

The meeting of the Environment and Climate Committee (ECC) was called to order at 11:03 a.m. on Thursday, December 14, 2023 in the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

- 1. Roll Call:** Serena Dietrich (present virtually), Alex Cerussi (present virtually), Neil Baunsgard, Mark Buckley, Andrew Calise, Kavi Chokshi, Lauren Fraser, Kellie Jensen (present virtually), Smita Mehta, Laura Tabos

Absent: Rory Isbell

2. Public Comment

John Heylin spoke regarding the local housing shortage as well as requesting a city-wide ban on Styrofoam.

Diane Hodiak, (present virtually) executive director of 350 Deschutes, spoke regarding a climate crisis and a suggestion to disincentivizing new gas infrastructure.

Josh Mooney, (present virtually) member of Energize Bend, advocated for electrification. The key request was for the city to commit to no new gas appliances in municipal buildings or new construction.

3. City Council Letter to Youth Climate Coalition and ECC Role

Mayor Kebler first addressed a public comment by stating that no new city buildings are built with gas. The Public Works building is fully electric with solar panels.

Mayor Kebler addressed the response letter that the City Council sent to the Youth Climate Coalition that was advocating for electrification. The response for the first quarter of 2024 included a commitment to have a conversation in March about a process, timeline, and the current set work plan to talk about the electrification policy and natural gas. The Council goals include responding to community concerns about natural gas and updating the Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP).

The March meeting will include staff member Cassie Lacey and a representative from the ECC regarding what kind of timeline the Council would like to set and how to direct the ECC to explore changes to the CCAP. The Council will rely on the ECC, subgroups, and bring in stakeholders to determine policy options. This will then be brought to the community before rising to the Council level.

4. SDC and Transportation Fee Update

Senior Policy Analyst Sarah Hutson presented with Chief Operations Officer Russel Grayson.

Hutson and Grayson presented the System Development Charge (SDC) Methodology & Transportation Fee Update through the following slides:

- Goals of Today's Presentation
- Transportation System Plan (TSP)
- Goals of the Plan
- City Transportation Funding Puzzle
- Systems Development Charges (SDCs) are fees developers pay associated with new development
- Reasons for SDC Methodology Update
- SDC Update Process and Timeline
- Recovering Growth Costs
- Efficiency and Economic Development
- Sustainable and Affordable Housing
- Example of Impacts: Residential, All Systems
- Next Steps

Committee members and staff discussed the tier's, regulations, and determination for SDC's. The discussion focused on the city's ability to utilize data and new technology to determine the SDCs that advances housing affordability yet providing sufficient revenues for new infrastructure. The SDC code consists of additional language to manage "what if" scenarios.

Hutson and Grayson presented on Transportation Fee's through the following slides:

- Transportation fee is a recurring fee collected from residents and businesses through their regular utility bill
- Why are we here?
- General Fund Revenue
- Street and Operations Funding
- How will residents and businesses benefit?
- Improved Transportation Safety
- Current Pavement Conditions
- Protecting Our Investment
- Future Priorities
- Process/Schedule: Transportation Fee
- Questions

Grayson explained the correlation between the scale and intensity of a building to determine the transportation fee. Staff are actively working on developing the model for the transportation fee and how the funds will be allocated. This led to further discussion amongst staff and ECC members.

Vice Chair Chokshi inquired whether there is a better way to connect the fees to the use of roads or transportation system. Grayson explained that the high level of residential turnover and other variables, prevents the city from connecting the fees more precisely. There are higher levels of accuracy to determine non-residential impacts.

Member Mehta asked if there is any coordination with the Parks district and what their funding will look like. Grayson explained that there are on going conversations with the Parks Department and the School district to determine their fees.

Vice Chair Chokshi stated that he believes that large commercial vehicles, trailers, and tourism have a larger impact on the roads and expressed confusion over a statement that the fees for non-residential sites will be based on the impact. Hutson explained that cities such as Hillsboro use different categories to charge a transportation fee depending on the businesses level of impact which shows up on the utility bill.

5. ECC Chair & Vice Chair Election Process

Chair Baunsgard explained that the ECC vote on chair and vice chair at the start of every year through a self-nomination process. Chair Baunsgard is planning on running for chair again next year. There have been elections before with multiple individuals running for the same position.

Vice Chair Chokshi is not planning on running again for vice chair next year. There is a time commitment piece for members to consider.

Chair Baunsgard stated that elections would take place at the next meeting on January 11th.

6. ECC Rep Reports

Vice Chair Chokshi shared that the final Tree Regulation Update Advisory Committee (TRUAC) meeting took place and the committee was dissolved. It will be going to the planning commission on February 7th and then city council. Vice Chair Chokshi explained the options for developers for a site plan review.

7. Adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Respectfully,

Samantha Gamelgaard
Senior Administrative Support Specialist