CITY OF COOS BAY PARKS COMMISSION

Agenda Staff Report

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
August 20, 2026	3.a

TO: Chair Lyons & Commissioners

FROM: Greg Hamblet, Operations Administrator

THROUGH: Jennifer Wirsing, Public Works Director

ISSUE: Port of Coos Bay "South Coast Rail Trail Project" Discussion.

SUMMARY:

Discussion of the Parks Commission Involvement in the Public Comments of the Potential upcoming Project "The South Coast Rail Trail Project".

ACTION REQUESTED:

No action requested at this time.

BACKGROUND:

The Port of Coos Bay is leading the South Coast Rail Trail Project, a regional initiative exploring the potential conversion of an approximately 16-mile inactive segment of the Coos Bay Rail Line into a multi-use trail connecting the Bunker Hill/Terminal One area near Coos Bay to downtown Coquille. A future phase could evaluate extending the trail north through Coos Bay and North Bend. The project aims to improve opportunities for walking, bicycling, and other active transportation while enhancing connections between neighborhoods, schools, parks, employment centers, healthcare facilities, and commercial areas.

The concept emerged during the Port's 2025 Strategic Business Plan public engagement process, where community members expressed interest in exploring the corridor as a regional trail. Because the Port owns the rail corridor and the study area has been inactive for approximately six years, the Port has a unique opportunity to evaluate the corridor's long-term potential while continuing to fulfill its responsibilities as steward of publicly owned infrastructure.

The Port is applying for funding through the Oregon Department of Transportation's Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) Program to complete a comprehensive feasibility study. If funded, the study will evaluate engineering, environmental, property ownership, community impacts, costs, funding opportunities, and implementation strategies while incorporating public and stakeholder engagement. The purpose of the study is to identify opportunities and constraints and inform future decision-making; no decision has been made regarding construction of the trail.

The City of Coos Bay has been invited to participate as a project partner throughout the feasibility study process. The Parks Commission is being provided this information because of the potential recreational, transportation, and community connectivity benefits the project could provide within the City and the broader South Coast region.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

None

ATTACHMENT(S):