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Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 7:16 PM
To: GMDTransportationSystemPlan <tsp@bendoregon.gov>
Cc: CouncilAll <councilall@bendoregon.gov>; stories <ktvz.stories@ktvz.com>
Subject: Regarding the Transportation in Bend, Les Schwab, and a city under fire

Good Afternoon Members of the City Council & Transportation Committee,

I have lived here for 23 years, as of a few days ago. I've raised my son, here and my extended family lives here. I have reached out to the City Council for at least 18 of those 23 years and have never seen good communications between the 'people' of Bend, and the City Council. This continues to make me very sad as I consider Bend to be my home.

The people of Bend are the ones you rarely hear from. We don't have careers, we have jobs. We don't have IRA's, we have hope that we can pay our rent each and every month. We don't go to Council and planning meetings because we work and we're tired at the end of the day. No matter how many polls say Bend is a town of all upper class or wealthy middle class individuals, it's not true.

Transportation concerns us all - but unlike the members of the transportation committee that I happen to know have some very disconnected ideals (from the rest of us), the cost of transportation is always at the forefront of our lives. This includes the congestion that makes gas mileage in the City worse than gas mileage in Portland ... and that's pretty bad.

So, when I hear that the overly entitled home owners in Bend convinced the transportation committee that moving Les Schwab tires would create traffic congestion and lower their home values, I am utterly defeated. The exhaustion from this constant level of idiocracy that has turned Bend into a pathetic shell of what she could have been (by now), is too much. So, while I am used to being ignored by the City of Bend, I shall try once more to appeal to any of you that may be one of the actual 'people' who live here:

1. Les Schwab has managed the traffic on Franklin for (ever) with limited space and a huge customer base, almost flawlessly, and for more years than those complaining home owners have been here. Les Schwab has an amazing customer service policy that is the gold standard in business and that includes keeping control of the traffic flow.
2. Any homeowner who lives across the street from a strip club and thinks that Les Schwab will lower their home values suffers from a serious mental deficiency. Les Schwab is not just 'any' store: they have contributed to this community in countless ways, brought tourism that the City has failed to bring, and have become a staple of the Pacific Northwest. If anything, they will raise property values.
3. Les Schwab's business is reliant on transportation. They KNOW transportation better than most and in the cold season, spreading out their customer traffic bringing support to another area of town that is easier for customers to reach, is incredibly important.

I don't work for Les Schwab nor do I represent them. I don't benefit from them. I understand that

the underpass is a bottleneck and desperately needs reworked (and I have proposed solutions). But, that is not going to be a bottleneck more than it is, now. In fact, this is a prime opportunity to work WITH Les Schwab on how they can also recommend better traffic flow at that location.

The area of town where Les Schwab wants to locate is a perfect example of the failure of Bend's design. Wealthy land owners and outrageous property taxes have hurt this City and those of us living here. Look around town ... chain stores galore. Why? Bend is an all or nothing, town.

So, either we continue to let that area of town stay like trash, or we try to help rebuild it into something better. It is my hope that the City Council will take this seriously.

Thank you.

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