
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

DATE: 1.7.25 Agenda Item # 8

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TPWL TRAILS GRANT APPLICATION

As you may be aware there has been discussion for several years about the idea to construct a trail from Bayfront Park around the Clement Cove Wetlands and then up to near Scully's restaurant. We have been looking at possible funding sources for such a project.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department accepts applications for funding in their Trails Grant Program this time each year with the deadline being February 1. This grant would provide \$300,000 of funds with a \$75,000 match. This is the same grant program that we used a few years ago to help build the shared use path (SUP) in Bay front Park.

Please refer to the attached concept plan with the following features:

- A lighted 10 ft wide shared use path (SUP) situated on the upland side of the wetlands delineation by at least 10 ft from Randle Street to near the Scully's bulkhead
- A 10 ft wide SUP sloped to meet ADA alongside the city owned overflow parking area of Scully's with a patch to lead to the existing ADA ramp to the City Harbor Upper Docks.
- A possible 10 ft wide SUP in the right-of-way of Randle leading ultimately to the SUP in Bayfront Park.
- Future reconstruction of the 1900's concrete steps leading down the hill next to the old hotel on Railroad St with a patch to the existing SUP
- Future sidewalk and/or SUP on Railroad and Mahan Streets
- Future easement for an ADA path from the upper dock to SH 238
- Note: I am in conversation with TxDOT about the prospect of providing Bike lanes on SH 238 in the future.
- Note: I am working with the Historical Society in making a grant application to construct ornamental fencing around Ranger Cemetery and provide a VAN accessible ADA parking space next to the ADA ramp to the City Harbor Upper Dock.

Urban engineering is working up some cost estimates for a few options for materials and widths of the proposed SUP **shown in red** for a possible 2025 TPWL Trails grant application. In order to score well, we need to show an ADA accessible starting and ending point to the trail. I have little doubt that to do the entire Trail shown in red, the cost will far exceed the \$375,000 for this particular grant project, but if we're successful, we can continue to look for other funding sources to make up the difference. Understand that if successful, we would not have authorization to construct until probably 2027 – enough time to budget additional funds.

In order to be able to submit an application by the February 1st deadline, I must have the attached resolution approved by Council, which among other things, acknowledges the understanding that \$75,000 (20%) is the required match for the maximum grant amount of \$300,000.

Financial impact:

By Monday night I should have a better idea of the potential cost to complete the entire path that is shown in red for consideration of applying for \$300,000 of funding from TPWL. Again, there would be no actual expenditure required until at the earliest 2027 based upon our recent experiences.

We will discuss Monday night if Council wants to limit the application to a maximum \$375,000 or consent to a larger project with the understanding that we would need to provide, through budgeted funds or grants, all costs in excess of \$300,000. With authorization to submit a grant application, I will solicit public support letters.

Attached:

- Resolution
- Master Area Concept Trail Plan

Jan. 13, 2025 Update:

Urban Engineering has prepared some preliminary cost estimates for this potential project.

To construct the 10 ft wide shared use path out of concrete from Randle Street to Fulton Street, with solar lights (same manufacturer as at Little Chocolate Bayou Park) every 100 ft, it is estimated to cost \$443,800. The construction would likely require the concrete trucks to stay on the upper elevations and pump the concrete to the path on the lower elevation, thus the per sf price is estimated at \$20/SF.

Continuing the 10 ft wide SUP behind a new curb on Mahan from Randle to SH 238 is estimated to cost an additional \$50,000 +/-.

So nominally, we'll say \$500,000 for the project. The grant, if we get it would provide \$300,000 (the maximum grant award) in funding. So, to complete the entire project, we'd need to budget around \$200,000 of CIP dollars. (This is \$125,000 greater than the minimum required match of \$75,000). As you recall from the last Trails grant, once awarded, TPWL takes about a year to perform the environmental reviews so in reality, the CIP funds will not be needed until FY 2026-27.

Recommendation:

If Council is in agreement that this is a worthwhile project that the citizens of Port Lavaca will benefit from as well as a promote tourism, staff recommends applying for \$500,000 project to connect SH238 at Mahan to Fulton Street with a 10 ft wide Shared Use Path and planning to budget \$200,000 matching funds in next year's CIP.