

## Non-residential Transportation Fee Survey

During the week of November 27, business owners in Bend were asked to respond to a survey seeking feedback on some key policy questions raised during discussions around the Transportation Fee. Respondents were invited to provide more open-ended feedback via email to the Bend Economic Development Advisory Board. Below is the feedback received through December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

To view the results from the survey, please [click here](#).

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Ben

I am against this proposal. The things that your proposal is talking about spending should be already funded through property taxes or gas taxes from the state.

The bus system in Bend should pay for itself and not have to be subsidised by putting more taxes on the businesses in Bend. I have a truck and can see in the buses during the day when I am driving around and rarely see more than a couple people on the bus at one time. It seems like they could be run more efficiently with smaller buses and get better mileage.

As the population grows so does the tax base, so it should be able to keep up with the growth of the city.

Brian Krueger  
Krueger Construction

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Good morning,

On this transportation fee that will add \$15 to our monthly utility bill is not really a fee of equality. Every one uses the roads yet only residents of Bend are getting charged. How many tourists vehicles currently use our streets every day, every year, yet do-not share in the upkeep of those same streets? There is a record (some where) of the number of tourists. Those awful words 'city tax' is what is needed so ALL who use the streets help to maintain them.

The \$15 monthly (\$180 yearly) may not seem like much to those who are working, but living on a fixed income it means it will be taken from somewhere else in the budget, more than likely food.

Colleen Egertson

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Dear Council

Can I ask why every time the city needs money you tax only the locals? How is it fair for residents and businesses to always carry the entire burden? We just had a major increase in our property taxes for the Fire Dept. That was entirely on

property owners and I'm sure rents will be adjusted at the first opportunity. Utilities raise their rates all the time. We don't need your help there. This also looks like a blank check. What are the fees? Is it the same for everyone or do larger users pay more?

We have around 20,000 visitors each day in central Oregon according to Visitor Bureau. How about raising the room tax?

Or add a gas tax so at least everyone contributes. A couple cents per gallon would provide plenty of revenue. Please get off the locals back. We are constantly the only ones paying for everything. Spread the pain. We know it costs a lot of money to run our town but charge every person, not just locals.

Thank you

Larry Dolezal

Business owner and 24 year resident.

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Given that your survey asked only whether I operate a business out of my home, it did not gather any information from me that I consider relevant, e.g.:

1. My "business" consists 100% of computer work and involves no driving to or from my home, by anyone.
2. Because of health constraints, I work approximately 40 hours per month, and earn far less than a liveable wage.
3. With the increasing costs of living in Bend, I am already considering giving up my contract work and seeking more regular employment. The added expense of a business transportation fee may push me to make that decision sooner. If I am lucky enough to find work locally and continue to live in Bend I will be driving more (to get to work outside of my home) while paying the city less toward transportation costs (because I will thereby avoid this City penalty for choosing to work from home). I have some concerns and questions. If you set a flat tax on businesses, I think you will not only discourage new business from opening, but will also hamper growth in the city of Bend.

I started my business 5 years ago. In that time I have been able to offer jobs to 5 residents, as well as pump money into Bend's economy by trying to use only local companies in Bend to allocate all our shipping, rigging, and electrical. Our plan is to add over 20 employees in the next 5 years, offering

good jobs with pay that will not only allow them to live in this area, but also have money left over at the end of the month.

My questions are, besides a gas tax, what funds do you receive from the state that can be allocated to cover this cost, and also the new build back better legislation that has passed are any of these funds going to be allocated to this expense?

I think if you tax based on profit, more companies like mine would be okay with that. To set a rate and tax across the board you are going to affect hiring, insurance, and retirement savings for the community. People will make less, spend less and small businesses that run and fund Bend will be less likely to give to other organizations for things we really need like healthcare for veterans, housing for all the homeless that have moved into town, and general growth.

Don't kill Bend's growth - More money will come with new business rather than a new tax.

Thanks, RG

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I am NOT in support of this fee. The cost of business in central OR is already high enough as well as all the small business taxes the state implements. If this is similar to the issue of people driving electric vehicles that do not pay the fuel tax, look into increasing the registration costs for EV's to offset that lack of funds. This is not an every person issue, most cannot afford the cost of an EV. The city of Bend does a very poor job planning ahead as the area rapidly develops. Most if not all the costs to improve roundabouts, etc can come from the developers that are making all the new housing developments forcing the need for new sidewalks and additional roundabouts.... not to mention all the additional traffic.

I cannot state loud enough that I DO NOT support taxing, excuse me, "adding fees" to businesses or even individuals that are already paying more than our fair share of taxes, excuse me, "fees".

I propose that you look at what or who is responsible for the shortcoming of funds and figure out an ethical way to have them pick up the deficit.

Professionally,

Scott Elms

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I operate a "small business" out of my home. The survey only asks if I have a business from home. I do not sell items from my home. It is a on-line business.

I do not receive any monthly home expense bills in my business name.

It doesn't clarify whether this will be on our next ballot. I would assume it will be so the community can vote on it.

Honestly the amount of money that goes into road maintenance is astronomical. I would think there would be enough to help keep business streets kept up. We shouldn't have to pay even more money out of pocket. How about all the visitors to Bend. It would seem there could be a few included in their stay. I'm not talking only motels and hotels but also airbnb, bed and breakfast, VRBO, resorts, etc.

-Tracy

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We are earnestly against the proposed transportation fee.  
Primary objection is rarely to promises from politicians be true.  
Just another tax.

Randy & Sue Thomason  
Bend, Oregon

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**Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities**

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Ben Hemson, Economic Development Manager at [bhemson@bendoregon.gov](mailto:bhemson@bendoregon.gov) or 541-388-5529. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.