

AGENDA
MORTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING
7:00 PM May 26, 2026

Mayor Rick Mead

City Clerk LuAnn Ward

Council Jason Sawyer
Council Maria Gonzalez
Council Peter Hansen
Council Jeff Johnson
Council Jason Knutson

PUBLIC HEARING 7:00 PM

1. **Transportation Improvement Plan**

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

1. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **CONSENT AGENDA:**
Minutes of April 27, 2026 vouchers and EFT's
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS ON AGENDA ONLY**
4. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 1. Resolution # 559 regarding Transportation Improvement Plan.
 2. Gabriel Frase – Sheriff candidate Introduction
 3. Megan Petersen – RCO YAF Grant
 4. Jason Sawyer – City council/committee left out of decisions
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 1. Ordinance 2020-01 regarding chicken cost and restrictions.
6. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: - LIMIT 3 MINUTES**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

RCW 42.30.110(1)(f)-Evaluate complaints or charges against a public officer.

COUNCIL TO SET SPECIAL MEETING DATE AND TIME

ADJOURN:

April 27, 2026
Morton City Council Regular Meeting

Mayor Rick Mead - Absent
Councilman Jason Sawyer
Councilwoman Maria Gonzalez
Councilman Peter Hansen
Councilman Jeff Johnson
Councilman Jason Knutson

7:00 pm – REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Mayor pro-tem Jeff Johnson

Consent Agenda minutes, vouchers and EFTs from March 23, 2026 (Motion by councilwoman Gonzalez, 2nd councilman Hansen, all in favor)

Public comment:

Citizen Jeanette questioned the cost of Office 365 and questioned why citizens would want more farm animals in the city limits.

New business:

- Council passed Ordinance 2026-04 accepting financial donations for park. (Motion by councilwoman Gonzalez, 2nd councilman Knutson, all in favor)
- Citizen Nancy is upset about buildings in town looking terrible and would like to start a program for cleaning up the town.
- Councilman Knutson raised the possibility of a community garden.
- Councilman Knutson suggested the city use Office 365 for all email, including council members. Councilwoman Gonzalez suggested give Tiger Mt. a chance to upgrade their system. The suggestion for Office 365 was tabled, councilman Knutson will get pricing to city clerk.
- Council tabled the discussion regarding changing the cost and restrictions on chickens. (Motion by councilman Hanson, 2nd councilman Sawyer, all in favor)
- Council voted to change May 2026 meeting date to Tuesday May 26, 2026. (Motion councilman Hanson, 2nd councilman Sawyer, all in favor)

Old Business:

Howard Baker regarding speed bumps did not attend meeting. No decision was made.

Public Participation:

Citizen Amanda spoke about Morton pre-op child care program.

Citizen Terra acknowledged the new EMT's.

Citizen Tessa addressed councilman Johnson expressing her concerns regarding statements he's made regarding other council members.

Citizen Vanderlip stated we have freedom of speech and should agree to disagree.

Motion to adjourn councilman Hanson, 2nd councilwoman Gonzalez, all in favor

Adjourn 8:23 pm

Respectfully, LuAnn Ward, City Clerk

Ricky Mead, Mayor

DRAFT

RESOLUTION NO. 559

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MORTON ESTABLISHING CHAPTER
12.40 OF THE MORTON MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING COMPLETE
STREETS**

WHEREAS, the term "Complete Streets" describes a comprehensive, integrated transportation network that provides safe and convenient access for all users of the road, including but not limited to: pedestrians of all ages and abilities, bicyclists, transit riders and vehicles, school bus drivers, freight vehicles, emergency service providers; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that obesity and related diseases can be prevented through increased physical activity such as walking and biking; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City to provide transportation options to maximize the mobility and safety of its aging population; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of Complete Streets will lead to greater street connectivity and provide increased opportunities for recreation such as walking and biking; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets support economic growth and community stability by providing accessible and efficient connections between home, school, work, recreation and retail destinations; and

WHEREAS, Complete Streets enhance safe walking and biking options for all Morton's Elementary, Middle and High school children, and remove hazardous routes to and from school and other youth destinations; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to cultivate opportunities for social connections and strengthen the social fabric of neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the necessity for different vehicle types and acknowledges the need to provide accessible and affordable parking; and

WHEREAS, the City shall incorporate Complete Streets design features and infrastructure into existing public streets to create a comprehensive, integrated, connected transportation network that promotes health and safety of all users; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City of Morton, Washington that:

Section 1. New Section **12.40** of Morton Municipal Code, “**STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND PUBLIC SPACES**” is hereby adopted, as follows:

This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the “Morton Complete Streets Resolution.”

Section 2. New Section **12.40.010** of Morton Municipal Code, “**PURPOSE AND VISION**” is hereby adopted, as follows:

The City of Morton's vision is a community in which resident and visitors of all ages and abilities are able to travel safely and conveniently on all streets. The City of Morton shall, to the maximum extent practicable, scope, plan, design, operate, construct, and maintain streets and other facilities that promote safe and convenient access and travel for all “users”, including but not limited to: pedestrians of all ages and abilities, bicyclists, transit riders and vehicles, school bus drivers, freight vehicles, emergency service providers; and

The City of Morton prides itself on the quality of life available to residents, and encourages active living, and safety by providing safe, convenient, healthy and comfortable routes for walking, bicycling, and public transportation.

The purpose of this resolution is to ensure that all users are planned for in the construction of all City transportation improvement projects as outlined in the City's Comprehensive Plan and the City's Municipal Code. The City recognizes that Complete Streets will increase the health and safety of residents, as well as economic vitality. The Complete Streets policy will increase connectivity for all types of transportation within the City. Application of this policy will increase access for all users.

Section 3. New Section **12.40.020** of Morton Municipal Code, “**APPLICABILITY**” is hereby adopted, as follows:

This resolution shall apply to all areas within the city limits of MORTON. The City will collaborate with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and Lewis County to carry out the resolution. The provisions of this resolution shall apply, to the maximum extent practicable, to all new construction and improvements of the City's transportation network.

Section 4. New Section **12.20.030** of Morton Municipal Code, “**DEFINITIONS**” is hereby adopted, as follows:

Unless specifically defined below, words or phrases used in this chapter shall be interpreted, so as to give them the meaning they have in common usage and to give this Chapter its most reasonable application.

"City" means the City of Morton

"Complete Street" means a street that is designed to be safe and accessible for all: drivers, bicyclists, transit riders and vehicles, freight vehicles, emergency service providers, and pedestrians of all ages and abilities. The Complete Streets policy focuses not on just changing individual streets, but on empowering the decision-making process so that all users are routinely considered during the scoping, planning, designing, building, and operation of all streets in the transportation network.

"Right of Way" is a general term that means land, property, or interest therein, usually but not always in a strip or corridor, acquired or devoted for transportation and/or utility purposes.

"User" or "Users" means all human or non-human individuals or vehicles that use streets, including: bicyclists, freight vehicles, conventional and self-driving automobiles, public transportation riders and vehicles, and propel of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults and individuals with diverse personal mobility needs. Users may also be interpreted as including the various common and essential items and accompaniments, including: shopping bags and boxes, rolling luggage, baby carriages and strollers, service animals and pets.

Section 5. New Section 12.40.040 of Morton Municipal Code, "EXCEPTIONS" is hereby adopted, as follows:

A. Exceptions to this policy may be determined by the Public Works Director (or designee) under the circumstances listed below:

1. Street projects may exclude those elements of this policy that would require the accommodation of street uses prohibited by law;
2. Ordinary maintenance activities such as mowing, snowplowing, sweeping, spot repair, joint or crack sealing, chip sealing, or pothole filling do not require that elements of this policy be applied beyond the scope of that maintenance activity;

Ordinary maintenance paving projects should include the evaluation of existing facility conditions that support alternate transportation types, as well as modifying existing pavement markings and signage to support such alternative transportation type as appropriate and reasonable.

B. Morton City Council may determine that new street or reconstruction projects and maintenance paving projects which involve widening pavement, may

exclude elements of this policy when the accommodation of a specific use is expected to:

1. Require more space than is physically available; or
2. Drastically increase project costs and equivalent alternatives exist within close proximity; or
3. Have adverse impacts on environmental resources such as streams, wetlands, floodplains, and geologically hazardous areas, or on historic structures or sites above and beyond the impacts of currently existing infrastructure; or
4. Compromise the integrity of a dike or other water retention or drainage facility; or
5. The cost would be disproportionate and burdensome in relation to the current needs or probable future use.

Section 6. New Section **12.40.050** of Morton Municipal Code, **“INFRASTRUCTURE”** is hereby adopted, as follows:

As feasible, the City shall incorporate complete streets infrastructure into existing public streets to create a comprehensive, integrated, connected transportation network that balances access, mobility and health and safety needs of all users. Complete Streets infrastructure includes design features that contribute to a safe, convenient travel experience for all users, including but not limited to:

- Sidewalks
- Paved shoulders
- Shared use paths
- Bicycle lanes
- Shared use lanes
- Automobile lanes
- Street trees and landscaping
- Planting strips
- Curbs and accessible curb ramps
- Bulb outs
- Crosswalks and refuge islands
- Pedestrian and traffic signals (including countdown and accessible signals)
- Directional signals
- Street furniture
- Bicycle accommodations including parking facilities signage and markings

- Public transportation stops and facilities
- Traffic calming devices (such as traffic circles, roundabouts, traffic bumps, intersection treatments, narrow vehicle lanes and raised medians)
- Surface treatments such as paving blocks, textured asphalt and concrete
- Appropriate lighting for speed and type of travel
- Appropriate streetscapes that appeal to and promote pedestrian use
- Parking spaces

Section 7. New Section **12.40.060** of Morton Municipal Code, “**DESIGN CRITERIA**” is hereby adopted, as follows:

The City shall design Complete Streets solutions that will best serve the transportation needs of all users. The priority shall be on the needs and comfort of all users, considering issues such as street design and width, desired operating speed, street lighting, beautification and connectivity.

The City, through its Public Works Department, shall maintain design criteria, standards and guidelines based upon recognized best practices in street design, construction and operation as identified in the most recent version of the following:

- A. Morton Municipal Code
- B. Morton Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map
- C. Other design resources may include, but are not limited to:
 1. Washington State Department of Transportation Design Manual;
 2. American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO)
 3. Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE)
 4. National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO)
 5. Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

The context and character of the surrounding built and natural environments shall be considered in all design criteria, standards and guidelines.

Section 8. New Section **12.40.070** of Morton Municipal Code, “**IMPLEMENTATION**” is hereby adopted, as follows:

Complete Streets shall be achieved either through single projects or through a series of smaller improvements or maintenance activities over time. The implementation of various Complete Streets elements will utilize current and adequate design criteria. The design of various Complete Streets components to be implemented shall be based on a context sensitive approach, with the analysis of the street's existing conditions and the present and future needs for all users. The system's design will be consistent with and supportive of local neighborhoods, recognizing that transportation needs vary and must

be balanced in a flexible, safe and cost-effective manner.

The City will seek advice from Morton Active Transportation group when needed. The Active Transportation group should be comprised of appropriate interested parties, transportation experts and elected officials.

Section 9. New Section **12.40.080** of Morton Municipal Code, "**PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION**" is hereby adopted, as follows:

The City will cooperate and foster partnerships with other planning and funding agencies including but not limited to: the Federal Highway Administration; WSDOT; Washington State Department of Health; Washington State Transportation Improvement Board; the Regional Transportation Planning Organization; Lewis County; Morton School District; residents; businesses; interest groups; and neighborhoods to ensure the needs of all agencies and groups are considered and that the principles and practices of Complete Streets are communicated and considered in their scoping, planning, design, construction, and maintenance activities. The City will specifically cooperate to ensure the transportation network flows between jurisdictions in accordance with local and regional road, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian plans.

Section 10. New Section **12.40.090** of Morton Municipal Code, "**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**" is hereby adopted, as follows:

The City of Morton shall periodically review achievements and other conditions to measure performance and evaluate the Complete Streets Resolution for success and opportunities for improvement. Performance measures shall be determined by the Public Works Director and may include, but is not limited to:

- Number of bicycle facilities created or improved
- Number of pedestrian facilities created or improved
- Number of ADA accommodations created or improved
- Number of exceptions granted
- Percent of residents reporting increased quality of life
- Proportion of users by transportation type
- Miles of improved streets

The Public Works Director and/or designee shall report to the City Council on an annual basis on the transportation projects undertaken within the prior year and planned projects within the next year and the extent to which each of these projects has met or will meet the objectives of this policy.

Section 11. New Section **12.40.100** of Morton Municipal Code, **“SEVERABILITY”** is hereby adopted, as follows:

If any section, subsection, clause, phrase or work in this Chapter is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by and court of competent jurisdiction, such section shall be deemed a separate provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Chapter.

Section 12. Codification. Code adoptions and amendments in Section 1 through 11, above, shall be codified.

Section 13. Effective Date. These regulations are in the public interest and shall take effect immediately upon adoption by the City Council.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Morton, Washington, and signed by the Mayor on this _____ day of _____.

Mayor Ricky M. Mead

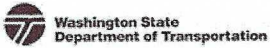
Attest:

Luann Ward, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Jim Buzzard, City Attorney

Date of publication: _____



Six Year Transportation Improvement Program From 2027 to 2032

Agency: Morton

County: Lewis

MPO/RTPO: SWW RTPO

N Inside

Y Outside

Functional Class	Priority Number	A. PIN/Project No. C. Project Title D. Road Name or Number E. Begin & End Termini F. Project Description	B. STIP ID G. Structure ID	Hearings	Adopted	Amendment	Resolution No.	Improvement Type	Utility Codes	Total Length	Environmental Type	RW Required
09	1	Bingaman Drive Bingaman Drive 1st Street to Knittles Way Reconstruct deteriorated roadway. Replace water main.	WA-09592	05/26/26	05/28/26			04	W	0.100	CE	No

Funding								
Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
P	ALL	2027		0	TIB	116,900	6,200	123,100
Totals				0		116,900	6,200	123,100

Expenditure Schedule					
Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
ALL	123,100	0	0	0	0
Totals	123,100	0	0	0	0



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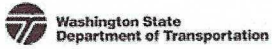
N Inside

Y Outside

Functional Class	Priority Number	A. PIN/Project No. C. Project Title D. Road Name or Number E. Begin & End Termini F. Project Description	B. STIP ID	G. Structure ID	Hearing	Adopted	Amendment	Resolution No.	Improvement Type	Utility Codes	Total Length	Environmental Type	RW Required
0B	2	Airport Way Culvert and Road Repair Airport Way 860 Airport Way to 875 Airport Way The pavement on top of the culvert for the creek crossing Airport Way is sloughing off. The project will extend the culvert, compact the soil and install a suitable base, and repave the roadway in this area.	WA-09615		05/26/26	05/26/26			44		0.020	CE	No

Funding								
Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
P	ALL	2027		0		0	68,050	68,050
Totals				0		0	68,050	68,050

Expenditure Schedule						
Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th	
ALL	68,050	0	0	0		0
Totals		68,050	0	0		0



Six Year Transportation Improvement Program From 2027 to 2032

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County: Lewis

MPO/RTPO: SWW RTPO

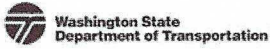
N Inside

Y Outside

Functional Class	Priority Number	A. PIN/Project No. C. Project Title D. Road Name or Number E. Begin & End Termini F. Project Description	B. STIP ID	G. Structure ID	Hearing	Adopted	Amendment	Resolution No.	Improvement Type	Utility Codes	Total Length	Environmental Type	RW Required
00	3	Strom Field to runway reconstruction	WA-10070		05/26/26	05/26/26			03		0.340	CE	No

Funding								
Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
P	ALL	2028		0	WSDOT	968,550	51,000	1,019,550
Totals				0		968,550	51,000	1,019,550

Expenditure Schedule					
Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
ALL	0	1,019,550	0	0	0
Totals	0	1,019,550	0	0	0



Six Year Transportation Improvement Program From 2027 to 2032

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County: Lewis

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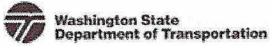
N Inside

Y Outside

Functional Class	Priority Number	A. PIN/Project No. C. Project Title D. Road Name or Number E. Begin & End Termini F. Project Description	B. STIP ID	G. Structure ID	Hearing	Adopted	Amendment	Resolution No.	Improvement Type	Utility Codes	Total Length	Environmental Type	RW Required
09	4	Jastad Drive Jastad Drive 4th Street to 2nd Street Reconstruct deteriorated roadway. Replace water and sewer main.	WA-09604		05/26/26	05/26/26			04	S W	0.200	CE	No

Funding						
Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	Total Funds
P	ALL	2029		0	TJB	171,950
Totals				0		171,950

Expenditure Schedule					
Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
ALL	0	0	181,000	0	0
Totals	0	0	181,000	0	0



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09	5	Cottlers Lane Cottlers Lane Temple Avenue to 3rd Street Reconstruct deteriorated roadway. Replace water and sewer mains.	WA-09583		05/26/26	05/26/26			04	S W	0.140	CE	No

Funding								
Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
P	ALL	2029		0	TIB	163,700	8,600	172,300
Totals				0		163,700	8,600	172,300

Expenditure Schedule					
Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
ALL	0	0	172,300	0	0
Totals	0	0	172,300	0	0



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08	6	Temple Avenue Temple Ave 7th Street to 3rd Street Reconstruct and resurface deteriorated roadway. Replace curb, gutter, and sidewalk where necessary. Replace water and sewer mains.	WA-09582	05/26/26	05/26/26			04	S W	0.340	CE	No

Funding									
Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	
P	ALL	2030		0	TIB	1,040,050	54,750	1,094,800	
Totals				0		1,040,050	54,750	1,094,800	

Expenditure Schedule					
Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
ALL	0	0	0	1,094,800	0
Totals	0	0	0	1,094,800	0



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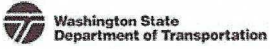
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Functional Class	Priority Number	A. PIN/Project No. C. Project Title D. Road Name or Number E. Begin & End Termini F. Project Description	B. STIP ID G. Structure ID	Hearing	Adopted	Amendment	Resolution No.	Improvement Type	Utility Codes	Total Length	Environmental Type	RW Required
07	7	Sather Drive Improvements Sather Drive 1st Street to Knittles Way Reconstruct new 22' wide asphalt road, replace existing watermain.	WA-16483	05/26/26	05/26/26			04	W	0.110	CE	No

Funding									
Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds	
P	ALL	2030		0	TIB	441,900	23,250	465,150	
Totals				0		441,900	23,250	465,150	

Expenditure Schedule					
Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
ALL	0	0	0	465,150	0
Totals	0	0	0	465,150	0



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Functional Class	Priority Number	A. PIN/Project No. C. Project Title D. Road Name or Number E. Begin & End Termini F. Project Description	B. STIP ID G. Structure ID	Hearing	Adopted	Amendment	Resolution No.	Improvement Type	Utility Codes	Total Length	Environmental Type	RW Required
07	8	Fisher Drive Improvements Fisher Drive 1st Street to Knittles Way Reconstruct new 22' wide asphalt road, replace existing watermain.	WA-16579	05/26/26	05/26/26			04	W	0.110	CE	No

Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
P	ALL	2031		0	TIB	441,900	23,250	465,150
Totals				0		441,900	23,250	465,150

Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
ALL	0	0	0	0	465,150
Totals	0	0	0	0	465,150



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Functional Class	Priority Number	A. PIN/Project No. C. Project Title D. Road Name or Number E. Begin & End Termini F. Project Description	B. STIP ID G. Structure ID	Hearing	Adopted	Amendment	Resolution No.	Improvement Type	Utility Codes	Total Length	Environmental Type	RW Required
07	9	Tully Drive Improvements Tully Way 1st Street to Knittles Way Reconstruct roadway and add curb, gutter, sidewalk, driveways and storm drainage; replace existing watermain.	WA-16580	05/26/26	05/26/26			04	W	0.110	CE	No

Funding								
Status	Phase	Phase Start Year (YYYY)	Federal Fund Code	Federal Funds	State Fund Code	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
P	ALL	2031		0	TIB	670,850	35,300	706,150
Totals				0		670,850	35,300	706,150

Expenditure Schedule					
Phase	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th & 6th
ALL	0	0	0	0	706,150
Totals	0	0	0	0	706,150

	Federal Funds	State Funds	Local Funds	Total Funds
Grand Totals for Morton	0	4,015,800	279,450	4,295,250

**CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: Gabriel Frase

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: May 26, 2026

Time needed for the presentation: 5 minutes

Subject of presentation: Sheriff candidate introduction

You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: _____

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.

**CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: Megan Petersen

On behalf of Morton Action Sports Alliance

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: May 26th 2026

Time needed for the presentation: 10 minutes

Subject of presentation: RCO YAF Grant Application Sponsorship

You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: Morton Action Sports Alliance (MASA), a 501(c)(3), is requesting

the City of Morton to serve as the sponsoring applicant for the Washington State RCO

Youth Athletic Facilities Grant.

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.

RCO Youth Athletic Facilities Grant Information

<https://rco.wa.gov/grant/youth-athletic-facilities/>

Funding: 19.8 million / Grant Limit: 1.2 million / Match: 50% but 20% for rural towns (Morton)

The Youth Athletic Facilities program provides grants to develop or renovate outdoor athletic facilities such as ball fields, courts, swimming pools, mountain bike tracks, and skate parks that serve youth through the age of eighteen.

While the program focuses on youth, RCO strongly encourages grant recipients to design facilities to serve all ages and multiple activities.

An athletic facility is an outdoor facility used for playing sports or participating in competitive athletics and excludes playgrounds, tot lots, vacant lots, open or undeveloped fields, and level open space used for non-athletic play.

RCO YAF MASA Application:

Morton Action Sports Alliance has completed the RCO YAF grant with the guidance of a grant manager ensuring we meet all requirements, provide through project details and have requested. **What is needed: City approval to be added as the Application sponsor on the Applicant Resolution Authorization Form** which will be updated by the grant manager 5/27 no later than 10AM so long as the City of Morton agrees in City Council meeting Tuesday 5/26.

Project & Property Details

- RCO Project Number: #26-1853
- Project Title: Skatepark Development in Rural East Lewis County
- Project Type: Development (Outdoor Recreation)
- Property Name: Gust Backstrom
- Parcel Number(s): 008667000000
- Site Address: 750 Main Ave, Morton WA 98356
- Total estimated project cost: \$750,000
- Grant request 80%: \$600,000
- Grant match 20%: \$150,000

Documentation needed in application:

- [Applicant Resolution / Authorizations](#) - Updated upon City of Morton approval
- Control & Tenure Documentation - **Due June 15th**

Morton Action Sports Alliance (MASA) Skatepark Grant Application Responses

Compiled application responses and project information for the proposed East Lewis County Skatepark Development Project.

#0: PROJECT INTRODUCTION Introduce the project's location and goals to set the stage for the project.

Morton Action Sports Alliance proposes the development of a skate park on the southeast side of Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, where there are acres of unused park space. The project will create a safe, inclusive, and accessible community skate park designed for all ages and skill levels, serving residents throughout East Lewis County and surrounding rural communities that currently have limited access to action sports recreation facilities.

#1: NEED - LOCAL PRIORITIES Describe the need for new or improved recreation facilities, how the need is known, and why existing amenities in the service area do not satisfy the need.

East Lewis County is a skate park desert. There are no public skate parks or similar recreation spaces in Morton or the surrounding towns, forcing youth and families to travel long distances to access safe and professionally designed facilities. The community needs positive outlets for physical activity, social connection, and community engagement.

The need for a skate park is greatly supported by the community and surrounding rural towns. Through community outreach, public engagement, and ongoing conversations with residents, families, local businesses, the city council, and youth throughout East Lewis County, this skate park is highly desired.

The proposed skate park aligns with the City of Morton's comprehensive parks and recreation planning goals, which recognize the need for expanded recreational opportunities and improved public spaces. As a rural community, Morton has limited recreation infrastructure compared to larger urban areas, creating inequitable access to outdoor athletic opportunities for residents.

Open fields, playgrounds, and undeveloped park spaces do not provide infrastructure for any sport on wheels, which pushes dozens of kids to ride down the one (and only existing) sidewalk, in parking lots, and in the streets on skateboards, bikes, and roller skates. This is a safety hazard for everyone.

#2: **PROJECT SCOPE** Describe the site's existing natural and built features. Describe what is being proposed in the acquisition and/or elements to be built or renovated, and for what purpose.

[Click for complete question](#)

The proposed skate park site is at the southeast end of Gust Backstrom. Gust Backstrom Park is a 17-acre public park that includes RV and campsite areas, a covered picnic shelter, large open green spaces, parking areas, restrooms, and a small children's playground located on the west end of the park. This space is an underutilized open park space providing adequate room for development while remaining compatible with the park's existing uses.

The completed concrete skate park is to be 8,000–10,000 sq for skateboarding, BMX, inline and roller skating. Features will include a plaza-like section of multiple ledges, ramps, and rails that will flow into a skate bowl. Designing this with the intention of a park flow that reduces collisions, so all riders of all levels get to enjoy the space.

This skate park will be a safe, accessible, and inclusive space for more recreational sport activities that currently do not exist in East Lewis County. The skate park isn't just for skating but also skill development, mentorship, community, and, quite honestly, a creative outlet.

#3: **PROJECT DESIGN - FIT** Describe how the design aligns with the need, location, and project scope. Describe how the design addresses any constraints and whether the design provides access for users of all abilities.

The skate park aligns with the identified need for accessible outdoor recreation opportunities in Morton and rural East Lewis County. Intentionally planned as a multi-use, all-ages athletic space that supports action sports recreation while creating a safe and welcoming community gathering place. The proposed 8,000–10,000 sq ft skate park design will be built to support all skill levels, from beginner to advanced riders. The layout features a continuous flow design that allows riders to move through the space, reducing congestion or collisions. The design will include ADA-accessible walkways connecting parking areas and restrooms. Lighting improvements as well.

The selected location within Gust Backstrom Park supports the project scope by utilizing existing public land with access to parking, restrooms, open space, and pedestrian circulation. Building the skate park on the southeast portion of the property will utilize a very large unused portion of the park, and a good distance from the children's playground; it is unsafe for children to wander into an action sports park, this was important in our planning.

#4: PROJECT DESIGN - BUDGET Provide an overview of the project budget and how the cost estimate was determined. If the proposal includes additional site design and permitting, what is the process and anticipated schedule to be construction-ready?

Estimated cost of \$750,000 for an 8,000–10,000 sq. ft. concrete skate park, including site improvements such as ADA access, lighting, drainage, parking connections, and supporting infrastructure. Cost estimates are based on preliminary concepts and planning input from professional skate park designers and builders, using current industry averages of approximately \$70–\$80 per square foot for comparable facilities, along with documented quotes and comparable project data from similar rural community skate parks.

Additional soft costs include professional design, land assessment, and construction administration. Final costs will be refined through continued collaboration with experienced skate park design firms during the design development phase.

Following the grant award, the project will enter final design and engineering, including stakeholder review, site planning, and construction documentation. Permitting will be completed in coordination with local jurisdiction requirements, including environmental review and park site approvals. The anticipated schedule allows for design and permitting within 6–9 months, with the project becoming construction-ready within approximately 9–12 months of award, depending on review timelines.

#5: PROJECT ENGAGEMENT - METHODS How were the people who will be most impacted by the project engaged? Describe what methods were used and the populations engaged, including underserved populations and/or Native American tribes. Describe the relevance of... [more](#)

Community engagement has focused on residents of Morton and the surrounding rural communities in East Lewis County. Outreach proves to be successful through community gatherings and events, consistent social media communication, papers like the Chronicle and Journal, and distribution of flyers throughout Morton and neighboring towns to ensure broad awareness and participation. Maintaining a public website, engaging with local and regional businesses, and participating in community events and fundraising efforts. Input gathered through these channels has consistently identified a lack of youth activities and safe recreational spaces as a key community need. Local City Council members have also expressed strong support for the project. It's difficult for residents of East Lewis County to travel to Tacoma, Seattle, or Portland to access a well-built skate park enable to participate in these activities.

#6: PROJECT ENGAGEMENT - COMMUNITY How has community input influenced the project design?

In March, MASA added the proposal of a skate park to the City Council meeting agenda, and everyone was in full support. This was featured in the Chronicle and Journal papers. The Mayor thanked MASA President Megan Petersen for the presentation. Residents and surrounding rural communities have consistently shared the proposal of the skate park. If there is no skate park, the town is a skate park... which is just unsafe! A girl stepped up at City Council and said: My friends and I are always talking about a 3rd space, we don't really have anything outside of our home and school.

Feedback from events, emails, petitions, and ongoing engagement on social media has been a huge motivation for us to make this skate park a reality. The community has emphasized the importance of a place for kids and families to be able to use their bikes, boards, and skates. Feedback from our recent outreach event at the Roxy theater has influenced the focus on flow and design of the skate park by informing us what they ride and what skill level they are.

#7: PROJECT ENGAGEMENT - PARTNERSHIPS Describe any community partnerships that are providing support for the project whether through financial, in-kind, project delivery, or other means. Partnerships may be formal or informal. Describe the significance o... [more](#)

Morton Action Sports Alliance (MASA) includes president Megan Petersen, born and raised in Morton, growing up skating at the Lions Club, which no longer exists. The Petersen family is close with so many people of Morton who now have children and need a place for them to skate and ride. MASA members, Sara and Sawyer, run a business and are very active in the community, including being a city council member. MASA members have great relationships with White Pass, Packwood Brewery, Longmire Brewery, Hampton Mill, Alta Mill, Napa (Morton), Morton Country Market, YMCA Pierce County, and Cloudbreak Collection (non-profit consulting). Being deeply involved with our community, with great relationships with our towns and the surrounding towns' businesses and residents. We are reaching out and receiving support.

#8: SUSTAINABILITY Please discuss how the project's location or design supports the applicant's organization's sustainability plan or how the ecological, economic, and social benefits and impacts were considered in the project plan.

The skate park location, being in the southeast end of Gust Backstrom, is the opposite side of the park from the children's playground, which is important for the safety of kids NOT participating in wheeled activities. The location is also a very large unused space with close access to Main Ave, which allows us to easily extend the south road entrance to the skate park and existing bathroom. This location also does not interfere with the RV park and is furthest from the river, providing the best space for construction. This is a highly active summertime location for camping, fishing, and hiking. During the summer, Packwood gets around 800,000 visitors, Morton's welcome sign reads "The Heart of East Lewis County. We are confident this will have a positive impact on our tourism and community engagement, which will in turn help businesses and the city.

#9: FACILITY MANAGEMENT Does the applicant have the ability to operate and maintain the facility?

A concrete skate park, once built, easily lasts 30-50 years. Gust Backstrom has a park manager and the police department is about 3 buildings away. This location is visible from Main Ave, which a local police officer with kids EXCITED about a skate park said: "This will be easy to patrol". Our organization is dedicated to keeping up on the park, and other residents will also volunteer to clean the park regularly.

#10: AVAILABILITY When the project is complete, how often will it be available for competitive youth sports in a calendar year?

This is an addition to an underdeveloped park catering to action sports, which are not organized team sports. Events such as demonstrations, lessons, and classes are planned to provide athletic opportunities and growth in our community.

#11: READINESS TO PROCEED What is the timeline for completing the project? Will the sponsor be able to complete the project within 3 years?

The anticipated schedule allows for design and permitting within 6-9 months, with the project becoming construction-ready within approximately 9-12 months of award, depending on review timelines. Within 3 years, yes!

**CITY OF MORTON
COUNCIL AGENDA REQUEST FORM**

Name of person/s requesting to be on the City Council Agenda: Councilor Sawyer

Date of Council meeting you wish to speak at: 5.26.2026

Time needed for the presentation: 5-10 minutes

Subject of presentation: Morton city council/city committee left out of important city decision making process

You must provide the City Clerk with materials related to your presentation prior to Council meeting so that copies are included in the Council Agenda packets for review.

Additional information you may wish to make the City Clerk aware of regarding your presentation: _____

Council will receive information via email.

Council meetings are 4th Monday of each month at Bob Lyle Community Center 700 Main Ave.

Agenda request forms must be received at City Hall no later than 12pm Wednesday prior to meeting date.