

STAFF REPORT

04/11/2022

Topic: Request to submit a Letter of Interest to the Northern Borders Regional Commission's (NBRC) State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment (SEID) grant program for 1,000-ft of multi-use trail on Elm Street.

Discussion: Established by Congress in 2008, the Northern Border Regional Commission's (NBRC) mission is to fund economic development and infrastructure projects throughout designated counties in its four-state service area. The SEID grant program provides a 50% grant for infrastructure projects such as pedestrian and multi-use trails.

In October 2021, a conceptual plan for the WOW Trail Opechee Loop was presented to City Council. The Opechee Loop is envisioned to be a multi-use trail that connects the WOW trail from its trailhead on Elm Street in Lakeport to the WOW trail in the City's downtown.

Laconia is listed on the NH Department of Transportation Ten-Year Plan to receive a Transportation Alternatives Grant to construct the multi-use trail on Elm Street from Franklin Street to Hickory Stick Lane.

An SEID grant is being sought to fund a 1,000-ft section of the Opechee Loop. This project, if funded, will start at the trailhead on Elm Street to the limit of the City's TAP project at the intersection of Elm Street and Franklin Street. Once the Letter of Interest is reviewed by the NBRC, applicants will receive an invitation to apply.

Fiscal Impact: The conceptual-level cost estimate for this 1,000-ft section of the Opechee Loop is \$250,000. The SEID grant provides 50% funding and requires a 50% match. Additional funding sources that are being pursued to support this match include a USDA Community Facilities Grant and funding from the WOW Trail.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the City Council authorize Public Works to submit a Letter of Interest for the Northern Borders State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment (SEID) grant program for approximately 1,000-ft multi-use trail on Elm Street.

This report submitted by: Krista Larsen, Assistant Public Works Director

Proposed motion:

"I move that the City Council authorize Public Works to submit a Letter of Interest to the State Economic and Infrastructure Development Investment grant program for an approximately 1,000-ft multi-use trail on Elm Street from the WOW trail to Franklin Street."