

Agenda Item 10– Rail Bike Excursion Proposal

September 20, 2023





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Cloverdale Railbike Excursion Proposal

Background

- Golden Gate Rail Museum (GGRM) presently operates a railroad museum featuring vintage rail cars on a leased area on SMART's property in Schellville.
- GGRM presented SMART with a proposal for maintaining, repairing and subsequently utilizing a portion of SMART's out of service railroad track north of the Cloverdale station to operate rail-bike excursions.



Cloverdale Rail Bike Excursion Proposal

- The mission of the GGRM is to preserve, display and operate railroad equipment and artifacts that pertain to the region's rail transportation history for the education and enjoyment of present and future generations.
- GGRM proposes rail bike excursions will provide financing to help maintain the GGRM's preservation efforts while providing a safe way for individuals or family or friend groups to access the breathtaking beauty of sites previously inaccessible to them and help educate the public about railroads.



Cloverdale Railbike Excursion Proposal

Rail Bike Description

- Made in the United States
- Unique aluminum truss frame
- Adjustable sliding recumbent seats
- Adjustable Seat Belts for safety
- Hydraulic braking systems
- Polyurethane Wheels and axles
- Oilless Chains
- Storage bin for small essentials (cell phone, camera, water, etc.)



Cloverdale Rail Bike Excursion Proposal

Rail Bike Operation

- Operated by GGRM
 - Volunteer Staff
 - Open to the public
 - Weekends and holidays
 - April through October (weather permitting)
 - 9 AM to 5 PM
 - Two to six roundtrips per day
- Service from Cloverdale Yard north to tunnel #2
 - Approximately 2.8 miles (5.6 miles roundtrip)
 - Two guides (front/rear) for each rail bike group
 - Top speed of 10 MPH
 - Helmets required
- Price
 - Proposed \$45 per seat



Cloverdale Rail Bike Excursion Proposal

Insurance

- GGRM will maintain current excursion insurance that specifically states rail bike excursions coverage, and names SMART as additionally insured

Benefits to SMART

- GGRM would take over the responsibility of weed control and brush clearing of the yard area and any utilized trackage
- GGRM would clean and maintain any SMART facilities used for excursion rail bike operations
- The GGRM will bring track it operates on up to minimum class 1 standards, including tie spot replacement, replacing missing or damaged switch stands and other track items.
- The GGRM would be responsible for improving and/or add fencing necessary for security of its operations
- SMART receives 5% of revenue from each seat sold for first year
- SMART receives 10% of revenue from each seat sold after first year



Cloverdale Rail Bike Excursion Proposal

Recommendation:

Authorize the General Manager to issue a right-of-entry and negotiate a licensing and maintenance agreement with GGRM to license a portion of the out of service railroad right-of-way north of the Cloverdale Station for rail bike excursions.

Questions?

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