



**PROSPER**  
**PORTLAND**  
Building an Equitable Economy

**DATE:** November 13, 2019  
**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** Kimberly Branam, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT:** Report Number 19-50  
Accepting a \$500,000 Brownfields Cleanup Grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the United States Postal Service Site

### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED AND BRIEF DESCRIPTION**

Adopt Resolution No. 7346

This action by the Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners (Board) will authorize Prosper Portland to accept a Brownfields Cleanup Grant (Grant) of \$500,000 from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that will help with the revitalization of Broadway Corridor. Prosper Portland will utilize the Grant to conduct preemptive contaminated soil remediation and hazardous building material abatement on the United States Postal Service (USPS) property, which will stimulate significant private investment by development partners.

### **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT AND OUTCOMES**

This action aligns with Prosper Portland's Strategic Plan by creating healthy, complete neighborhoods, providing access to high quality employment, forming 21<sup>st</sup> century civic networks, institutions, and partnerships, and operating an equitable, innovative, and financially sustainable agency.

### **BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

There are several brownfields located within Broadway Corridor, the largest being the 14-acre former USPS Processing and Distribution facility where the Grant funding will be used. Prosper Portland acquired the USPS property in September 2016; mail processing operations ceased in June 2018 and except for the retail post office, the property has remained vacant since.

Elevated concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and metals, a legacy of railroad operations, are present in shallow soils across the USPS property. While buildings and asphalt pavement currently serve as a protective cap restricting exposure to these contaminants, redevelopment of the property will necessitate a more aggressive approach to remediating these contaminants.

Given these existing site conditions, Prosper Portland staff applied for an EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant in January 2019 requesting funds to assist with the remediation work. The Grant project scope targets contaminated hot spot soil removal and limited hazardous building material abatement that must occur prior to redevelopment; see a map in Attachment A.

### **EQUITY IMPACT**

Prosper Portland's Business and Workforce Equity programs will apply to contracts funded by the Grant.

### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND FEEDBACK**

There was no specific public participation related to applying for or being awarded the Grant. However, staff have been conducting significant and robust Broadway Corridor engagement since 2017 with the establishment of a steering committee comprised of forty-one community members. The role of the steering committee is to advise Prosper Portland regarding: 1) criteria for the selection of development partner(s); 2) the mix of housing and employment opportunities; 3) placemaking; and 4) priorities for equitable engagement and community benefits.

### **BUDGET AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

At the November 13, 2019 Prosper Portland Board meeting, staff will be seeking approval of the second amendment to the fiscal year 2019-2020 Revised Budget, which will include revenue and expenditures related to the proposed Grant.

### **RISK ASSESSMENT**

There are no risks to accepting the Grant. Prosper Portland has partnered with EPA in the past on prior cleanup grants and is well aware of Grant use and reporting requirements.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Map of Grant Activities

Map of Grant Activities

