

**Bend City Council Transportation Fee Listening Session  
February 29, 2024**

The Transportation Fee Listening Session was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at the City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

1. **Call to order:** Mayor Melanie Kebler, Pro Tem Megan Perkins, Councilor Anthony Broadman, Councilor Barb Campbell, Councilor Mike Riley, Councilor Ariel Méndez, and Councilor Megan Norris
2. **Short staff presentation responding to most commonly asked questions**

City Manager Eric King, Senior Management Analyst Sarah Hutson and Mayor Melanie Kebler gave a brief presentation.

Slides included:

Transportation Fee Listening Session

Paving the Way to Bend's Transportation Future (video)

Bend's Transportation Funding Story

Preferred Transportation Funding Strategies

Why does the Streets & Operations Fund need the Transportation Fee to maintain current services?

Why are expenses outpacing resources and growth?

Why can't the General Fund continue to subsidize the Street & Operations Fund as it has in the past?

Use of Funds

Next Steps

3. **Public Comment (in person and virtually via Zoom)**

The following individuals commented on the Transportation Fee.

- Nancy Prosser opposed the fee because it is unfair to City residents and businesses since it does not include country residents and visitors who drive on city roadways, there is too little oversight, and because the fee can be increased at any time by a vote of the Council.
- Todd Dow opposed the fee because of the methodology used to assess fees to businesses and suggested charging all businesses through annual registration fees. He also requested additional outreach to make business owners aware of the fees.
- Jeremy Botta opposed the fee because of the negative financial impacts on lower income families and individuals.
- Ted Bayer opposed the fee because residents are already being assessed fees through the Fire levy. He also expressed concerns about the City's personnel costs.
- Daniel Elder, representing Campfire Hotel, expressed concerns that the fees will be assessed in the middle of the business's budget year without sufficient time for to make

budget adjustments. He acknowledged that additional funds are needed to improve and maintain roads, but expressed concerns about transparency and the fee escalation that might be included in phases two and three.

- Guy Reynolds opposed the fee because taxes and fees are already high given the other local taxing entities that assess taxes and fees. He suggested the City should review its expenses and cut out what is unnecessary, and should be clear and transparent with the language used to explain the fee.
- Sam Johnson, representing Mereté Hotel Management, opposed the fee because of the negative financial impact on businesses. He suggested the fees should be assessed a varying amount each month to reflect the cyclical nature of tourism and hotel occupancy.
- Scott Robinson expressed concerns about the graduated fee structure for larger businesses and encouraged the City to adjust the methodology in a way that supports complete communities and small businesses.
- Mike McCullough opposed the fee and expressed concerns about the difference between assessing fees for maintaining transportation infrastructure and building transportation infrastructure, and suggested the City look for ways to reduce spending.
- Rich Schlagel opposed the fee because he believes it is a tax that should go to the voters for approval. He also suggested that if there are fewer speakers, they should be allowed more time to express their opinions.
- Steve Scott opposed the fee because there are too many taxes and fees when considering those collected or imposed by other local taxing entities and suggested the City should consider cutting expenses instead of charging fees.
- Susie Fagen-Wirges opposed the fee because she feels the City should adjust its budget instead of assessing additional fees.

City Manager Eric King summarized themes that arose from the comments and provided clarifying information. Councilors made themselves available for one-on-one discussion with attendees for the remainder of the meeting.

**4. Adjourned at 10:58 a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgen Fry  
Deputy City Recorder