

RESOLUTION 2022-YY

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF EATONVILLE, WASHINGTON, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF EATONVILLE, AS THE LEAD APPLICANT, TO JOINTLY SUBMIT WITH WESTERN FOREST INDUSTRIES MUSEUM A FEDERAL RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PLANNING GRANT

WHEREAS, Western Forest Industries Museum (“WFIM”), a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, has proposed that WFIM and the Town of Eatonville (“Town”), jointly seek a Federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot Planning Grant in the amount of \$1,500,000 to study the feasibility of moving the railroad depot and/or museum to Eatonville; and

WHEREAS, the Town will be the lead applicant on the grant application, with the Executive Director of WFIM writing the grant, pro-bono and providing assistance as requested by the Town with implementation of the grant; and

WHEREAS, WFIM owns and controls a scenic railroad with over \$6,000,000 in assets and has the goal of providing train excursions and train related activities and services to the Town; and

WHEREAS, receiving and completing this \$1,500,000 planning grant will ensure that the way in which these train excursions and train related activities and services are brought to the Town has been thoroughly analyzed with the goal of optimizing the financial returns and other benefits for the Town as well as other stakeholders involved; and

WHEREAS, the Town, as the lead applicant, will be able to involve Town citizens in the planning process as well as have greater control over the planning process; and

WHEREAS, the Town, surrounded by natural beauty and having a wonderful and established quality of life, needs to take the lead on this planning grant to ensure that targeted tourist and economic growth enhances and promotes this existing quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Eatonville will benefit from these increased tourism dollars spent on local businesses with attractions that encourage the one million plus tourists that pass through town annually to stop, spend money and support Eatonville; and

WHEREAS, WFIM is the only source available to provide train excursions and train related activities and services to the Town and tourists passing through the Town; and

WHEREAS, this proposed project will provide the planning for much needed parking and traffic infrastructure improvements to the Town; and

WHEREAS, WFIM applied for and was awarded a \$525,000 LTAC (Pierce County Lodging Tax) 2023 grant and has other “in kind” services that will satisfy the grant’s 20% match requirement thereby eliminating any match requirement risks for the Town; and

WHEREAS, the planning grant, if awarded, allows the Town to receive administrative fees to help cover the cost of Town resources associated with implementation of this grant; and

WHEREAS, the Town, if awarded this planning grant, can sub-contract action items which are outside of the Town's areas of expertise to other entities; and

WHEREAS, the Town has similar, mutually beneficial relationships with other non-profits in Town such as the Eatonville Family Agency and the Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is for this grant only and any future grant opportunities will be vetted and approved by the Town Council; now, therefore

**THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF EATONVILLE, WASHINGTON,
HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

THAT: The Town Council approves, and the Town of Eatonville, as the lead applicant, is authorized to jointly submit with the Western Forest Industries Museum a Federal Reconnecting Communities Pilot Planning Grant.

ALSO THAT: Pending a successful grant application, the Town of Eatonville will submit an Agreement for approval by the Town Council that defines the future roles and joint activities of the Town of Eatonville and Western Forest Industries Museum.

PASSED by the Town Council of the Town of Eatonville and attested by the Town Clerk in authentication of such passage this 26th day of September 2022.

David Baublits, Mayor

ATTEST:

Miranda Doll, Town Clerk