

From: Kaitlin Greene [<mailto:greenekaitlin90@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2019 8:31 PM
To: GMDTransportationSystemPlan <tsp@bendoregon.gov>
Subject: Health and Equity Must be Priorities for Bend's TSP

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in order to share my thoughts on Bend's Transportation System Plan with the hope that a diverse array of voices will be included in the final policies that will shape our city.

I moved to Bend about seven years ago after graduating from college and taking a position as an AmeriCorps service member. As a runner and cyclist, I was excited to move to a city that offered so many outdoor recreation opportunities. As a starry-eyed Sociology degree holder, I was heartened to dedicate a year of volunteer service to a city that appeared to have a substantial network of services and resources for disadvantaged and overlooked groups.

I now work in the public and community health sector. My love for Bend has grown and I continue to be hopeful as I watch the city undertake new projects that prioritize the wellbeing of all of its residents. I am writing as a member of this community and as an advocate for public health to urge the Citywide Transportation Advisory Committee to write a more robust plan for non-vehicular transportation and recreation opportunities and access into Bend's Transportation System Plan. Speaking from the public health perspective, increased physical activity is one thing we know for sure can help reduce rates of obesity and other chronic disease. Investing in walking and biking trail infrastructure with increased connectivity across the city will make physical activity and transportation options safer, more available, and more affordable for all.

The reverberations of improved individual health can be felt throughout a community. Bend is viewed as a healthy city but health should not be a luxury for its wealthiest residents. I urge this committee to put equity and health at the center of our built environment.

Everyday I am thankful to live in such a beautiful place and I am excited to witness the beginnings of a growth period where our city leaders have the chance to consider how our transportation and infrastructure systems can maintain, enhance and integrate Bend's natural beauty into the daily lives and rhythms of its residents.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kaitlin Greene