



MEMO TO: Finance, Administration, and Communications Committee

FROM: Linda Hermanson, Information Services Manager,
Jeff Aken, Senior Planner

DATE: October 23, 2018

SUBJECT: Feasibility Study for Developing High-Speed Communications in the ERC

I. RECOMMENDED ACTION

Further discussion of Redmond's participation in the feasibility study for developing high-speed communications in the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC).

II. DEPARTMENT CONTACTS

Linda Hermanson, Information Services Manager
Jeff Aken, Senior Planner
Jonny Chambers, Technology and Information Services Director

III. DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND

At the July 24 Council of the Whole Finance and Administration Committee, an interlocal agreement that would authorize Redmond's participation in a regional study to determine the feasibility of building high-speed communication infrastructure along the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) was presented to Council for discussion. The memo provided to Council mistakenly indicated that this study had been approved by the Regional Advisory Council (RAC). In reality, the RAC was briefed on the project scope and approach and expressed support for the concept developed by the agencies that have partnered on this project.

As Council is aware, the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) is owned and managed by King County, the cities of Kirkland and Redmond, Sound Transit, and Puget Sound Energy. These owners work together through the Regional Advisory Council (RAC) to maintain a collaborative, regional planning process for the ERC. The owners of the ERC and agencies along the corridor (all of whom are members of the Community Connectivity Consortium) are cooperatively funding this feasibility study as it aligns with the RAC's goals for the corridor.

Redmond has had the foresight to put conduit in the ground as part of the construction of the Central Connector but conduit is only a piece of the puzzle. The feasibility study will evaluate many different ways that Redmond might get fiber into the conduit along trail in order to pursue future opportunities. For example, a public/private partnership with major telecom providers could help defray the costs of pulling the fiber into the conduit and providing access to it in exchange for their ability to deploy small cell antennas along the corridor. It would give Redmond the ability to add components such as smart lighting

along the trail or other smart devices Redmond finds beneficial to all visitors along the trail. Redmond could consider leasing any excess capacity to broadband or other service providers as a cost recovery model. The information that comes out of the study will help to inform how Redmond can leverage the investment that's been made in the physical infrastructure at a price that is more cost effective than what Redmond could achieve independently.

We are asking Council to reconsider authorizing Redmond to participate in this study.

Funding the feasibility study would be a shared cost between the ERC owners and the other participating agencies. Redmond's share of the cost is \$10,000 which will be paid from the TIS budget.

IV. TIME CONSTRAINTS

All payment obligations associated with the Project Agreement 73 shall be completed before December 31st, 2018.

V. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

ERC Interlocal Agreement