

Memorandum

To: Wendy Farley-Campbell, Planning Director, City of Florence
From: Erin Reynolds, Executive Director, Florence Urban Renewal Agency
Date: May 9, 2022

RE: Siuslaw Estuary Trail & Quince Street Development

The Florence Urban Renewal Agency, in coordination with the City of Florence, is developing the Siuslaw Estuary Trail, in accordance with the Florence Transportation System Plan project # MU-3.

In 2022, the City of Florence received a Recreation Trails Program (RTP) grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to complete **phase one** of the Siuslaw Estuary Trail. This grant provides up to \$115,000 in grant funding towards the \$208,700 project. The additional funding has been budgeted by the City of Florence as well as the Florence Urban Renewal Agency. The City Council accepted this grant at their May 2, 2022 City Council meeting.

The Siuslaw Estuary Trail has been a community goal for over 22 years, but the plan was a collaboratively developed project with input from community members and the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership, a multi-year US Environmental Protection Agency grant funded project, from 2010 to 2013.

Phase One of the Siuslaw Estuary Trail includes building a trailhead and parking lot on the southside of Highway 126 at Spruce Street (where Spruce Street would be extended to the south across the roadway). The trail would utilize the existing sidewalk along Highway 126 to Redwood Street and then a new sidewalk would be constructed to the current terminus of Redwood. A compacted gravel multi-use (pedestrian and bicycle) path would then lead trail users along the upland area of the estuary on the City owned property meandering to Quince Street. Interpretive signage, awesome views of Munsel Creek and the Siuslaw River Estuary would be the focal point of the project. Please see Exhibit A for exact details

Phase one of the Siuslaw River Trail is expected to be completed by Spring 2023. The survey and designs have been completed and are ready to be executed. The project going out to bid in early-Summer 2022, and being constructed in Fall 2022. Once the trail has been constructed, it will be owned and maintained by the City of Florence.

Braun Hospitality / Quince Street Development LLC will not be required to contribute or construct any portion of the project. While the Siuslaw Estuary Trail, Phase 1 project will be an amenity any new development along Quince Street, it is also an amenity for the entire community.

The Siuslaw Estuary Trail is project MU-3 in the 2012 Transportation System Plan (TSP). On Table 10-4 in the 2012 TSP lists a probable timeframe for construction to be 2018-2025 and likely funding sources simply as referring back to the Siuslaw Estuary Partnership.

The Siuslaw Estuary Trail has had a long funding history where the project was once contained in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as a funded project. Unfortunately, as a STIP project the design elements for the project came in at \$1.3-1.5 million with a STIP contribution of only \$480,000 and the remainder as local match. Of the course of a number of years the City attempted many creative ways to fund the project to keep it within the STIP, however, the local match remained high. Working with ODOT Area Manager and City staff, the Siuslaw Estuary Trail STIP funded project was reallocated to other projects while the City pursued other funding options.

Now that the City has the RTP grant in hand, the City will be taking the lead and constructing the project with no outside funding, except for some local match from the Florence Urban Renewal Agency.