hwy 99 Corridor Study funds in late spring/summer of 2019.

Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project Federal Funding Reprogramming Requests

During TRPC's 2018 Call for Projects Process, Tumwater submitted a *Citywide Pavement Resurfacing and Rehabilitation Project* as a backup proposal, knowing the NEPA review process for the *Old Hwy 99/79th Avenue Roundabout Project* could experience a prolonged delay. TRPC approved the backup proposal. On August 16, Tumwater received a \$2,427,000 federal National Highway System (NHS) Asset Management Program grant from the Federal Highway Administration for the pavement resurfacing and rehabilitation project. This project is currently programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as the *Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project* with \$1,077,250 local funds.

To fulfill the city's obligation commitment on the remaining STBG funds, Tumwater requests TRPC reprogram \$267,750 STBG from the *Old Hwy 99/79th Avenue Roundabout Project* to the *Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project*. Several NHS routes throughout the city require some level of rehabilitation. The additional STBG funding will augment the *Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project*. This project will address the following NHS routes:

- Tumwater Blvd (Interstate 5 to Capitol Blvd/Old Hwy 99) and Capitol Blvd south segment (Israel Rd to X St) – pavement repair, pre-level, crack seal and resurfacing.
- Capitol Blvd south segment (Israel Rd to X St) – pavement repair, pre-level, crack seal and resurfacing.
- Capitol Blvd north segment (Capitol Blvd Bridge to Carlyon/Sunset) – planing, selective concrete panel repair, overlay with fiber-reinforced asphalt, upgrade curb ramps and replace curb and gutter where required, and relocate, upgrade or add pedestrian signals.
- Old Hwy 99 (Henderson Blvd to Tumwater Blvd) – pavement repair, pre-level and fiber-reinforced asphalt overlay.

The *Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project* is currently in the design phase with construction slated to start early Summer 2020. This request includes \$41,787 local match. If approved by TRPC, the reallocated STBG funds will be applied to the construction phase which will obligate no later than August 2020, as this is a requirement of the larger share of federal grant funds already awarded.

Steps to Reprogram this Regional Federal Transportation Program Grant

For this funding request to occur, several steps must be accomplished:

1. The Transportation Policy Board (TPB) will review Tumwater's request and forward a funding recommendation to the Council on February 13, 2019.
2. If approved, reprogramming the federal funds will require two amendments to the 2019-2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The TPB approves RTIP amendments, but staff recommends that in this case, the RTIP amendments be approved by the Council along with the federal fund reprogramming on April 5, 2019, pending the TPB's recommendation. Staff expect that the RTIP amendment would then be processed by April 19, 2019.
3. TRPC staff will solicit public comments on this grant reprogramming request and the concurrent RTIP amendment from February 13 – 27, 2019. All public comments received will be shared with the TPB and the Council.
4. If approved by the Council, the TRPC Executive Director will issue award letters to the City of Tumwater for the Old Hwy 99 Corridor Study and the Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

TRPC will brief the TPB and Tumwater staff will be available to answer questions. The Council is expected to take action via the April 5, 2019, TRPC Consent Calendar.

Staff recommends the TPB approve a recommendation to the Council to:

Reprogram \$657,000 federal Surface Transportation Block Grant funds from the Tumwater Old Hwy 99/79th Avenue Roundabout Project as follows: \$389,250 to the *Old Hwy 99 Corridor Study*; and \$267,750 to the *Citywide NHS Resurfacing Project*.