

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS P4 22**KATHY GEORGE • ALLEN SPRINGER • MARY STARRETT**

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July 28, 2014

National Parks Service
 Attn: Michael Linde
 Pacific West Region- Seattle
 National Park Services/DOI

Dear Mr. Linde,

The Board of Commissioners of Yamhill County would like to express support of the Yamhelas Westsider Trail (YWT) and the project application to the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance program (RTCA) through the National Park Service (NPS). The YWT project has deep roots within the communities of Yamhill County and has the potential to become a local asset as well as a regional recreation destination. The goal of conserving the abandoned rail corridor for its conversion to a multi-purpose recreational path directly aligns with the priorities of the NPS.

Yamhill County is partnering with the Friends of the Yamhelas Westsider Trail, a local 501-C(3) non-profit organization, that was created to raise support for the project and support the trail well into the future. The YWT project enjoys strong and active support from various community groups and was awarded \$1.4 million dollars from the Federal Highways Administration for acquisition. Further, the county has contributed approximately \$200,000 dollars towards acquisition, appraisal services, title report, etc. as well as many staff hours and county resources. Yamhill County is committed to working in partnership with the Friends organization in developing this project to its completion and sustaining the trail for decades to come. However, the project is still young and partnering with NPS at this time would be a crucial and strategic step towards the trail's successful development.

The potential partnership between Yamhill County and the RTCA program could benefit the YWT in many ways including: identifying and analyzing issues and opportunities, identifying funding sources, planning and developing a conceptual plan. Utilizing the expertise offered through the RTCA program will help to solidify the conceptual foundation for the project, better define the role of each partner/stakeholder and will move the project forward in a way that will strengthen its relationships with potential funders.

Yamhill County, along with the project partners, can provide the resources needed to facilitate the RTCA meetings such as: a meeting space, printed materials, technical support, etc. The county intends to fully participate in this process and appreciates the opportunity to develop a partnership with the NPS.

Sincerely,

Allen Springer, Yamhill County Commissioner

Accepted by Yamhill County
Board of Commissioners on7.31.14 by Board Order# 114-457