

The Parks and Commons Commission has requested that the City Council approve the process of soliciting engineering and design bids for the Ocean View Boardwalk project using funds (\$50,000) already budgeted for this purpose with the eventual goal of soliciting a vendor for this project (Motion by unanimous vote at meeting on 2/2/2021).

We suggest that the City Council can move this project forward as follows:

1. Define the scope and scale of the project.
2. Provide direction on methods of informing the public and gaining its support.
3. Direct staff to move forward with developing a design concept.
4. Direct staff to solicit bids for engineering and construction.

The following attachments provide an overview of the project:

- Narrative-Boardwalk Project-01-26-2021
- Narrative-Boardwalk-ATTACHMENT A-01-26-2021
- Narrative-Boardwalk-ATTACHMENT B-01-26-2021
- Kevin Shanley – curriculum vitae

BUT, they leave an important and pivotal question unanswered. While there is no doubt that something has to be done to improve safety along this stretch of road, should the boardwalk be designed as:

1. A rather utilitarian STRUCTURE with the sole purpose of getting people from point A to point B in a safe manner?

OR

2. An amenity – not just a structure on which people walk but also a PLACE in which they feel encouraged to congregate, visit with each other, linger, rest, photograph, etc?

To help the Council choose between option 1 and option 2, the nine attached graphics include examples of boardwalks in other places - progressing from simple and utilitarian to more attractive and inviting - as well as a concept drawing of what a boardwalk along this stretch of Ocean View Drive might look like.

This project is well-aligned with recently-developed Council goals. Especially:

- Improve timeliness, relevance, quality, and effectiveness of the City service delivery.

This project provides an excellent opportunity for the Council to demonstrate that the City can oversee the creation of a relevant community amenity of high quality and that it can do so in a timely and effective manner.

- Strengthen relationships with the community

The close alignment of this project with the other four Council goals suggests that its successful completion will strengthen ties between the Council and the community.

- Prioritize and demonstrate environmental responsibility in actions and decisions.

An archaeological study has already been completed. DEQ, Army Corps of engineers, and other relevant agencies will likely be involved in the permitting processes. Improving pedestrian access will encourage more people to walk rather than drive.

- Provide a safe environment.

The safety of residents and visitors alike will be greatly enhanced by making this heavily-used stretch of road much safer to walk along.

- Demonstrate financial responsibility.

Exploring the funding options listed below, rather than funding this project out of the yearly operating budget, will demonstrate financial responsibility.

Cost is a major consideration in any project, especially one of this size. The existence of several potential funding sources makes this project feasible:

- City funds – in addition to the \$50K already allocated
- 804 Mitigation funds –
- Visitor Amenity Funds – A project like this is clearly a visitor amenity particularly if it is designed to be a place rather than just a structure.
- Grants – Granting agencies currently look quite favorably on projects that are part of the OCT
- Fundraising efforts – possible placement of plaques on boardwalk for donors – local stores might ask patrons to round up purchases to next highest dollar.
- Donations – Kevin Shanley, an internationally-known landscape designer has volunteered to help with this project (see attached information).

Mr. Shanley states, “I would be happy to volunteer to create fairly detailed conceptual drawings for the connection that can be used to guide/direct the consultants to produce what the community wants. And I would be happy advising the selected consultant as they prepare their detailed drawings and advising during construction.”

Further donations are possible in the form of volunteer labor and assistance from the Parks and Commons Commission and the Yachats Trails Committee.