

BEND'S TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Phase One Report



FEBRUARY 2019



Bend's
Transportation
Plan

PRIORITY
ACTION
01

It is time to plan for a transportation system that meets the needs of all Bend residents today and for years to come.

Bend's Transportation Plan is a complete update to our citywide transportation plan: a blueprint for the roads, paths, sidewalks, bikeways, and transit to accommodate our residents and businesses, provide ways for people and goods to move through the region, and preserve our quality of life.

Bend's Transportation Plan kicked off in February 2018, and the first year has laid important groundwork for the final plan.

GOALS FOR BETTER TRANSPORTATION

The Citywide Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC) and Transportation Steering Committee created a set of goals to guide Bend's Transportation Plan to completion.

- **Increase transportation system capacity, quality and connectivity for all users.** The plan ensures that people walking, using bikes, riding transit and driving can get where they need to go.
- **Ensure safety for all users.**
- **Facilitate housing supply, job creation and economic development to meet growth.** The plan supports a transportation system that supports our economy and creates ways for people to move from home to school to work conveniently and sustainably.
- **Protect livability and ensure equity and access.** The plan provides transportation options for everyone, regardless of income.
- **Steward the environment.** The plan encourages transportation options that reduce the use of fossil fuels and reduces pollution.
- **Have a regional outlook and future focus.** The plan develops a system that works across the region for decades to come.
- **Implement a comprehensive funding and implementation plan.** The plan identifies a clear way for projects to be funded and built.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT WORK

The Citywide Transportation Advisory Committee is comprised of 27 members of the Bend community, appointed by the City Council to help craft Bend's Transportation Plan. The Funding Work Group is a subcommittee of nine advisory committee members tasked with recommending funding strategies and tools to pay for transportation projects. The project Steering Committee—comprised of the Bend City Council, a Bend Planning Commissioner, a Deschutes County Commissioner, and Oregon Department of Transportation's regional manager—oversees the project and finalizes recommendations. Final approval of Bend's Transportation Plan update will be given by City Council.

PRIORITY
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02

CREATING A CITYWIDE FRAMEWORK

The Citywide Transportation Framework identifies projects and programs for greater safety, more system capacity and connectivity, more robust walking and biking networks, and a more efficient transportation system overall. It is designed to support Bend's land use plan and expected growth for the next 20+ years.

The Framework will serve as the basis for future regional transportation planning (the Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Plan update) as well as Phase 2 of Bend's Transportation Plan, which will identify neighborhood-level projects and programs.

The working Citywide Transportation Framework includes:

- A foundation of **transportation improvements from Bend's current plans.**
- **More travel lanes, improved intersections and roundabouts, and improved bike lanes and sidewalks** to reduce congestion, make travel times more reliable and improve safety for all users.
- **Technology strategies to make roads more efficient** like changes to the timing of traffic signals.
- **New programs to manage transportation demand** including "mobility hubs" that bring transit, car share, bike share and ride share/taxis together in one place, employer-based programs to encourage people to bike, walk or take transit, and parking pricing in some areas.
- **New roadway connections** of "complete streets" that include sidewalks and bike facilities consistent with current city policy. These improve access for all users, help reduce the distances that people need to travel to reach destinations, and provide more route choices.
- **A commitment to build, over time, a complete and connected bicycle "low-stress network"** for people of all ages and abilities. The network will include traditional bike lanes, separated bike lanes and shared streets, depending upon the characteristics of a specific roadway. Improvements will help cyclists comfortably cross busy roads, and include new bike-friendly bridges and overpasses to connect the city's east and west sides.
- A recommendation to **further explore solutions to complex transportation problem areas**, including a new south river crossing and delays from the railroad switchyard and crossings.

An interactive Citywide Transportation Framework map is at bendoregon.gov/tsp.



Residents contributed their thoughts and ideas for Bend's Transportation Plan in 2018.



1000+
participants



1,143
online map comments



2,446
total comments



12
presentations to
neighborhood
and community groups

ASSESSING POTENTIAL FUNDING

Transportation funding is a challenge in every community, as federal and state funding for transportation projects has become more limited. Communities across the country are relying on local sources of funding to pay for the construction, operations, and maintenance of roads, bridges, sidewalks, and other critical transportation needs.

Today, most transportation projects and programs are funded through a mix of state and local funds, primarily property taxes and transportation system development charges, one-time fees levied on property developers when new buildings or housing is built. That won't be enough.

One priority for Bend's Transportation Plan is ensuring that the cost of transportation infrastructure, operations and maintenance is shared equitably by everyone using the system—residents, businesses, tourists, commuters, and large employers and institutions.

When finished, Bend's Transportation Plan will recommend a detailed list of desired projects, including many projects and programs that have long been needed. It will also recommend new projects to accommodate decades of future growth. The plan will detail ways to pay for high-priority projects, as well as the need for funding to operate and maintain infrastructure over time.

To move towards a final funding plan, the Funding Work Group studied 18 potential funding tools that could bridge the gap between today's funding and what we'll need for our transportation system projects and programs. The work group carefully evaluated these tools according to their legality, efficiency, equity, and political acceptability. Findings are summarized in the Initial Funding Assessment, which recommends **foundational principles** and identifies a short-list of **10 most suitable funding tools**.

TIMELINE TO COMPLETION

