

Summary of Tasks for Innovation Proposal - Permit Coordination for a Better River

Excerpts taken from the Innovation Fund Proposal submittal to the Office of Management and Finance (OMF) and the Task Order between the Bureau of Environmental Services and the Center for Public Service

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Scope of Work:

The Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) is seeking PSU's Center for Public Service assessment of a proposed expansion of the City's Streamlining Team process. The Streamlining Team is a collaborative process based on a Memorandum of Agreement (2003) between the federal agencies (Corps, NMFS, USFWS) and the City as well as a commitment by former Oregon State Governor Kulongoski and former Portland Mayor Tom Potter (2006) to include the state agencies (DSL, DEQ, ODFW) and the Bureau of Development Services on the Team. The Streamlining Team has been operating since 2003.

City Council and agency leaders endorsed the Streamlining Agreement in Council Sessions in 2009 and 2014, voting unanimously to continue the process.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) currently manages the Streamlining Team process by providing a Chair to facilitate and coordinate reviews of proposed City Bureau capital projects. The Streamlining Team has also assisted with the review of joint public projects such as Trimet and Federal Highway Administration's Tillikum Bridge across the Willamette River.

The Streamlining Team process has been successful at reducing the amount of time and money spent during the permitting process but is not currently available to private applicants.

The goal of this task order is to explore the creation of a coordinated permit review process for private applicants that builds on the successful attributes of the existing Streamlining Team process while ensuring the current Team process remains successful.

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is a co-partner with this proposal and will take the results of this assessment that could include – depending on CPS’s conclusions - requesting formal adoption of the new coordinated permitting process through the City’s River Plan (The River Plan is an update of the 1987 Greenway Zoning code and Plan). (**See notes below)

Deliverables by University

To implement this proposal, BES will contract with the Hatfield School of Government CPS’s assessment team consisting of 2 faculty members and one graduate student.

The CPS assessment will include the following:

- Coordination with Streamlining Team Chair and partner Bureau managers (BES, BPS, BDS)
- Interviews with members of the City’s interagency Streamlining Team
- Interviews with clients/customers of the proposed expanded streamlining process
- Review of program-related reports and documents
- Preparation of report (2 drafts and a final report)
- Preparation of PowerPoint (1 draft and final)
- Presentation to City Council and/or Bureau Leaders

Sponsor Responsibilities:

The lead Bureau for this project is the Bureau of Environmental Services. Coordination and support will be provided by the contract project manager - Mike Reed (BES)

****Note:** The **Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS)** envisions the coordinated permit review process having the following “**desired**” outcomes:

- “Development of a “one-stop-shop” process for applicants to understand all the permitting needs for projects”;
- “Reduce time and money spent during the permitting process”, and
- “Meet multiple objectives for protecting and enhancing the environment while supporting redevelopment along the river.”

The **Bureau of Development Services (BDS)** is another partner in this assessment and its implementation (Note: **The OMF Innovation Selection Committee specifically requested participation and support from BDS as a requirement for receiving the Innovation Funds**).

BDS provided the following support letter to the Innovation Committee:

“Our understanding is that BES and BPS have received a grant to work with the Hatfield School of Government’s Center for Public Service to explore coordinate permit review for private applicants. As a Streamlining Team Partner, BDS is willing to participate in the exploration of a potential coordinated permit review process for private applicants.”