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City awarded \$10,000 Union Pacific Grant for Downtown Skatepark

TAYLOR, Texas – The City of Taylor Parks and Recreation department has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from Union Pacific Foundation Board for the development of a skatepark in Downtown Taylor.

“We are proud to support the City of Taylor Parks and Recreation and extend our best wishes for continued success,” said Union Pacific president Scott Moore in a letter announcing the award. “Union Pacific has a long-standing commitment to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve and where our employees live and work.”

Taylor City Council moved to include the skatepark in a Downtown location in 2016. With the help of a citizen donation for land and through the work of the Taylor Parks and Recreation department, Taylor Parks board, Project LOOP and numerous community partners, a location was outlined on Porter St. and a subsequent matching grant application submitted to Texas Parks and Wildlife in October.

The City is currently awaiting approval for the matching grant and final word is expected later in the spring. If approved, it would fund \$500,000 for a skatepark and improvements to Heritage Square, bringing the combined project total to just over \$1 million.

“It’s an honor to receive this grant from Union Pacific, an organization who has been a partner since the inception of the skatepark project,” said Mayor Jesse Ancira, Jr. “Union Pacific Railroad is a staple in the Taylor community and has worked diligently with us throughout this process. We are thankful to have their support as we continue to work towards completing this project.”

“The true beneficiaries of this grant are the citizens of Taylor,” said Mike DeVito, Director of Parks and Recreation. “So much hard work has gone into making this project a success by numerous people and organizations, including Union Pacific, whose continuous focus is on making Taylor greater than it was yesterday. This money will not only enhance the skatepark but also Downtown Taylor as a whole.”

This grant money will be added to the funding of the project which could include the TPW grant, if approved, the money already raised by Project LOOP, land donation valuation and the City’s match.