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Cc: stories@KTVZ.COM; CommunicationsShared <communications@bendoregon.gov>

Subject: Why should Bend, Oregonians, bother?

Dear TSP Committee, City of Bend, et. al.,

Many eons ago, I was an interim council position applicant and when asked about the decisions the current council had made that I thought needed the most work, I said: traffic planning. I specifically referenced the single lane round-a-bout at Reed Market that has SINCE been a problem. The council did NOT like my answer then and has done nothing to fix this, since.

Years later, during the Reed Market / train crossing proposals, I submitted a plan that was within the \$31 million dollar budget for a bridge. Later on, it was announced on the radio that the \$31 million that HAD ALREADY BEEN LEVERAGED against the taxpayers couldn't go to a bridge because a bridge was too expensive (quoting over \$100 million???; which was a hijacked price by a BAD vendor). Now, Reed Market still backs up during train crossings (and it only cost us \$30+ million)

In between then, I have made recommendations for additional proposals - and all for naught. No one is fixing the Brentwood to American Lane, unfinished "dirt road". No one is fixing the Purcell single lane "unfinished" road near NE Victor place. And, while Reed Market just got repaved for seemingly NO REASON - other roads, like Brookswood and SE Bridgeford, suffer from massive, car-damaging potholes and unfinished cut-outs. No one listened when some of us proposed a bus / city transit plan that included cutting out portions of sidewalks for an "off-street" bus stop - and now the buses stop in the MIDDLE of the street (in most cases) which is both ridiculous and dangerous.

Traffic and road planning in this town has a shameful history. The downtown parking meter suggestion was beyond ludicrous as it would only serve to hurt the citizens and businesses while doing NOTHING to reduce traffic and MASSIVELY increasing "policing" costs to the city (and taxpayers). The "bicyclers" in town that want to own the roadways that everyone else is paying for don't want cars on the roadways and seem to be the ones complaining the most - but they are NOT the majority. The lack of budget during harsh winter times has been astoundingly irresponsible. I know we have new council members - but as new members - they adopted these problems and it is time for change.

Honestly, given historical experience, I have no reason to believe that the Council or TSP committee will read this or care. Our council develops a "seemingly" non-public-serving agenda (that feels as though it is based on special interest and big business; and we can get into the Dairy Queen influence over the Highway 97 turn-offs if needed), and no longer listens to the REAL people who live here! Why should ANY of us who have lived here for over 20 years bother going to the meetings when NO ONE listens to us, or the ONLY suggestions you'll accept are based on decisions YOU have already pre-made (and oft times, some of them are really bad!).

Reed Market: backed up from one end to the other. Greenwood: congested. 3rd and Reed Market: constantly congested. Neff at Purcell: frequently / dangerously backed up. And, we're

not just talking about ruining people's gas mileage, hurting the economy, or making life hard on the citizens (beyond the stupid, ever-increasing property taxes) - we are talking about 911 emergency services that are NOT being served. But, there are solutions.

Downtown Bend has multiple locations that can be converted into car garages - MULTIPLE. Those garages can be pay or free (and see Portland for "responsible" car garage parking prices ranging from free to very low cost that makes attending special events / being a tourist, local or not, attractive). The East-to-West corridors can be expanded and improved (there IS room). The downtown parking needs no adjustment, just a car garage (or two) - period. And, for what it just cost to "refinish" Reed Market, you could have potentially fixed 3 - 4 "dirt" / unfinished road sections in town that are receiving ever-increasing usage, filled in a LOT of wheel and axle-damaging pot holes, and still had a budget for winter.

Furthermore, the planning / schedule of road repairs in this town is HORRIBLE. While doing work on the West-side, such as Century Drive, suddenly work is done along Reed Market, and passage from the North to South on the West side of town is severely hampered? Why? The work along the 27th street corridor and Reed Market Lane was spanned out so long that the "eyesore" for "very little" resolve, probably wasted more peoples' money and time than the City could ever repay. And, even when some of us proposed information campaigns that could ease traffic and help the citizens for very little cost - "ignored"!

Sure, there are people happy with you when you fix "their" section of road. But, the City should NOT be about focusing on big business or individual specialty interests. There needs to be:

- 1) An inventory of every road in this town and a rating of condition to determine the highest needs (from potholes to not being finished properly). No - this has not happened. Bridgeford is the perfect example. Go ahead, starting at Wilson (in sedan), just doing the speed limit, see how that works for you.

- 2) An inventory of the in-city boundaries for determining new / additional North - South opportunities and East-West corridor opportunities. I've seen the current plans and only "some" of them are okay - but will offer very little "fix".

- 3) Someone needs to call out the City Building planning commission for doing something so irresponsible as to allow such heavy levels of residential construction along the SINGLE LANE Empire corridor which now has the opportunity to be even more congested than it is now. Currently, everyone who drives down the middle of the bridge against the traffic lines - because the South-bound Highway 97 off-ramp turn-off, is backed up past multiple lights! This SHOULD have been an opportunity to double Empire along most of, or the entire corridor.

- 4) There needs to be an assessment of road widths along the busiest corridors and analysis to determine how to increase those to double / multiple lanes (WITHOUT ending in a single lane merge as happens all-too often). This "may" include having to work with some locations for relocation - but that's the consequence of the path now taken - and we just have to deal with it. For example, could Brookwood be expanded to 4 lanes along the Old Mill through to Powers? Yes - except for a few hiccups - it really could. Those hiccups suck - but if the Council is going to continue to drive out its citizens with new property fees anyway, at least you'll have the money for it.

4A) To this I would add: every member of the planning commission should be required, for two weeks, once the school season is back in full session, to drive (with cameras on) the entire 3rd street corridor, Reed Market, Greenwood, Neff, Purcell, 27th Street, Brookwood, Wall Street, Bond Street, Century Drive, and others (any one of us who have lived here for 20+ years and drive all the time could give you a complete list), in the morning starting at 7:30 am until 8:00 am (and then pick it back up again for the next section on the next morning if you don't make it all the way through - which many mornings, you can't), and again, starting at 2:45 / 3:00 pm until 4:00, and again from 4:50 pm, until about 6:00 pm. Then, you will get to know, first hand, what really needs your attention.

5) And so on and so on and so on - but frankly, I'm tired of repeatedly saying this to the City, back when it was not a big issue ... then when it started to become an issue - and now these matters are a constantly increasing issue.

If you want to help this City, then PLEASE STOP treating it like an 1800's retirement village! Bend, is NOT going to stay small. And, if the City Council members cared even in the slightest, they would STOP the property tax increases, incentivize the big businesses that want to come here, and the population could literally boom overnight (and then, they would have their money).

Bend is a City. There are literally thousands upon thousands of cities in America, many with similar type of growth patterns, upon which to model where we are now, and where we should expect to be. If you don't see many of us at your meeting today, it's not because we don't care or we aren't speaking up - it's because you aren't listening and we have to plan and prepare ourselves mentally for another day of congested, frustrating driving.

For whatever it's worth - I hope you think these issues through this time, without brash decisions or "temporary" / short-term fixes, and "foresee" consequences. I know this was long, and for those of you respectful enough to read all the way through, thank you. Unlike any other email to the City, I offer no solutions, this time. I'm not paid enough to do more free analysis that goes unheard, anyway. Still, I hope you think of the people on the roads, this time, because that's who you are supposed to be serving.

Thank you for your time. Please have a good day and a good meeting.

Respectfully

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