CITY OF BEND

City Hall
710 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97703

ISSUE SUMMARY

Subject

Authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Bend Park and Recreation District (BPRD) for replacement of the Gilchrist Bridge and transfer of ownership from the City to BPRD, including City responsibility for associated project costs in an amount not to exceed $1,478,350.

Overview

Staff Member, Department:

David Abbas, Transportation & Mobility

Meeting Date:

March 17, 2026

Action(s) Required:

☐ Consent Agenda ☐ Ordinance First Reading ☐ Public Hearing

☐ Information/Direction ☐ Ordinance Second Reading ☐ Resolution

☒ Motion

Recommended Motion

I move to authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Bend Park and Recreation District for replacement of the Gilchrist Bridge and the transfer of ownership from the City to the District.

Issue/Council Decision & Discussion Points

- The Gilchrist Bridge was constructed prior to 1994 and does not meet modern design standards, including width, for multi-use trails.
- BPRD is working on a project to stabilize an eroding river access point located immediately downstream from the Bridge.

- The City and BPRD would like to incorporate the Gilchrest Bridge reconstruction into the scope of the BPRD bank restoration project in order to more efficiently use public funds, streamline the design process, and provide the community with a more complete design.
- Following completion of the Project, the Parties also desire to transfer ownership and maintenance obligations of the bridge from City to BPRD.
- The City will be responsible for associated project costs in an amount not to exceed $1,478,350.

Background

The Gilchrist Bridge is a wooden pedestrian bridge crossing the Deschutes River that connects Gilchrist Avenue to Columbia Street through Columbia Park. The bridge is owned and maintained by the City of Bend. It is identified as a Key Low Stress route in the City's Transportation Systems Plan, is part of the route for the Bend Bikeway Project and provides an important connection to the Deschutes River Trail identified in the Bend Park and Recreation District Comprehensive Trails Plan.

The bridge was constructed prior to 1994 and does not meet modern design standards for multi-use trail facilities, including width. On November 11, 2023, the City and the Bend Park and Recreation District executed an intergovernmental agreement to fund and pursue conceptual design alternatives and develop cost estimates for improvements to the bridge. Following execution of that agreement, the parties determined that the only feasible short-term option was to redeck the bridge with lighter materials, and that a future full bridge replacement is necessary to meet the parties' longer-term mobility, safety, and trail-connection goals.

On June 3, 2024, the parties executed an amendment to advance design to the 30% level and generate an updated planning-level cost estimate to support the parties' pursuit of funding for bridge reconstruction. That work is now complete.

Separately, the Bend Park and Recreation District is working on a project to stabilize an eroding river access point located immediately downstream from the bridge. The City and the Bend Park and Recreation District desire to incorporate the bridge replacement into the scope of the bank restoration work in order to more efficiently use public funds, streamline design and permitting, and deliver a more complete set of improvements for the community within a coordinated construction effort.

The parties now desire to proceed with final design and construction of a replacement bridge, and to develop a new intergovernmental agreement to outline the parties' responsibilities for coordinating design, permitting, bidding, construction, and funding. Following completion of the project, the parties also intend to transfer ownership and long-term maintenance obligations of the bridge from the City to the Bend Park and Recreation District.

Budget and Financial Impacts

The City will be responsible for all costs associated with the Project including, but not limited to, all remaining design costs, application/permitting fees, inspection charges, and construction costs up to a maximum of $1,478,350 including $295,000 for A&E/design, testing/special inspections and fees/permits and $1,183,350 for construction.

Community Outreach Process and Potential Impacts

BPRD will coordinate outreach efforts, and they will notify the public of any necessary bridge closures.

Reviewers

Department Director

David Abbas

Financial

Samantha Nelson

Legal

Ian Leitheiser

Attachments

- Intergovernmental Agreement

Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities & Language Assistance Services
You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please email **accessibility@bendoregon.gov** or call 541-693-2198. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1. All requests are subject to vendor processing times and should be submitted 48-72 hours in advance of events.

Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad
Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto en correo electrónico **accessibility@bendoregon.gov** o número de teléfono 541-693-2198. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1. Por favor, envíe sus solicitudes con 48-72 horas de antelación al evento; todas las solicitudes están sujetas a los tiempos de procesamiento del proveedor.