



PORT OF KLICKITAT

For Immediate Release

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Port Road Project Passed Over

Dallesport, Washington – The U.S. Dept. of Transportation has declined to provide funding for paving the eastern portion of Dock Road located in the Port of Klickitat's Dallesport Industrial Park. In January of this year, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the Port, filed an application for grant funds under the Federal Lands Access Program. This program provides monies to improve access to recreation areas such as Spearfish Lake located on federal lands. The project would have paved a portion of Dock Road and the entrance to Spearfish Lake, which sits just east of the industrial park and is accessed via the Port's Dock Road.

In an e-mail to the Corps and Port, Greg Humphreys of the U.S. Dept. of Transportation stated, “[The] project proposal for the Dock Road Improvements to Spearfish Park...ranked below the cutoff for available funding and the Program Decisions Committee did not approve it for programming.”

The estimated cost of the project was \$185,000 with \$25,000 of that coming from the Port as local matching funds. Had it been completed, it would have replaced nearly 3,150 lineal feet of gravel roadway with asphalt and significantly improved access not only to Spearfish Lake, but to over 25 acres of property including the Port's barge terminal.

“Naturally we're disappointed this project didn't make the cut,” said Port Commissioner Bill Schmitt. “The Port has wanted to pave the rest of Dock Road since the first time I served as a commissioner and I was hopeful we were finally going to be able to do it.” The idea for a joint effort to pave Dock Road began to take shape out of a conversation between Port and Corps staff that took place in 2009. Since then, both parties have sought opportunities to fund the project.

“We want to thank Kelly Thomas, the Corps' Natural Resources Manager responsible for Spearfish Lake, for initiating and ultimately submitting the grant application,” said Port Executive Director Marc Thornsby. “The Federal Lands Access Program seemed a perfect fit, but there were too many other projects viewed as delivering more value and the money simply ran out before they got to ours.” Grants under the program are awarded based on the scores given each of the projects by a review committee. The higher the score, the more likely the project will be funded.

For example, one of the projects approved for funding will make improvements to Celilo Park, located nine miles east of Spearfish Lake on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. Compared to Spearfish Lake, Celilo Park has approximately eight times the number of users and significant safety issues with an at-grade railroad crossing used to enter to the park. As a result, it received

At A Glance...

Who:.....Port of Klickitat

What:.....Dock Road Paving

When:.....July 3, 2013

Where:.....Dallesport, WA

Quick Facts:.....U.S. Dept. of Transportation declines to fund paving of Dock Road in the Dallesport Industrial Park. Ranking below the cutoff for funding cited as cause.

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a relatively high score. “The Dock Road project simply couldn't compete with other projects, like the one for Celilo Park, that made improvements the committee felt had greater impact, served more people, and/or affected more property,” said Thornsbury.

That doesn't mean they're giving up. “We're going to keep looking for opportunities to fund this project,” said Thomas. “It's important to the Port and it's important to the Corps.” For more information on the Federal Lands Access Program, visit flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap.

About the Port of Klickitat

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84. More information can be found on the Port's web site at www.portofklickitat.com.

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