

**From:** Tamara Houston <[tamara.l.houston@gmail.com](mailto:tamara.l.houston@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2019 5:08 PM  
**To:** Karen Swirsky <[kswirsky@bendoregon.gov](mailto:kswirsky@bendoregon.gov)>  
**Cc:** Susanna Julber <[sjulber@bendoregon.gov](mailto:sjulber@bendoregon.gov)>  
**Subject:** public comment for Bend's Transportation plan

Hi Karen,

I wanted to send you a quick note about the transportation plan.

I am a cyclist and bike commute daily, and have for over a decade in Bend. In the past one year I have often wondered if I'm safe anymore.... and if driving would be better.

From the seat of my bike, I observe that Bend is putting too much focus on "traffic calming" -- for "thru" traffic using local streets because there is no other option - and not enough on developing a new traffic system that would promote **traffic efficiency**. Consequently, drivers are frustrated, develop road rage, and then (to me, from my perspective on my bike) become a REAL danger. If people drive crazy, because they are frustrated, you will never see new cyclists take to the streets.

Bend needs a way for people to get where they need, efficiently, whether that is north to south or east to west. What I think it will take to create this infrastructure is some eminent domain land capture, and foresight into growth. That will ruffle some feathers initially, but it's the only way to make the community develop in a way that actually *creates community*.

A system like Eugene's Beltline Parkway - looping Bend in the shape of an "O" would be ideal. It would allow people to get from one side of town to another without backing up our local streets, and making them more dangerous.

Medford - of all places - just did a reroute like this down highway 62. And while I'm in no way suggesting that Bend be like Medford, we *\*do\** need to address local street congestion by thru traffic. Having a bypass that loops around Bend, connecting at Deschutes Market Road and then at Knott, back to 97, for example, with an exit or two along the way, would let drivers move seamlessly.

It would also allow pedestrians and bikers like me to be in local-friendly instead of local-rage traffic.

Thanks for considering my thoughts, and sorry for being late to the party - hopefully a plan like this is already brewing.

Best regards,  
Tamara Houston