



ENGINEERING

710 NW Wall Street  
Bend, Oregon 97703

# The Connection

...your septic to sewer update

July 2018



## May 15<sup>th</sup> Open House Recap

- Held at the Bend Senior Center
- Format utilized four stations:
  1. Engineering and Design
  2. City Staff
  3. Individual Lot Maps
  4. Deschutes County
- Good attendance:
  5. Estimated 50+ from the community
  6. Many advisory committee members



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## You are invited!

The following events are held at Council Chambers at City Hall on 710 NW Wall Street.



**Advisory Committee Meeting**  
Finalize Recommendations to be Submitted to City Council | 4:00-6:00 p.m.



**City Council Meeting**  
Work Session | TBD



**City Council Meeting**  
Listening Session | TBD



## Questions or Comments?

**Ron Hand**  
rhand@dowl.com  
**Susanna Julber**  
sjulber@bendoregon.gov  
**Project Comment Line**  
458-202-7348



## Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, or electronic formats please contact Susanna Julber at sjulber@bendoregon.gov, 541-693-2132. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

## Issues of Most Interest:



Homeowner Costs



Payment Options & Incentives



Project Costs



Septic Sewer Decommissioning



Construction Timing



Vegetation Impacts



Proposed Sewer Location



Street Closures

## SE Bend Septic to Sewer Advisory Committee

- Bethann Bicknase
- Charlie Rowles
- Cheryl O'Donnell
- Connie Murray
- David Johnson
- Frank Fiedler
- Frank Turek
- Geoff Perry
- Jen Vancamp
- Rod Cathcart
- Scott Johnson

## Latest News Available Online

Visit the SE Bend Septic to Sewer Advisory Committee web page for the latest committee information: to get meeting locations, times and materials, related projects and plans; maps and other useful links.

<https://www.bendoregon.gov/septicosewer>



## Keeping You Posted: Bethann 's Update

On behalf of the SE Bend Septic to Sewer Advisory Committee, I am pleased to report that we have developed a framework — a set of recommendations with which we all agree — for final consideration at our July meeting. A summary of these recommendations is included in this newsletter. I encourage you to read the summary and visit our website [www.bendoregon.gov/septicosewer](http://www.bendoregon.gov/septicosewer) to read the more detailed framework document developed by the Committee.

Our goal was to provide recommendations that result in a city-wide program that encourages septic to sewer hook-ups and is equitable to homeowners and ratepayers. We look forward to presenting the results at a City Council work session on July 18, answering questions and hearing their feedback.

Please join us at three upcoming meetings to be held at the Bend City Council Chamber:

- 1. Thursday, July 12, 2018 (4-6 p.m.).** Our final SE Bend Septic to Sewer Advisory Committee meeting.
- 2. Wednesday, July 18 (TBD).** The City Council work session where we will present our recommendations. Please note there is no public testimony taken during a work session.
- 3. Wednesday, August 15 (TBD).** A City Council listening session where you can share your views.

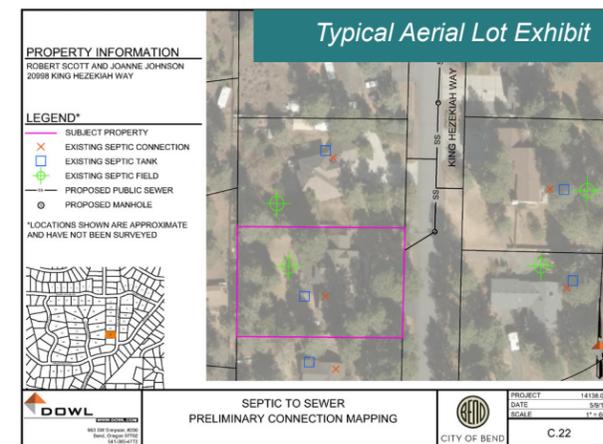
Thank you!

*Bethann Bicknase*

## Door to Door Site Reviews

Our Public Outreach team is ready to start visiting homes in the project area to discuss possible locations of sewer service stub-outs to your property.

During the next few weeks, we will visit with you to look at existing conditions of your property, including estimated locations of your septic tank and drainfield locations. We want to review the design locations to be sure there are no conflicts with driveways, landscaping, and other property constraints.



## Committee Assignment

Present recommendations to Bend City Council on fair and cost-effective solutions to bring sewers to unsewered neighborhoods in Southeast Bend.



## Advisory Committee Recommended Framework

1. City Council should adopt a Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) to **eliminate all 2,800 septic systems citywide** over the next 15-20 years.
2. **Eliminating Bend's septic systems is overdue and urgently needed.** Approximately 339 of 599 tanks in the SE Bend project area are 25+ years old; Approximately 69 homes are subject to the 300-foot rule requiring failing systems to connect to sewer. **City financing and cost sharing is crucial.**
3. The **Comprehensive STEP program** should include: a coordinator, financing options, safety net program for economic hardships, a dedicated city-wide STEP fee and possibly Local Improvement District(s).
4. The Program has many **benefits to the City and homeowners** reliant on septic systems. (See box to the right)
5. The City should conduct a bid process to **coordinate contractor work in the public right-of-way and on private property.**
6. Septic to sewer conversion must be affordable. **Costs to homeowners should not exceed \$25,000** (\$18,000 for work in the public right-of-way and \$7,000 for private property work). **At least one financing option shouldn't exceed \$250 per month.**
7. **The City should begin with the 599 lot SE Bend project area:** due to aging tanks, engineering and design work soon to be completed, sewer available to serve lots subject to 300-foot rule, and with stub-outs already in place for SEI adjacent lots.
8. **Public right-of-way costs should be shared with the City:** with homeowners paying \$9 million of the estimated \$30 million. SEI adjacent properties should pay for their local service costs.
9. **Private property costs should be reduced to \$7,000** from the estimated range of \$10,000 to \$20,000: through a coordinated bid process, fee reductions and SDCs waived by Council.
10. **Septic tank owners should be required to hook up** when sewer service is available.
11. **Council should take action now so construction can begin in 2019.** Costs rise 5-7% a year – waiting only makes it more costly.

### Benefits to City of Bend:

- ✓ Fulfills city responsibility to annexed areas
- ✓ Meets core goal of Bend's 2017-2019 Strategic Plan
- ✓ Most cost-effective method to eliminate septic systems and comply with state statutes and local ordinances.
- ✓ Achieves Council priorities: city-wide program; homeowners pay fair share; considers burden on city-wide ratepayers
- ✓ Adds 2,800 ratepayers

### Benefits to Homeowners:

- ✓ No need to maintain/replace septic systems
- ✓ Provides cost, financing, and schedule certainty
- ✓ Prevents costs from rising further starting in 2019
- ✓ Includes a safety net for low income households
- ✓ Allows homeowners to develop septic tank/drainfield areas
- ✓ Stabilizes real estate transactions
- ✓ Protects health and safety



Visit the website to view the **framework:**

[www.bendoregon.gov/septicosewer](http://www.bendoregon.gov/septicosewer)

