**City of Monroe** 668 Commercial Street Monroe, OR 97456 (541) 847-5175



# **Press Release**

For Immediate Release

## City of Monroe Awarded Transportation Growth Management Grant to Fund the Development of a Riverside District Master Plan

**Monroe, Oregon (September 6, 2018)**: The City of Monroe has been awarded a Transportation Growth Management Grant to fund the development of a Riverside District Master Plan. The Riverside District Master Plan will allow Monroe to adequately plan and realize the community-generated vision to reorient the community towards the river and take advantage of its aestethic, recreational, economic, and environmental opportunities. The space where the downtown, Long Tom River, and City Park intersect has been dubbed Monroe's 'Riverside District' (See map on page #4). The TGM Grant will allow Monroe to plan for synergistic land uses and transportation connections in this area to create a walkable, vibrant, and sustainable district - enhancing resident's quality of life and our economy.

#### Overview: Transportation Growth Management Program

The Transportation Growth Management (TGM) Program is a joint effort of two state agencies: the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). TGM Grants help local communities plan for transportation and land use in a way that leads to more livable, economically vital, and sustainable communities and that increases opportunities for transit, walking and bicycling.

The TGM Program awards grants on an annual basis. This TGM grant is financed, in part, by the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act ("FAST Act"), local government, and State of Oregon funds. TGM typically awards between \$2 and \$2.5 million per cycle. Projects are selected on a competitive basis within each of the five ODOT regions. Grants generally have two years for projects to be negotiated and completed. Award amounts generally range between \$75,000 and \$250,000.

There are two categories of TGM Grants:

- Category 1: Transportation System Planning, to give Oregonians a range of transportation choices and meet requirements of the Oregon Transportation Planning Rule.
- Category 2: Integrated Land Use and Transportation Planning, to promote communities that meet the needs of all Oregonians to live, work, and move about.

Monroe's Riverside District Master Plan project is classified as a Category 2 TGM Grant - meaning it will result in a land use decision.

For example, Category 2 projects typically include preparation and adoption of:

- Specific area plans for land uses in a downtown, main street, commercial or employment area, neighborhood, corridor, or interchange.
- Land use and transportation concept plans for areas brought into a UGB.
- Transportation-efficient land use plans for an entire urban area, such as location efficiency of housing and employment or reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.
- Implementing measures, such as code amendments, infill and redevelopment strategies, and intergovernmental agreements.

#### Overview: Riverside District Master Plan

In Monroe, our project is the Riverside District (RD) Master Plan. The concept of a Riverside District is a product of several critical visioning workshops held over the past two years. The work completed by local volunteers, officials, and organizations through the Oregon Main Street Program, Comprehensive Plan Update, and Oregon/By Design Design Skills Workshop laid the foundation for the necessity of the RD Master Plan. Documents relating to those workshops can all be found on the City's website at: <u>ci.monroe.or.us</u>. Community members have repeatedly identified the Riverside District area as an underutilized space and asset with great potential. The rate of private investment into the area is rapidly increasing and 60+ new residential homes are slated for construction within a mile. It has become more prudent than ever to plan for the anticipated land use and transportation challenges.

The RD Master Plan will provide a implementation ready strategy to leverage the community's assets and capitalize on the land's opportunity for economic and destination dev.; environmental stewardship; and to provide local amenities (multimodal pathways, parks, community spaces).

Overall project goals for the Master Plan will be to:

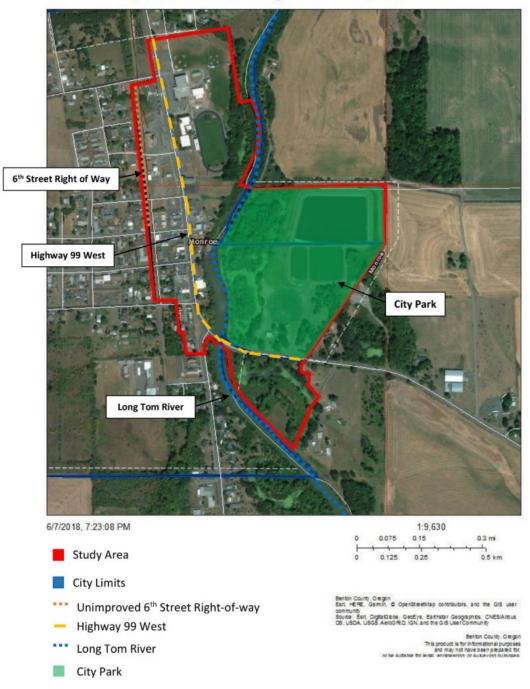
- Utilize existing unimproved ROWs and establish new routes to create safe multi-modal transportation options between and throughout the Riverside District's area (community centers, schools, businesses, and parks) that also serves as linkages between the broader South Benton County community and the city.
- Facilitate community diversity and inclusion through mobility options centered on health, accessibility, and equality.
- Leverage the space's land-uses, proximity, scale, and character to develop a cohesive vibrant community center of economic, social, and recreational activity.
- Engage the surrounding area's sprouting agritourism, outdoor recreation, and arts industries to establish Monroe as a destination for businesses and tourism alike.
- Restore and enhance the ecology of the Long Tom River and ensure protection measures are adequate to accommodate responsible riverside development.

This planning project is funded by a \$140,00 grant from the Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) Program, and a local grant match of 12% of the total project cost (approximately \$160,000 total project cost). Grantees typically provide match in the form of cash or direct project costs, such as time and materials directly related to the project. Time that may be counted as project match includes that from grantee staff, grantee contract planners and engineers, or certain volunteers, such as project committee members.

#### **Grant Timeline**

| June 8, 2018                 | Grant Applications due by 4:00 p.m.  |
|------------------------------|--|
| June - August 2018           | Application scoring and ranking  |
| August 2018                  | Project award announcements  |
| December 2018 - January 2019 | Grantees must have agreed on a detailed<br>statement of work sufficient to select a<br>Consultant, or to prepare an IGA if no<br>consultant will be used |
| April - May 2019             | IGA and personal services contracts must be signed and projects underway   |
| September 2021               | All 2018 TGM Projects must be completed  |

Additional information on the TGM Program can be found online at: <u>https://www.oregon.gov/LCD/TGM/Pages/grants.aspx</u> For further information regarding the Riverside District Master Plan, please contact City Administrator Rick Hohnbaum at <u>rick.hohnbaum@ci.monroe.or.us</u> or (541) 847-5175.



### Riverside District Study Area - Areas of Interest