

**City of Bend
Council Community Building Subcommittee
May 20, 2024**

The meeting of the Bend City Council Community Building Subcommittee was called to order at 1:32 p.m. on Monday, May 20, 2024, in City Council Chambers, 710 NW Wall Street, and online.

1. Roll Call: City Councilors Anthony Broadman, Ariel Méndez, and Megan Norris.

2. Public Comment

- Sue Jensen spoke about the Franklin Street Bikeway and trees on Franklin St. Jensen asked that Council consider keeping as many trees as possible.
- Arianna Cahill spoke on the topic of the Franklin Bikeway. She expressed the importance of keeping the character of the street and advocated for adding street trees to the project.
- James Teeter spoke about item #6, Streets Standard and Speed Limits. Teeter requested that Council prioritize green and blue infrastructure when planning street specifications. Teeter also requested 20 mph maximum for 90% of our streets, eliminating unsignalized bike/pedestrian crossings of two vehicle lanes in the same direction, defining bus priority transit routes where we have two vehicle lanes in the same direction, requiring protected intersections and protected roundabouts in collectors and arterials, requiring raised crossings over all local streets and requiring buffered bike lanes.
- Scott Robinson spoke in support of item #6, Streets Standard and Speed Limits. Robinson encouraged a robust conversation around street standards and specifications.

3. Approval of the February 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Councilor Broadman moved to approve the February 28, 2024, Community Building Subcommittee Meeting Minutes. Councilor Norris seconded the motion.

Voice Vote – Councilors Broadman, Méndez, Norris Yes 3 No 0.

Councilor Broadman left the room at 2:18 p.m. and returned at 2:20 p.m.

4. Growth Management Work Plan and Climate-Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) Update (60 minutes)

Chief Operations Officer Russell Grayson, Senior Strategist Brian Rankin, Senior Planner BreAnne Gale and Senior Planner Damian Syrnyk gave the presentation.

Slides included:

- How will Bend manage growth?
- Today's discussion
 - a strategy to manage anticipated growth to 2050 and beyond
- Historic population growth
- Historic employment growth
- Bend's existing growth management framework
- Changing Oregon laws and rules
- Growth Strategy
- One-Time UGB Addition
 - Grayson added that this plan is coming to Council at the June 20 Work Session, to see if Council wants staff to move forward with that opportunity.
- What is SB 1537?
- Who is involved?
- Where is this happening?
- Why would the City pursue this?
- How does it get done?
- 20-Year Growth Plan
- What's involved in the Growth Plan?
- What is the approach to creating the Growth Plan?
- What are the final products of the Growth Plan?
- What State and local drivers impact the Growth Plan?
- Urban Reserves
- What are Urban Reserves?
- Who is involved?
- Where is this happening?
- Why would the City pursue this?
- How does this get done?
- Overall Work Program
- Timelines and products involved in managing growth
- Community Building Subcommittee Input

More information will be brought to Council at the June 20, 2024 Council Work Session.

5. Midtown Crossing's Greenwood Avenue Project Update (30 minutes)

Engineering and Infrastructure Planning Director Ryan Oster and Senior Project Engineer Todd Johnson gave the presentation.

Slides included:

- Midtown Crossings Greenwood Ave Between Wall and 2nd
- Active Projects (Overview)
- Greenwood Background
- Greenwood Quick Build
- Key Information: Existing Conditions, Proposed Conditions
- Public Feedback and Operations
- Staff Recommendation
 - Proceed with curbside parking and buffered bike lane
 - Monitor up to 1 year specifically tracking travel time, vehicle counts, bicycle usage
 - Parking removal north side of Greenwood

Grayson explained that the Greenwood improvements are a pilot project. After implementing improvements, the City will collect feedback from bike users, pedestrians, motorists and EMS, and modify improvements as needed.

Johnson presented a street map with proposed treatments, including striping, changes in turn lanes and parking, bollards, a concrete median and bulb-outs for pedestrian visibility.

Oster expressed staff's desire to proceed as outlined and return to Council with a guaranteed maximum price 1 (GMP1) for Greenwood, 2nd and Franklin, with a focus on beginning work on Greenwood in late July. The work is expected to take two to three weeks, after which staff will begin tracking data for the pilot project.

Councilor Broadman expressed concern over beginning with Greenwood, a high-stress network, rather than the low-stress networks prioritized in the Council Goals.

Grayson explained that when Franklin (a low-stress network) is closed for improvements, there would be no bikeway. Beginning with the improvements on Greenwood would allow an alternate route for bikers during Franklin improvements.

Councilor Méndez expressed general support for the project and asked for more details on the length of the bike route.

6. Street Standards and Speed Limits (30 min)

Chief Operations Officer Russell Grayson, Engineering and Infrastructure Planning Director Ryan Oster, and Transportation and Mobility Director David Abbas gave the presentation.

Slides included:

- Transportation Standards
- Today's topics of discussion: Engineering Design Standards and How speeds are set on existing roads.
- City Design Standards

- Why discuss this now? What have we learned?
- Current Projects and Upcoming Projects
- Policy guides and City processes
- The Vision – Comprehensive Plan
- Comprehensive Plan Chapter 7 Transportation Goals
- Council Goals
- The Playbooks
- Typical CIP Public Engagement Process
- What are City staff experiencing?
- Recommendations
 - Minor update to Standards and Specifications for additional clarity of City Engineer’s role and approach for City transportation projects.
 - Scope a larger community engagement effort on the City’s Transportation Standards and Specifications.
 - Explore options to improve the Public Involvement Process to help the community better understand project scopes and goals.

Councilor Méndez suggested creating a hierarchy and prioritization of values rather than trying to balance conflicting values. Councilor Méndez expressed concern over Bend’s prevailing speeds being too high, which leads to higher accident death rates, and wishes to have a conversation about prevailing speeds and whether we have the right tools in our standards and specs to reduce them.

Councilor Broadman identified a problem of staff receiving public input at multiple stages of a process, creating an inefficient way of managing input. Councilor Broadman would like to streamline when the public can provide input to avoid “feedback loops.”

Grayson suggested scheduling another meeting in June to discuss Speeds, Safety and Roadway Designs. Grayson added that the City cannot arbitrarily change speed limits on existing corridors, but would need to change the physical environment, which requires capital.

Committee members agreed to meeting again in June to discuss the recommendations outlined in the presentation.

7. Adjourned at 3:33 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Bontje
Executive Assistant