

Connecting



our Community

Build Lebanon Trails
P.O. Box 2604
Lebanon, OR 97355

May 14, 2024

Lebanon City Council

RE: Funding Request from the Transient Lodging Tax Fund

Build Lebanon Trails (BLT) is currently raising funds to build the Georgia Pacific (GP) Mill Race Trail. BLT has been partnering with the City for 19 years to “*Connect our Community*” by building a fully accessible, continuous, free to use, public trail system. The GP Mill Race Trail is the trail section needed to “*Connect our Community*” from north to south.

BLT first presented the funding request to City Council at the April council meeting. After Staff review of the request the City requested a presentation to council at their June 12, 2024 meeting.

The focus of this letter is to demonstrate how the GP Mill Race Trail project complies with ORS 320.300.9. ORS320.300.9 defines “Tourism-related Facilities” as; ***(b) Means other improved real property that has a useful life of 10 or more years and has a substantial purpose of supporting tourism or accommodating tourist activities.***

Focus points are:

- The location where the requested funds will be used.
The location is the GP Mill Race Trail located between River Park’s Northwest property boundary and Santiam Street.
- The fund amount requested.
The initial request was for \$25,000. The Lebanon Tourism Committee provided \$1,500. The current request is the remaining unfunded balance of \$23,500.
- When received funds will be expended.
Funds will be expended on or before December 31, 2025. BLT would like to complete construction of the trail in 2024. The 2024 timeline is dependent on when the funding goal for the project is met.
- The useful life of the trail.
All public trails built in Lebanon are constructed to City specifications. This requirement ensures the useful life of public trails in Lebanon are far beyond 10 or more years.
- How trails relate to tourism as defined by the ORS320.300(9).

Lebanon's growing trail system is becoming the local catalysts for capturing Lebanon's share of the growing tourism paycheck. Numerous documented studies highlight how trails support community tourism efforts.

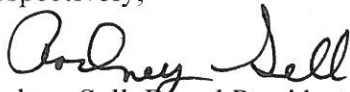
- *Nearly 50% of visitors to Oregon are attracted by our Outdoor Recreation Opportunities (Oregon Visitor Profile, Statewide Report 2021-2022, Destination Analysts).*
- *Bicycling tourism in Oregon provides over \$400 million dollars per year to the state economy, that's just for the tourism part. The Industry study also demonstrated \$400 million coming into the State economy from bicycle tourism (Jerry Norquist – Past Executive Director – Cycle Oregon).*

To demonstrate how important our local trails are to Lebanon tourism I have included the following quote from Chris Breshears – General Manager, Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Inn, Home of the 1847 Bar & Grill and Boulder Falls Center.

"The Lebanon Trail system has become a cherished amenity for many of our hotel guests, whether they're here for leisure, business, or conferences. Repeatedly, our guest services team receives requests for recommendations on safe places to run, walk, or bike, and without hesitation, we point them towards the Lebanon Trails, often providing them with maps upon request. It's truly gratifying to witness the amazement of our guests when they discover this offering in Lebanon, Oregon. Upon their return, we're consistently delighted to receive glowing feedback about the trail system. At Boulder Falls Inn, we firmly believe that these trails enhance the experience of our guests, and we take pride in supporting Build Lebanon Trails."

Please consider BLT's request for funding assistance to help build the trail to "Connect our Community" from the south of town to the north.

Respectively,



Rodney Sell, Board President
Build Lebanon Trails

(A non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the development and maintenance of the Lebanon Trail System.) EIN # 90-0845394.

For more information visit us at www.buildlebanontrails.com and
www.facebook.com/buildlebanontrails