

City of Bend Transportation Fee Roundtable #1
Meeting Minutes
August 9, 2023

Meeting called to order at 9:33am on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at City of Bend Fire Station 306 Pilot Butte Training Center at 425 NE 15th Street and online. Present were Mayor Melanie Kebler, Mayor Pro Tem Megan Perkins, Councilor Anthony Broadman, Councilor Barb Campbell, Councilor Ariel Mendez, Councilor Megan Norris, and Councilor Mike Riley.

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Mayor Melanie Kebler discussed the purpose of the roundtables and ground rules for participation.

2. Street & Operations, Programs, and Process Overview

- Senior Management Analyst Sarah Hutson summarized process and timeline to-date.
- Director of the Transportation & Mobility Department David Abbas provided an overview of the Street & Operations Department core services.
- Assistant City Engineer Janet Hruby discussed programs recommended for near-term implementation in the Transportation System Plan.

3. Initial Fee Estimates Review & Discussion

- Senior Management Analyst Sarah Hutson reviewed preliminary Transportation Fee estimates.
- Mayor Melanie Kebler asked roundtable participants their reaction to the fee.
 - Feedback included: Balance how this impacts the business community and range of fees a business needs to pay to understand total impact on a business; concern that people living inside City limits picking up the tab for those who live outside the City; desire for visitors to contribute to operations and maintenance costs; concern that the proposed single-family rate is too high; interest in seeing a more detailed plan about what residents and businesses can expect to see and how they will benefit; question about whether the annual revenue target will increase year-over-year; requests to educate and communicate through strategic messaging; interest in taking a holistic, multi-modal approach to the transportation system; question regarding the GO Bond; question regarding the number of households eligible for utility billing assistance; interest in aligning approach to Transportation Fee to recommendations coming out of the SDC Methodology Update work currently underway; requests for more data and comparisons to highlight the proposed fee and financial context of the City of Bend to other Oregon communities; interest in a more in-depth methodology conversation with the business community to inform nonresidential fee.

4. Break

5. Transportation Values & Program Priorities Discussion

- Senior Management Analyst Sarah Hutson showed results to the Transportation Values poll roundtable participants were asked to fill out ahead of the meeting. More and improved sidewalks and paths for people who walk and roll, improved safety across the transportation

- system, and more and safer routes for people who cycle rose to the top of the list as most important among the group (sample size=16).
- Mayor Melanie Kebler asked each participant to share and explain their top two value selections, and if there are programs participants are particularly excited about.
 - Feedback included: More sidewalk connections and filling sidewalk gaps; looking at improvements through an age-friendly lens; plowing sidewalks and bus stops; congestion in the Downtown corridor; more travel options for people to access their place of work; how the sidewalk and transit system connect; more bike and walking paths; more travel options reducing congestion and people feeling safer to use other options; neighborhood street safety programs; safer routes to schools and parks; intelligent traffic systems; winter plowing an issue, particularly for lower-income residents who may not have great-quality vehicles; safe crosswalks; consideration of growth of e-bikes and mixed-use; removing barriers for people to travel short distances; accessibility to local businesses through plowing and cleaning; small improvements to make the system feel safer – doesn't need to be gold standard
 - City Councilors then discussed their values and reactions.
 - Reactions included: Viewing system as a whole; safe routes to schools; vulnerable populations and plowing; complementary nature of programs; consistency between roundtable participant values and what is in the Transportation System Plan; pedestrian safety and safety for all users; multi-modal maintenance across the whole year; community tolerance for construction

6. Wrap Up

- Senior Management Analyst Sarah Hutson reminded participants about upcoming roundtables on September 13th and October 11th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48am.

Attendees:

Bend Bikes	Elisa Cheng
Bend Chamber Board Member	Katie Anderson
Bend Chamber of Commerce	Sara Odendahl
Bend Economic Development Advisory Board (BEDAB)	Kevin Perkey
Bend La Pine School District	Kim Crabtree
Bend Park & Recreation District (BPRD)	Kristin Donald
CET/COIC	Eric Lint
City Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC)	Richard Ross
Commute Options	Whitney Bennett
Council on Aging	Cassie Regimbal
Environment and Climate Committee (ECC)	Mark Buckley
Latino Community Association (LCA)	Leslie Cano
NeighborImpact	Scott Cooper
Old Farm Neighborhood Association	James Dorofi
Transportation Bond Oversight Committee (TBOC)	Gina Franzosa
Transportation Bond Oversight Committee (TBOC)	Will Green
Bend City Council	Melanie Kebler
Bend City Council	Megan Perkins
Bend City Council	Anthony Broadman
Bend City Council	Ariel Mendez
Bend City Council	Barb Campbell
Bend City Council	Megan Norris
Bend City Council	Mike Riley
City of Bend	David Abbas
City of Bend	Elizabeth Oshel
City of Bend	Eric King
City of Bend	Janet Hruby
City of Bend	Russ Grayson
City of Bend	Sarah Hutson
City of Bend	Sharon Wojda