



Tulalip Charitable Contributions Funds Distribution Report

NAME OF AGENCY: Backbone Campaign

DATE OF AWARD: 2017 Q2

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GENERAL GOALS: Backbone Campaign amplifies the aspirations of “We the People” with creative strategies and artful activism to manifest a world where life, community, nature, and our obligations to future generations are honored as sacred.

SPECIFIC USE FOR THIS AWARD:

This award went towards programs and operational expenses.

For more information please read the attached report from Backbone Campaign.

July 3, 2018

Dear Marilyn and Trustees of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions,

Thanks to your generous support last September, Backbone Campaign has been able to make some solid progress on the innovative Solutionary Rail campaign, to decarbonize our energy and transportation infrastructure.

Because of your grant, we were able to dedicate time to organizing the Solutionary Rail project, to publicize it more broadly, and to commission another printing of the book. This enabled us to distribute more copies to decision makers in the Washington State Legislature, including all members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees, and to stakeholders in DC, Washington State, and around the country.

Key stakeholder building happened because of this grant, including at the Moving Forward Network conventions last fall and Spring in LA and Charleston, at the Railroad Workers United convention in Chicago, at the South Sound Climate Convention in Olympia, and at an EESI stakeholder meeting in DC this Spring. We were able to grow alliances with many concerned about diesel pollution from freight, about shifting our fossil fuel economy, and about fixing a broken transportation infrastructure. The Moving Forward Network, a national coalition of Environmental Justice community based organizations, has officially sanctioned a Solutionary Rail Working Group.



Members of the Moving Forward Network at the Protecting Mother Earth Conference, June 2018. Backbone Campaign helped host this contingent of Environmental Justice organizations from across the country.

We are especially excited about the foundation that was laid with the Washington State Legislature this last session. Our new allies in the Senate Transportation Committee helped us get further than ever before. This bodes well for the coming session when real commitments of resources can be made in the biennium budget. Now we are building the campaign to get our feasibility study funded in that 2019 session.

All of this was fueled by the gift you made to help move Solutionary Rail forward.

Thank you to the Tulalip Cares fund for your support. In addition to hiring a short term publicist to help us with the campaign, we were able to make progress on a lot of fronts.

Transforming our transportation and energy economy and infrastructure won't be easy, but as Tim Gould, chair of the Washington State Sierra Club transportation and land use committee, writes, "...Electrifying rail lines to reduce pollution and fossil energy use would deliver climate benefits of decarbonizing rail transport in a time frame that matters."

In these times fraught with Resistance where daily we are called to stand up against policies that harm our environment and our families, Solutionary Rail is something to which we can all say "Yes" - because our "No" is only as powerful as our "Yes" is compelling.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office with any questions, or if you would like more information about Solutionary Rail. We'd be happy to schedule a presentation to your committee if you're interested. Thank you again for saying "Yes" to this innovative campaign!

With much gratitude,

Amy Morrison
Deputy Director



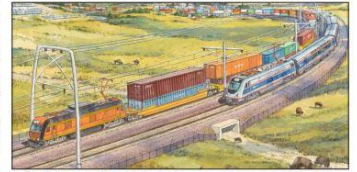
Solutionary Perspective Interview series, accessible on our website and a resource for our movement.

Electrified Railroads Can Improve Carbon Footprint of Transport

By Tim Gould

The Sierra Club has achieved success in the last few years stopping large fossil fuel infrastructure projects at port facilities from the Columbia River to the northern reaches of Puget Sound. Yet, a sustainable economy requires more than stopping fossil fuel projects that chain us to the past, like coal, oil, and methanol terminals. The counterpoint is a compelling vision for how to rebuild our infrastructure making use of energy efficiencies and renewable energy.

Continued progress in reducing our climate footprint requires that we address the demand side to meet a crucial challenge—decarbonizing the freight sector. The Solutionary Rail plan offers a unique and compelling approach to reducing climate pollution from transport. It would electrify railroads for both freight and passengers, drawing on new wind and solar power generated along the route corridors. The plan focuses on a demonstration project along the Northern transcontinental rail corridor, including Spokane-Seattle-Portland segments. Solutionary Rail would link communities together, improve health, provide better worker conditions, and create a low-impact



Artwork by J. Craig Thorpe courtesy of Solutionary Rail

multi-modal system. By shifting freight away from long-haul trucking, there would be savings on both greenhouse gas emissions and road wear and tear. The Washington Chapter supports the Solutionary Rail proposal. Combining electrical transmission capacity in rail corridors with electrified train propulsion would enable wind energy resources to reach larger population centers, and thus replace retired coal power such as the Colstrip plant. Multi-state support could finance a public utility-like ownership for the new infrastructure, guaranteeing long term benefits.

The Washington Legislature funded a study of "ultra-high speed" rail in the Cascadia corridor that would require new, wildly-expensive right-of-way (\$40 Billion for Vancouver, BC to Portland, OR.) Whereas electrifying rail lines to reduce pollution and fossil energy use would deliver climate benefits of decarbonizing rail transport in a time frame that matters. Tim Gould is chair of the Washington State Sierra Club transportation and land use committee. For further information contact Tim Gould at: tim.sierraclub@gmail.com.

Solutionary Rail Progress Report

We'd like to report on the deliverables we outlined in our June 1 2017 application to you:

Deliverable	Status
Expand opportunities to promote the book and its message, as well as interviews with the author, on web, print, radio and television media outlets	We have successfully generated publicity in print and web based media for Solutionary Rail. <i>(See below: 3.Publicity)</i>
A more-informed national dialogue about the important shift away from fossil fueled railway systems	13 "Solutionary Perspectives" Interviews have been conducted and uploaded to our website (two of those are in editing and will be uploaded by July 31) as a resource for learning about environmental justice, fenceline communities, electric co-ops and renewable energy, diesel impacts, sustainable economics, electrified vehicles, rail labor, and a just transition. These hour-long interviews are fascinating insights into the deeper issues around solutions to our fossil fuel economy.
Generate community resolutions in support of Solutionary Rail passed by local entities along the Northern Corridor.	For this deliverable, we changed our strategy. While we still seek resolutions from community groups, and have received resolutions from approximately 10 organizations, we have opted to more strategically work directly with members of the Washington State Legislative House and Senate Transportation Committee. Significant progress has been made toward building that relationship. <i>(See below: 1. Washington State Legislature)</i>
Execution of a stakeholder convening from members in at least eight key areas to further develop understanding of what different sectors need to make Solutionary Rail a reality within their communities	We convened a Stakeholder gathering in Washington DC in April 2018, in partnership with the Environmental & Energy Study Institute. Advocates for electrification, from the transmission industry, labor, high speed rail, and for environmental justice all sat around the same table excitedly exchanging ideas after hearing a briefing about Solutionary Rail. <i>(See below: 2. Partnerships)</i>

1. Washington State Legislature

We were thrilled to be able to generate enough political will that the Solutionary Rail feasibility study made it into the Washington State Senate Transportation committee supplemental budget. Unfortunately, the funding was removed in the conference between Senate and House transportation committees. This was extremely disappointing.

It is clear that there remains a dramatic lack of leadership and vision for the future of rail in the Washington State Legislature. This, combined with the leadership vacuum in the Governor's office and the Department of Transportation, results in regressive and wasteful policies dominated by BNSF and other corporate interests. There are multiple lessons learned from our experiences this session which we will utilize as we develop strategy for moving forward.

April 26, 2018 Backbone Campaign convened a meeting with local rail experts Thomas White and Rudy Niederer of Cascadia Highspeed Rail to meet Andy Kunz, president of US High Speed Rail Association and Senator Bob Hasegawa of the Washington State Legislature to begin to iron out differences in the tension between high speed or “ultra-high speed” and higher speed rail proposals in Washington State.

2. Partnerships

Our Solutionary Rail project works with a broad range of allies - from Railroad Workers United (RWU) to the Moving Forward Network, a coalition of community based environmental justice organizations defending communities impacted by freight transport, diesel exhaust, and impacts of intermodal freight.

A meeting for potential stakeholders to introduce the Solutionary Rail approach toward transport and energy sector decarbonization happened in mid-April 2018 in Washington DC, in partnership with the Environmental & Energy Study Institute, inviting questions, critique, and collaboration. Our hope is to grow an alliance broad and deep enough to counter regressive forces in rail and energy sectors; an outcome of this meeting is to generate a regional and national debate about the great potential for the future of railroads, the expanded use of the railroad corridors, and the benefits our rail infrastructure ought to deliver to the communities through which they travel.

The Moving Forward Network of community-based environmental justice organizations has invited us to explore a deeper partnership with a Solutionary Rail Working Group. In addition, railroad and labor activists are using Solutionary Rail as a positive campaign to

compliment their Resistance work - in one particular case a Railroad Workers United activist is using Solutionary Rail to pitch a positive alternative to freeway expansion.

Though such large scale change will happen slowly, this project is giving people a tangible solution to the threats faced from bulk freight fossil fuel and fossil fuel infrastructure in their communities. Solutionary Rail provides a desperately needed vision. That vision has the potential to draw together an unconventional alliance that appeals to the best in people.

3. Publicity

Solutionary Rail appeared as a feature article in many publications, including these most recently:

- The Crest, Sierra Club Newsletter for Washington State - "Electrified Railroads Can Improve Carbon Footprint of Transport" Summer 2018
- Counterpunch – "[Bring on Solutionary Rail](#)" by Rivera Sun, February 5, 2018
- Friends Journal - Book Review, by Ruah Swennerfelt, Jan 1, 2018
- GreenBiz – "Laying the Tracks for a Newly Powered Rail System" by Patrick Mazza and Bill Moyer, December 16, 2017
- CleanTechnica – "Solutionary Rail Proposes A Single Infrastructure Upgrade That Solves Two Chronic Problems" by Kyle Field, September 16th, 2017
- RECOMMENDED: Yes! Magazine - Summer 2017 issue & website – "[Trains Everywhere: A Solution to Crumbling Roads and Climate Crisis](#)" by Stephen Miller, May 30, 2017

4. Other progress

We built a new website for the project, SolutionaryRail.org, which takes the branding of Backbone Campaign off the project, so it can truly be an intersectional project that bridges the political divide and resonates with many different constituencies and interest groups. This website hosts our Solutionary Perspectives interview series, a resource for our de-carbonization movement.

A succinct [3 minute video](#) was created. This video is useful for giving presentations and recruiting support for the project. It makes the case for Solutionary Rail, without reference to the usual rallying cries that excite "the choir" in our movement but turn away potential allies.