



Port of Cascade Locks Official Statement:

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)

(7/12/18)

The Port of Cascade Locks is extremely appreciative of all the support and encouragement that has been received for its FLAP grant application to plan and build the pedestrian and bicycle crossing at the Bridge of The Gods (BOG). This BOG enhancement has been in the discussion stage then planning stage for a number of years and would be designed to significantly enhance the safety for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the BOG. The BOG is officially a part of the Pacific Crest Trail and as such it is an important asset that supports the initial purpose of the NSA.

The Port has become aware of federal statutory language that could limit the use of local BOG toll revenues if the Port were to accept federal grant funding for this project at this time. The Port is working diligently with the Congressional delegations from both states as well as a number of other non-profit groups, seeking a waiver from requirements limiting the use of future toll revenue should federal grant funds be awarded for bicycle/pedestrian improvements on the BOG. Because toll revenue is used both to maintain the BOG and support other economic development activities in the community, maintaining autonomy over use of local tolls is critically important and may require the Port to turn down the FLAP grant until statutory relief is provided by Congress. Therefore the Port will be withdrawing its FLAP grant application at this time so as to not create any confusion or difficulty for the Federal Lands Program in awarding grants to others while we resolve the federal statutory language issue.

The safety of bicyclists and pedestrians is paramount in the mind of the Port. The Port will continue to vigorously work to secure a waiver from current law so that this important project within the NSA can proceed as quickly as possible.

The Port is also looking into other sources of funding for this initial planning phase.

The Port is exceptionally thankful for all those who supported this important project and hope to be able to move forward with this project in the near future.

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