

## FEATHER RIVER RAIL SOCIETY

DATE: March 2021  
ITEM: Old Business Item 1  
FROM: Eugene Vicknair

### FUNDRAISING AND COSMETIC RESTORATION – UNION PACIFIC DDA40X 6946

In September 2021, the youngest DDA40X Centennial locomotive, our UP 6946, will be turning 50 years old. I propose that we use this milestone as a fundraising tool and start a Go Fund Me promotion to raise a minimum of \$50,000 for the engine's 50th birthday.

These funds would be used for a complete cosmetic restoration, plus improvements in signage and access to the 6946. Around the locomotive's display area we would add walkways and place heavy duty stairs that are bolted to the ground. Also, I understand that Steve Habeck and David Elems have ideas for lighting the numberboards, headlights, etc. that we should incorporate. Matt Shuman recently received permission from Pentrex to allow us to play their Centennial video as part of any display concerning the 6946, so we should incorporate that as well.



*Examples of heavy duty stairs and platforms proposed for UP 6946 access. One set per side leading to the stair openings on the walkway railings.*

Safety improvements would also be implemented, including climbing prevention on the body ladders, closing off the rear stepwells and closing public access to the nose.

Suggestion has been made that we turn the engine so that it faces east toward the pedestrian walkway and presents a more open view for photographs and viewing.

Funds would roughly break out in these areas:

- \$32,000 - cosmetic restoration including new paint, graphics and cab interior painting
- \$8,000 - new heavy duty stairways for access

- \$3,000 - area / access improvements around 6946 display location (concrete walkways and pads for stairways)
- \$2,000 - new signage, video screen for presentations and interactive sound system within the locomotive cab
- \$5,000 - donation gifts and premiums, administration costs

We would offer gifts for specific donations levels, including Pentrex Centennial videos, 6946 shirts, framed photos of 6936 and 6946, and perhaps replica builders plates.

Goal would be to have the cosmetic restoration complete by Spring 2022 and then we would have a celebration unveiling the restored locomotive. We would also stock more 6946 branded merchandise in the Museum Store.

As noted in the last meeting, it is likely that more than \$50,000 would be required, but that amount would still get us a long way on a cosmetic restoration. We could put the goal at \$60,000. Another option would be to apply for funding like the Tom Dailey Foundation Grant for certain sections of the project, such as the access improvements or cab restoration.

Given the fame of the Centennials and the notoriety of the 6946 being the last one built, this is an opportunity to reach beyond our usual fundraising circles. We could also offer sponsorship to local businesses and solicit their donations. All donors would be listed on a plaque with the display.

**REQUESTED ACTION:** Approve fundraising campaign and create committee to work on donation gifts and fundraising operations, as well as work on restoration plan. Steve Habeck, as Restoration Manager, should be part of committee. Finalize restoration plan and present to Board by May 2021. Begin fundraising by March 30, 2021.