

# 2024 Transportation Growth Management Grant Application

## Instructions

Be sure to download and review the [2024 Application Packet](#) before filling out this grant application.

You can save your progress and revisit this form at any time by clicking the "Save" button at the bottom of the page.

***Applications must be received by July 31, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. (PDT)***

---

## Applicant information

**Instructions:** Complete this information for the applicant. Provide both a designated contact and an authorized representative (if different than the designated contact) for your entity.

Response instructions are on page 9 of the 2024 Application Packet.

### Primary applicant jurisdiction

Benton County

### Mailing address

4500 SW Research Way

Address Line 1

Address Line 2

Corvallis

City

Oregon

State

97333

Zip Code

### Website

<https://nape.bentoncountyor.gov/>

### Contact person name

James

First

Wright

Last

### Contact person title

Associate Planner

**Contact phone**

(541) 766-3559

**Contact email**

James.Wright@bentoncountyor.gov

**Name of person empowered to sign the agreement with ODOT, if different from the applicant contact**

Jesse

First

Ott

Last

**Title of above named person**

Deputy Director- Natural Areas, Parks and Events

**Phone**

(541) 766-6002

**Email**

Jesse.Ott@bentoncountyor.gov

**List co-applicants (if a joint project)**

List co-applicants (if a joint project)

Providing match?

**Upload your resolution or authorized letter with associated meeting minutes from the governing body of applying jurisdiction(s) here:**

R2024-020 Master Trails Plan Update - NAPE - 240702 - SIGNED.pdf

*PDFs only. Max 2mb per file.*

---

**Project information**

Response instructions are on page 10 of the 2024 Application Packet.

**Project title**

Benton County- Countywide Master Trails Plan (BC-CMTP)

**Project area:** Using either of the two fields below, attach a map of the project area or describe the area your project is located in.

**Option 1: Project area map**

*PDFs only, 1 file maximum, 2mb file size limit.*

**Option 2: Project area description**

The masters' trails plan will focus throughout Benton County, Oregon.

**ODOT region (1-5)**

Region 2

[ODOT Region Map](#)

Refer to the region map if you are unsure of your region.

**Type of grant**

Category 1: Transportation System Planning

**Summary description of project**

The BC-CMTP will address Benton County's fragmented outdoor infrastructure by creating a comprehensive Trails Plan. The current disjointed recreation and trail system limits accessibility, usability, and safety, missing opportunities for multi-modal transportation and optimized land use. The Plan will promote walking and cycling, integrate recreation with TO zoning targeting universal access, leveraging community health, and layering uses. connected to the regional system.

Timely action is required for infrastructure improvement, stakeholder support, economic recovery, environmental goals, cost efficiency, public health, and strategic planning. Local actions include stakeholder engagement, planning, securing funding, and public outreach, with milestones expected within a year. Deliverables include an integrated recreation plan, policy updates, economic impact analysis, stakeholder engagement, trail design, and regional connectivity to adjacent counties.

*Describe the purpose of your project and how the expected outcomes will address a transportation problem, need, opportunity, or issue. (Maximum characters: 750)*

---

**Project cost table**

Response instructions are on page 11 of the 2024 Application Packet.

<b>TGM funds requested for the work identified in Criterion 3</b>	<b>Consultant</b> <input type="text"/>	<b>Local reimbursement</b> <input type="text" value="\$200,000.00"/>	<b>Total TGM funds requested</b> \$200,000.00
---	---	---	--

**Local match**                      **Minimum Match (Calculated)**  
\$22,890.89  
*Approximately 11.5% of requested funds*

<b>Match to be provided</b>	<b>Labor, supplies and services during project</b> <input type="text" value="\$22,890.89"/>	<b>Payment when Intergovernmental Agreement is signed</b> <input type="text"/>
-----------------------------	--	---

**Total Match to be Provided**  
\$22,890.89

---

**Award criteria**

## **Criterion 1: Proposed project addresses a need and supports TGM objectives (up to 40 points)**

The application demonstrates the proposed project clearly and effectively addresses a local or regional transportation or transportation-related land use issue, problem, need, or opportunity and will achieve one or more of the TGM Objectives.

**Response instructions are on page 13 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

### **What is the transportation or transportation-related land use issue, problem, need, or opportunity the proposed project will address?**

This project aims to tackle several transportation and land use issues in Benton County through a comprehensive countywide master trail plan. The main problems are fragmented infrastructure and a lack of integration with transportation planning. The current disjointed outdoor recreation and trail system limits accessibility, usability, and safety, while missed opportunities for multi-modal transportation and optimized land use arise from the lack of integration.

The CMTP addresses the need for comprehensive connectivity, sustainable development, and enhanced accessibility. Creating a cohesive network linking residential areas, commercial centers, parks, and natural attractions will promote walking and cycling as alternatives to driving. Integrating outdoor recreation plans into zoning ordinances and development codes will ensure sustainable land use and community health. Ensuring equitable and safe access to outdoor spaces for all community members, including those with disabilities, is a priority.

The TGM grant would facilitate economic development, community health and wellness, and environmental benefits while simultaneously integrating land use policy. A countywide master trail plan can attract tourists and new residents, boosting the local economy. Promoting active transportation options like walking and biking will improve public health by encouraging physical activity and reducing motor vehicle reliance. Integrating outdoor recreation into transportation planning will conserve the environment by reducing emissions and preserving natural landscapes.

The solution involves developing a long-range vision for outdoor recreation aligned with transportation and land use planning. This includes thorough assessments and stakeholder consultations to identify key areas for connectivity, collaborating with local jurisdictions to integrate the outdoor plan into comprehensive plans and development codes, designing a connected network of trails and outdoor spaces, and engaging the community through this inclusive planning processes.

By addressing these issues, the project will create a safe, cohesive, accessible, and sustainable outdoor recreation network that enhances transportation options, promotes healthy living, and supports economic and environmental goals.

*Maximum characters: 3,000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

### **What are the proposed Project Objectives? How will the Project Objectives achieve one or more of the TGM Objectives?**

The BC-CMTP project objectives aim to enhance transportation choices, foster community building, support economic growth, save costs, and promote environmental stewardship. These objectives align with the Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) program objectives in the following ways:

**-Provide Transportation Choices:**

**Objective:** Develop a connected network of trails and outdoor spaces that facilitate non-motorized transportation, such as walking and cycling. **TGM Alignment:** This objective increases transportation options beyond motor vehicles, encouraging sustainable and active transportation modes that reduce traffic congestion and emissions.

**-Create Communities:**

**Objective:** Design outdoor spaces that serve as hubs for social interaction, enhancing community cohesion and quality of life. **TGM Alignment:** By fostering vibrant, interactive public spaces, this objective supports TGM's goal of creating livable, connected communities.

**-Support Economic Vitality and Growth:**

**Objective:** Leverage outdoor recreation facilities to attract tourists and new residents, thereby stimulating local businesses and economic development. **TGM Alignment:** This objective aligns with TGM's aim to bolster economic vitality through strategic infrastructure investments that draw economic activities and enhance local prosperity.

**-Save Public and Private Costs:**

**Objective:** Plan and implement efficient infrastructure to minimize long-term maintenance costs and maximize investment returns. **TGM Alignment:** This objective supports cost-effective development, a key TGM priority, by ensuring that public and private investments yield substantial, sustainable returns with reduced maintenance expenditures.

**-Promote Environmental Stewardship:**

**Objective:** Design and manage outdoor spaces to preserve natural resources, reduce emissions, and promote sustainable land use practices. **TGM Alignment:** This objective directly supports TGM's environmental goals by integrating green infrastructure and conservation practices into the planning process, reducing the ecological footprint of transportation and development projects.

**Implementation Strategy:**

- **Strategic Planning:** Conduct thorough assessments and engage stakeholders to identify priority areas for connectivity and integration.
- **Policy Integration:** Collaborate with local jurisdictions to incorporate the outdoor plan into comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and development codes.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Develop a network of trails and outdoor spaces that provide diverse transportation options and foster community interaction.
- **Community Engagement:** Ensure broad community support and involvement through inclusive planning and continuous engagement efforts.

The project will create a cohesive, accessible, and sustainable outdoor recreation network, enhancing transportation, community, economy, and environmental stewardship in Benton County. Aligning with the

## **Criterion 2: Proposed project is timely and urgent (up to 25 points)**

The application demonstrates timeliness and urgency. The project is needed now to:

- address pressing local transportation and land use issues
- make amendments to local plans or regulations necessitated by changes in local conditions or in federal regulations, state requirements, or regional plans
- build on, complement or take a necessary step toward completing or implementing other high priority community initiatives, including Governor's Regional Solutions Team priority
- resolve transportation or land use-related issues affecting the project readiness of local, regional or state transportation projects for which funding is expected to be obligated within the near future

**Response instructions are on page 15 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

**Why is it important to do the proposed project in this grant cycle?**

It is crucial to undertake the proposed project in this grant cycle for several compelling reasons:

1) Addressing Immediate Infrastructure Needs:

- Benton County's outdoor recreation and trail systems are fragmented and lack connectivity. Immediate action is needed to improve infrastructure for safe, accessible, and interconnected transportation options.

2) Leveraging Momentum and Stakeholder Support:

- Key organizations and stakeholders recognize the need for a long-term outdoor recreation vision. Acting now maximizes momentum and enhances collaborative efforts and community engagement.

3) Economic Stimulus and Recovery:

- The project can stimulate the economy by attracting tourism and supporting local businesses, crucial in the current economic climate. Immediate implementation can accelerate recovery and growth, benefiting the local economy promptly.

4) Environmental Benefits and Sustainability Goals:

- Addressing environmental concerns like reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preserving natural landscapes is urgent. Immediate action will support Benton County's sustainability goals and stewardship commitments, crucial for mitigating climate change impacts.

5) Cost Savings and Efficiency:

- Delaying the project could lead to higher costs from inflation and rising construction expenses. Implementing it now can save public and private funds by preventing future cost escalations and using resources efficiently.

6) Public Health and Community Well-Being:

- Enhancing outdoor recreation and trails boosts physical and mental well-being, offering better recreational options that foster healthier lifestyles amid increasing public health awareness. Immediate action is vital.

7) Strategic Alignment with TGM Objectives:

- The project aligns with TGM program objectives, emphasizing transportation choices, livable communities, economic vitality, cost savings, and environmental stewardship. Securing funding now ensures prompt realization of these objectives.

By initiating the proposed project in this grant cycle, Benton County can immediately begin addressing critical infrastructure needs, leveraging current support and resources, stimulating economic growth, promoting environmental sustainability, enhancing public health, and aligning with strategic planning goals. Acting now ensures that the benefits of the project are realized without delay, maximizing positive outcomes for the community.

*Maximum characters: 2,500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

**What local actions are needed to move the proposed project forward? Have these actions been taken and if so, when? If those efforts are underway, when will they be completed?**

To move the proposed project forward, the following local actions are needed:

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Convene a core group of potential partners and key stakeholders. This effort is currently underway.

**Comprehensive Planning:** Integrate the outdoor plan into local comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and development codes. Estimated 1-2 years.

**Funding and Resource Allocation:** Secure funding through grants and allocate necessary resources. Grant applications have been submitted, with funding decisions anticipated within the next six months.

**Public Outreach and Support:** Conduct public outreach to build community support and gather input. Community workshops and surveys will be scheduled for the next year.

These efforts are progressing, with stakeholder engagement and initial planning already in motion, aiming for significant milestones within the 2 years.

*Maximum characters: 1000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

**How does the proposed project relate to other planning efforts, developments, or initiatives? Which of those are completed, underway, or waiting on the completion of this project?**

The CMTP complements local comprehensive plans by integrating outdoor recreation and trails, enhancing land use and transportation strategies for cohesive community development. It incorporates outdoor recreation into zoning ordinances and development codes, promoting sustainable practices. Supporting the SCORP, it enhances outdoor recreation infrastructure and aligns with Oregon's conservation goals. Aligned with public health initiatives, it promotes physical activity and mental well-being through improved access to recreational spaces. The project also supports environmental stewardship by preserving landscapes and reducing emissions, fostering community engagement and pride while balancing conservation with recreation for sustainable development.

Overall, the proposed project enhances and integrates with existing planning efforts, developments, and initiatives, creating a synergistic approach that maximizes benefits for Benton County.

*Maximum characters: 1000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

**Criterion 3: Proposed project approach supports policy decision (up to 20 points)**

The application demonstrates a clear approach to achieving the expected outcome and includes consideration for adoption. Where substantial coordination with other local, regional, and state planning efforts will need to occur, the mechanisms and responsibilities for the coordination are clear.

**Response instructions are on page 16 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

**Tasks and deliverables table**

**What are your proposed tasks and deliverables**

---



**Task 1: Stakeholder and Community Engagement:** Initiate engagement sessions with key stakeholders, community members, and underserved communities to gather input and build the foundation of the comprehensive trails plan encompassing multi-modal paths, recreation, and stewardship.

**Timeline:** Throughout the project.

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

**Task 2: Existing Conditions –** The staff and subcommittee members will; conduct a review of existing plans and trail resources, GIS data, and field conditions; and engage with stakeholders, and community members to identify needs, opportunities, and constraints for a comprehensive trail system. Deliverables include: A Gap Analysis and Recommendations Summary, understanding partner jurisdictions' requirements, building partnerships, support, understanding of responsibilities for implementation and long-term management. **Timeline:** 1-5 months.

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

**Task 3: Economic Impact Analysis:** An analysis of the economic benefits of improved outdoor recreation facilities, focusing on their potential to attract tourists and stimulate local economic growth. **Outcome:** Reports detailing the economic impacts, supporting funding efforts and highlighting benefits to the local economy. **Decision:** Benton County will work in tandem with the stakeholders to establish an updated policy document. **Timeframe** 5-6 months

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

**Task 4: Needs & Priorities:** This task identifies the discrepancies between current conditions and desired outcomes. Subcommittee and County staff will execute the engagement plan, using its strategies to identify needs, gaps, and barriers for a comprehensive trails plan.

Additionally, we will coordinate with Benton County Public Works to ensure our plan reflects regional connections and transportation initiatives, including the provision of safe parking locations.

**Timeline:** Months 4-8

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

**Task 5: Recommended projects:** The staff and advisory committees will identify through a prioritization process, resulting in a Trail Projects List and Map. The staff and advisory committee will prepare alignment, design assumptions, and cost estimates for four high-priority projects, covering both capital development and operations. This includes establishing project limits, major elements, and design assumptions. The staff and subcommittee will create intuitive and measurable performance measures for the Trail System Plan.

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update

and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

**Task 6: Comprehensive Plan:** Staff will develop a draft countywide comprehensive trails plan based on the task and deliverables completed during the planning process. This draft will be reviewed by the subcommittee prior to the Board of Commissioners.

**Timeline:** Months 16-20

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

**Task 7: Policy and Regulatory Updates:**

**Description:** Revisions to local comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances, and development codes to incorporate the new outdoor recreation plan.

**Outcome:** Updated regulatory frameworks that support sustainable land use and balance conservation with outdoor recreation.

**Decision & Timeframe:** Benton County Community Development will work in tandem with the stakeholders to establish an updated policy document. Adoption of the policy is estimated to be fall of 2028.

For each project task, describe the major deliverables and who is responsible for its preparation, decisions to be made, and expected timeline. Clearly identify which local plans or regulations the final document(s) will create, amend or update and which entity or entities will need to take action to adopt them.

### **How will the project approach support investment decisions for Safe Systems, Climate Action, and Equitable Outcomes?**

The CMTP project promotes Safe Systems by developing integrated outdoor recreation plans with safe trails, facilities, and parking. It will further enhance non-motorized transportation safety through improved infrastructure and updated policies. It supports Climate Action by reducing emissions, promoting sustainable development, and initiating environmental stewardship efforts. For Equitable Outcomes, it engages stakeholders inclusively, prioritizes accessibility in trail design, conducts economic impact analyses, fostering community investment and economic growth. This approach ensures informed investment decisions, enhancing safety, sustainability, and equity while improving community quality of life.

*Maximum characters: 1000 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

### **If adoption hearings will be held as part of a larger project, when will that be and as part of what project? (optional)**

Final adoption of a updated countywide comprehensive trails plan would be in the fall of 2028.

*Maximum characters: 500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

### **Criterion 4: Proposed project has community support (up to 5 points)**

The application demonstrates that there is local support for project objectives, a commitment to participate, and a desire to implement the expected outcome.

**Response instructions are on page 17 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

**Upload letters of support here**

Letter of Support\_ BC-CMTP\_ City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation TGM.pdf

Letter of Support\_ BC-CMTP- AFRANA\_.pdf

Letter of Support\_ BC-CMTP\_ Greenbelt Land Trust.pdf

*PDFs only. Max 2 mb per file.*

**Criterion 5: Proposed project sponsor is ready and capable (up to 10 points)**

The application demonstrates that the local government is ready and able to begin the project within the TGM timetable and that there is local commitment and capability to manage and complete the project. The application demonstrates, if applicable, successful performance on previous TGM projects.

**Response instructions are on page 18 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

**Describe the experience and availability of key staff**

Jesse Ott, Natural Areas, Parks and Events Department Director, has over 15 years of experience in trail development. He has managed multiple large-scale projects, including the Mulkey-Ridge Trail Connectivity Project, the multi-agency Owens Farm Project and the Oregon State University Trails Planning Committee. Jesse expertise lies in project coordination, stakeholder engagement, and ensuring compliance. He has a proven track record in creating aesthetically pleasing and functional trail systems.

Petra Schuetz, Interim Community Development Department Director and Planning Director has over 20 years Oregon land use experience including current, long-range, and State policy work including several years as a transportation planner and TDM then Transportation Options Program Manager. TGM and trails related projects include Waldport Parks Master Plan, Coburg Parks and Open Space Master Plan (TGM), Coburg Multimodal Loop Implementation Strategy (TGM), Periodic Review- Coburg, and Lane County Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

James Wright, Associate Planner, brings 5 years of experience in urban and rural planning. He excels in fostering community partnerships and organizing public consultations. James ensures that the trails plan reflects the needs and desires of diverse community groups, enhancing public support and participation.

*Maximum characters: 1500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

**Explain how the applicant has the capacity to scope the proposed project during the next 15 months and manage it to completion within 3 years**

Jesse Ott: Available part-time with intensive focus during the design and implementation phases. Jesse will be key in identifying key stakeholders and establishing a subcommittee.

James Wright: Full-Time commitment, overseeing the planning phase with periodic involvement during implementation.

Petra Schultz: Available part time for the initial planning phase and comprehensive plan update phase

*Maximum characters: 1500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

**If applicable, list applicant’s TGM projects within last 10 years and their status**

## If applicable, list local jurisdiction's TGM projects within last 10 years and their status

TGM File Code	Project Title	Status
2J-07	Coburg Multimodal Loop Implementation Strategy	complete 300 character limit.
2T-95	Coburg Transportation System Plan and Revisions to Zoning Ordinances	complete 300 character limit.
combo	Coburg Periodic Review	complete 300 character limit.

## Bonus points: Housing (up to 10 points)

Response instructions are on page 19 of the 2024 Application Packet.

**How will the adoption of the final document(s) address barriers to a broad range of housing types and affordability or work to link the location of future workforce housing to walkable/bikeable areas with good transit?**

Enhancing Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure

Improved Connectivity: The plan will focus on creating safe and direct pedestrian and bicycle routes connecting workforce housing to transit stops and key destinations. This includes developing new trails, bike lanes, and pedestrian pathways, as well as improving existing ones.

Safety and Accessibility: Ensuring that all trails and pathways are safe and accessible for all users, including those with disabilities, is a priority. This involves implementing measures such as adequate lighting, clear signage, and safe crossings.

*Maximum characters: 500 | (Text box automatically expands. Click and drag right-hand corner of text box to manually expand it.)*

## Required forms

Title VI: Racial & Ethnic Impact Statement form  
Racial-Ethnic-Impact-Statement.pdf

[Download the Racial & Ethnic Impact Statement form here](#)

PDFs only. Max 2 mb per file.

---

# Certifications

**Response instructions are on page 20 of the 2024 Application Packet.**

## **Eligibility criteria**

- This application demonstrates a clear transportation relationship
- This application demonstrates adoption of products to meet project objectives
- This application demonstrates the support of local officials

## **Preparation of application**

- This application was prepared by staff of the primary applicant or staff of one of the involved jurisdictions
  - This application was prepared by the following COMPENSATED consultant (indicate below)
  - This application was prepared by the following UNCOMPENSATED consultant (indicate below)
- 

## **Would you like to receive TGM news and updates?**

Yes  No  I am already subscribed

*Clicking "Yes" authorizes us to add your email to our e-newsletter mailing list. You can unsubscribe at any time.*

## **Today's date**

7/31/2024

**If you encounter any issues with the submittal process, please contact:**

Rachael Levasseur  
Planning Section Web Coordinator  
[Rachael.LEVASSEUR@odot.oregon.gov](mailto:Rachael.LEVASSEUR@odot.oregon.gov)

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR THE STATE OF OREGON, FOR THE COUNTY OF BENTON

In the Matter of Authorizing the Benton )  
County Natural Areas, Parks and Events )  
Department to apply to the Oregon )  
Transportation and Growth Management )  
(TGM) Program for Master Trails Plan funding )

**RESOLUTION #R2024-020**

WHEREAS, the Master Trails Plan proposed project clearly and effectively addresses a local transportation-related land use need and opportunity and will achieve one or more of the TGM Objectives; and

Benton County can locally match the funding to fulfill its 11.5% share of obligation related to this grant application, which includes in-kind-eligible match, should the grant funds be awarded; and

Currently, Benton County's outdoor recreation and trail systems are fragmented, with inconsistent connectivity between various segments, and this disjointed infrastructure limits accessibility and reduces the overall usability and safety of the network; and

Outdoor recreation and trail plans have not been fully integrated into comprehensive transportation and land use planning documents, and this lack of integration leads to missed opportunities for enhancing multi-modal transportation options and optimizing interconnections between counties and communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

- 1) The Benton County Board of Commissioners does hereby demonstrate its support for the submittal of a grant application to the Transportation Management Program, managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation and the Department of Land Conservation, for development of a Master Trails Plan; and
- 2) does hereby authorize the Natural Areas, Parks, and Events Department to apply for approximately \$200,000 for planning assistance.

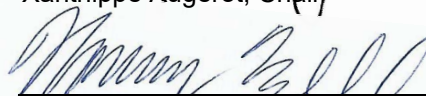
Adopted this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2024.


Signed this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2024.

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Xanthippe Augerot, Chair

Approved as to form:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Wyse, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Vance M. Croney  
County Counsel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat Malone, Commissioner



1310 SW Avery Park Dr.  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
(541) 766-6918  
FAX (541) 754-1701

July 17, 2024

David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager / TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street  
Springfield, OR 97477

Dear Mr. Helton:

The City of Corvallis Parks & Recreation Department (CPRD) works collaboratively with Benton County Natural Areas, Parks and Events Department (NAPE) in several ways, including coordination of land management activities and outdoor recreation programs and services. In several instances, City property abuts County property, and our trail users enjoy a seamless experience when traversing across property lines and jurisdictions. We take great pride and care in a cooperative approach to meeting the needs of our community members.

An updated Comprehensive Trails Plan would help increase connectivity of the open space areas throughout Benton County, and with stakeholder involvement and engagement, help to create a holistic approach to land use planning, environmental stewardship and enhanced accessibility. The City of Corvallis Parks and Recreation Department would welcome the opportunity to engage in the planning process and supports the proposed plan by Benton County.

Thank you for your consideration of the grant application in support of all Benton County residents, employers, employees, and visitors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Meredith Petit".

Meredith Petit  
Parks & Recreation Director  
City of Corvallis



July 14, 2024

Attn: David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street, Springfield, OR 97477

Dear TGM decision-makers,

The Alliance for Recreation and Natural areas strongly supports Benton County's application to the Transportation and Growth Management Grant for updating the County's Comprehensive Trails Plan.

Our organization has worked with Benton County and other partners in the past to help develop visions for trails in the area. Benton County has been collaborative and supportive of community-led efforts such as the Connectivity plan in South Benton County, past trail connection vision efforts and coordination of signage and accessibility features with other trail partners.

There is a great need for equitable trail development that incorporates the needs of the whole community, ties together development done by the various groups and is aligned with county land use and transportation plans. All the trail partners see the need to provide more opportunities for underserved communities, create safe and effective alternative transportation, improved community health and robust environmental stewardship.

Having a comprehensive plan will foster continued collaboration, provide structure, prioritization, and effectively align efforts across groups. This will ensure future developments contribute to a cohesive, accessible trail system that benefits communities throughout the county. By providing rational connections to adjacent counties, it can benefit regional communities as well. Please support this grant for Benton County. Having an updated, robust County Comprehensive Trails Plan will be key to achieving the vision and goals of the community.

Respectfully,

Ellen Tappon  
President,  
Alliance for Recreation and Natural Areas  
[afrana.org](http://afrana.org)





# greenbelt land trust

101 SW Western Suite #111 ♦ Correspondence to PO Box 1721 ♦ Corvallis, OR 97339

Attn: David Helton  
Lead Grant Manager/ TGM Regional Lead  
Oregon Department of Transportation  
2080 Laura Street, Springfield, OR 97477

July 2, 2024

TGM Review Team,

I am writing on behalf of Greenbelt Land Trust to express our strong support for Benton County's application to the Transportation and Growth Management Grant to support the updating of the County's Comprehensive Trails Plan.

Our community is facing a critical need to establish a comprehensive, unified trail systems plan that can provide a roadmap for prioritizing trail connections, expanding equitable access to the outdoors, and aligning trail partners towards unified goals.

Greenbelt Land Trust is a central stakeholder in the planning, development and maintenance of area trail systems. In order for the Land Trust to plan for future land acquisitions and infrastructure needs that support public access, it is imperative that these projects be reflected in regional trail plans and adopted within County land use code. Having well-defined County-wide trail plans enables the Land Trust to have the confidence to move forward with landowner negotiations that may take years or decades to finalize.

Benton County is known to be a leader in trails and public access, and yet there is much that remains to be done to finalize long-envisioned trail connections, establish outdoor access in regions of the County that have been historically underserved, and create universal access design standards to make trails truly available to all in our community. The stakeholders are engaged and eager to support this planning process.

Greenbelt Land Trust strongly supports the TGM application by Benton County Community Development Department.

Sincerely,

Jessica McDonald | Executive Director  
Greenbelt Land Trust  
jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org | (541) 752.9609

## RACIAL AND ETHNIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**This form is used for informational purposes only and must be included with the grant application.**

[Chapter 600 of the 2013 Oregon Laws](#) require applicants to include with each grant application a racial and ethnic impact statement. The statement provides information as to the disproportionate or unique impact the proposed policies or programs may have on minority persons<sup>1</sup> in the State of Oregon if the grant is awarded to a corporation or other legal entity other than natural persons.

1. The proposed grant project policies or programs could have a disproportionate or unique positive impact on the following minority persons:

Indicate all that apply:

Women	Asians or Pacific Islanders
Persons with Disabilities	American Indians
African-Americans	Alaskan Natives
Hispanics	

2. The proposed grant project policies or programs could have a disproportionate or unique negative impact on the following minority persons:

Indicate all that apply:

Women	Asians or Pacific Islanders
Persons with Disabilities	American Indians
African-Americans	Alaskan Natives
Hispanics	

3. The proposed grant project policies or programs will have no disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons.

**If you checked numbers 1 or 2 above**, please provide below the rationale for the existence of policies or programs having a disproportionate or unique impact on minority persons in this state. Further provide evidence of consultation with representative(s) of the affected minority persons.

*By checking this box, I hereby certify the information contained on this form is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge.*

**Dated:**

Printed Name:

Title:

Agency Name:

---

<sup>1</sup> “Minority person” are defined in SB 463 (2013 Regular Session) as women, persons with disabilities (as defined in ORS 174.107), African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, or Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaskan Natives.