

Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee

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Committee Members

Mayor Chuck Bennett, *Chair*
Councilor Jose Gonzalez
Councilor Chris Hoy
Councilor Jim Lewis
Councilor Virginia Stapleton

City Staff

Steve Powers, *City Manager*
Kelli Blechsmidt, *Management Analyst*
Josh Eggleston, *Chief Financial Officer (AIC)*
Peter Fernandez, *Public Works Director*
Krishna Namburi, *Employee, Enterprise and
Technology Director*
Mike Niblock, *Fire Chief*
Kirstin Retherford, *Urban Development Director*
Michelle Teed, *Assistant City Attorney*
Courtney Knox Busch, *Strategic Initiatives Manager*

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Meeting Agenda

Friday, January 14, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

City of Salem Public Meeting Channel (YouTube)

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of 12/3/2021 Meeting Minutes
3. Public Comment
 - Project Ideas
4. Updates: Communications and Engagement
 - January/February Community Briefings
 - Polling Schedule
5. Discussion: Considering Projects in Bond Proposal
6. Next Steps
 - February: input from polling, community briefings
 - March: prepare recommendation to Council for bond scope and projects
7. Adjourn

City of Salem Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee Minutes

DATE: December 3, 2021

CHAIRPERSON: Chuck Bennett

PLACE: ZOOM

STAFF LIAISONS:

Courtney Knox Busch

cbusch@cityofsalem.net

Josh Eggleston

jeggleston@cityofsalem.net

Members Present:

Mayor Bennett

Councilor Jose Gonzalez

Councilor Chris Hoy

Councilor Jim Lewis

Councilor Virginia Stapleton

Guests Present:

Clark Worth, Barney and Worth

Staff Present:

Steve Powers, City Manager

Dan Atchison, City Attorney

Josh Eggleston, AIC Chief Financial Officer

Peter Fernandez, Public Works Director

Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives
Manager

Krishna Namburi, Employee Enterprise &
Technology Director

Mike Niblock, Fire Chief

Kristin Retherford, Urban Development Director

Kelli Blechschmidt, Management Analyst I

1. CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 PM / Quorum
2. PUBLIC COMMENT – Written Comment from:
 - a. Roz Shirack regarding infrastructure projects
 - b. Lois Stark on behalf of the Library Advisory Board regarding public library facilities
 - c. Jim Schepcke regarding public library facilities
3. KEY MILESTONES, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT
 - a. Courtney Knox Busch guided the Committee through the general context of the Bond project including a key milestone schedule for outreach opportunities, recommendation to City Council and eventual ballot title creation. Presentation on historical success gauges for ballot measures and City engagement currently underway.

Questions or Comments by: Clark Worth of Barney & Worth, Councilor Hoy, Mayor Bennett, Councilor Lewis

Answers or Comments by: Josh Eggleston, AIC Chief Financial Officer, Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Peter Fernandez, Public Works Director
4. SETTING THE CONTEXT
 - a. Recent Bond Experience
 - i. Josh Eggleston, AIC Chief Financial Officer reviewed the historic debt levy for the City of Salem over the last decade along with a future projected debt levy.

Questions or Comments by: Mayor Bennett, Councilor Hoy

Answers or Comments by: Josh Eggleston, AIC Chief Financial Officer,
Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives Manager

- b. Finance Committee Recommendation for Engagement
 - i. Josh Eggleston, AIC Chief Financial Officer reviewed the Finance Committee recommendation that Council approved.

Questions or Comments by: Councilor Lewis

Answers or Comments by: Josh Eggleston, AIC Chief Financial Officer,
Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives Manager

5. DISCUSSION: IDEAS FOR CONSIDERING PROJECTS IN BOND PROPOSAL

- a. Staff walked through proposed projects and project types for the Committee to discuss and consider.

Questions or Comments by: Councilor Stapleton, Councilor Lewis, Mayor Bennett

Answers or Comments by: Mike Niblock, Fire Chief, Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Peter Fernandez, Public Works Director, City Manager Powers

- b. Courtney Knox Busch walked through the proposed criteria lens for project suggestions. These include but are not limited to bond eligibility, time feasibility, geographic, operation costs and equity lenses to consider.

Questions or Comments by: Councilor Stapleton, Councilor Gonzalez, Councilor Hoy, Mayor Bennett, Councilor Lewis

Answers or Comments by: Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives Manager

Councilor Lewis left at 2:26 PM

6. NEXT STEPS

- a. Courtney Knox Busch walked through next steps including further conversation of criteria, messaging, and the next meeting date.

Questions or Comments by: Mayor Bennett

Answers or Comments by: Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Steve Powers, City Manager

7. ADJOURNMENT: 2:30 PM

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 14, 2022 at 1:00 PM.

Salem Community Improvements

January 2022

City Council Explores Funding for Major Projects

The City of Salem has pressing needs for fire engines and equipment, for improvements to streets and sidewalks, for parks, for affordable housing and shelter, and other projects to improve the community. Salem City Council is looking at paying for these capital projects through a community improvements bond measure for voters to consider in November 2022.

No Increase in Property Tax Rate

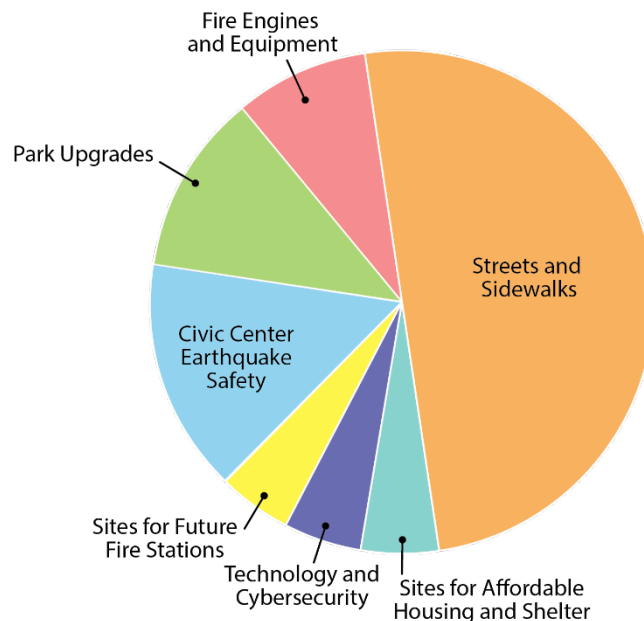
We have an opportunity to pay for up to \$300 million of the needed improvements without increasing the City's property tax rate. This is because several previous bond measures will be retired and removed from the tax rolls over the next decade. Bond funded projects would save money currently spent on repairs and maintenance of outdated facilities and equipment, and improve energy efficiency. At the same time, City leaders are exploring alternative funding sources to help support these community improvement needs – including federal and state grants.

Community Input Requested

Salem residents, businesses and community groups are being asked to help set priorities for the most needed projects. This same formula shaped earlier funding measures. The *Keep Salem Moving* bond program proves our City can successfully deliver community improvements. Approved by voters in 2008, this \$100 million transportation bond program has already completed 66 projects citywide, and another 6 are underway, leveraging an additional \$20 million in state and federal funds.

Salem Community Improvements – Funding Needs

Up to \$300 Million



Salem Community Improvements – Funding Needs

Fire Engines and Equipment

Purchased with bond funds in 2006, Salem’s fire engines are already 15 years old and have reached the threshold of 300,000 “motor miles” – road miles plus hours needed to power equipment in incident response. Despite excellent maintenance, the fire engines and other life-saving equipment are in urgent need of replacement.

Streets and Sidewalks

As funding from Salem’s 2008 bond measure winds down, 66 projects citywide are complete and another 6 projects are underway. Transportation needs still exceed available funding. With community input, a new list of priority projects is being developed to:

- Construct new streets and replace or add signals that improve traffic flow;
- Provide safer pedestrian crossings and install sidewalks and safe bicycle routes; and
- Rehabilitate and repair bridges throughout the community.

River Road, McGilchrist St SE, Doaks Ferry Rd NW, Battle Creek Rd SE, Browning Ave S, Fischer Rd NE, and Sunnyview Ave NE are some key roadways in need of improvement.

Park Upgrades

Salem has an excellent and well-used park system, but its aging facilities need updates. Replacing restrooms at Marion Square and Wallace Marine Parks and developing new covered areas, playgrounds, splash pads, trails, pickleball courts, and dog parks are among the projects identified for community priority-setting. Community-driven Master Plans for individual parks point to other improvement needs citywide.

Sites for Affordable Housing and Shelter

Strategic investments in new permanent housing and temporary shelter are linchpins in Salem’s strategy to address the problem of homelessness.

Civic Center Earthquake Safety

The Civic Center – the City’s busiest, most visited public building – was built 50 years ago. It needs rehabilitation and repair to meet current earthquake standards to keep the community safe and improve public accessibility. Along with energy efficiency, these improvements are similar to the voter-approved rehabilitation of Salem Public Library — which was recently completed and reopened to the community.

Technology and Cybersecurity

Every aspect of City of Salem services to residents and businesses is reliant on technology. Lessons learned from other cities underscore the need for up-to-date and fail-safe cybersecurity. Other investments are needed to install a backup fiber network and data storage, and to replace aging technology.

Sites for Future Fire Stations

Salem is planning ahead to meet community needs. It is clear the City will need two new fire stations in the next decade to provide timely response in emergencies and must acquire property now for the new stations in Northeast and South Salem.

Which Projects Could Be Included in Bond Proposal? Ideas for Criteria

Setting the Context

As initially envisioned, the bond package includes categories of funding. Some of the project categories, like fire trucks and equipment, are fixed in their cost. It will cost about \$26 million to purchase needed fire trucks and equipment. If less than \$26 million is available for that category, the City won't be able to purchase needed fire trucks and equipment. Other categories of need which are also considered to be "fixed" include investments in technology and cybersecurity, Civic Center earthquake safety, and sites for future fire stations.

Our community need is so great in the "scalable" categories of streets, bridges, and sidewalks; parks and recreation facilities; and affordable housing and sheltering, investment can be scaled to specific projects of community interest.

The purpose of community engagement and outreach, through February 2022, is to gather ideas for community projects of interest in the scalable categories of:

- streets and sidewalks;
- parks and recreation facilities; and
- affordable housing and sheltering.

Projects can also be sourced from existing infrastructure plans, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), and community engagement. Existing infrastructure plans, like Bike & Walk Salem and Transportation Systems Plan, contain project ideas resulting from previous community engagement and outreach. The CIP includes project ideas eligible for funding within next five years.

Selection of Projects

The Steering Committee will need a method for selecting which projects fit best in the bond proposal, for recommendation to the City Council. How to choose? Here are some initial ideas to consider, when determining whether a project may fit in the bond proposal.

For **individual project** ideas:

- **Bond-able:** Is the project eligible for bond funding? Is it a capital project?
- **Feasible:** can it be completed within bond time period?
- **Readiness:** is it already included in an infrastructure plan or in the CIP?
- **Overall cost:** does this project use a disproportionate amount of funding for the category or of the proposed bond measure overall?
- **Ongoing cost:** does the project increase day to day, ongoing cost to operate? Is there a minimal impact to operations?

For **streets and sidewalks**, use modified Capital Improvement Program criteria:

- **Safety:** Does it improve safety and security of people and goods in transit?
- **Mobility:** does it improve efficiency and effectiveness of options for moving all people?
- **Economic development:** does it increase access to regional employment hubs?
- **Capacity:** does it improve capacity?
- **Benefit:** does it benefit a large portion of the traveling public?
- **Equity:**
 - does it benefit Title VI (minority and low-income) populations?
 - does it help balance investment geographically?
- **System benefit:** Does it prolong the useful life of the existing transportation system? Does the project complete a project the City or development community started?
- **Climate impact:** Does the project result in greenhouse gas emission reduction by reducing vehicle congestion (idling) or add bicycle/pedestrian system capacity?

For **parks**, use modified CIP criteria:

- **Condition and Risk:** Is it in poor condition and, if it fails, are there severe consequences?
- **Safety:** Is replacement important due to safety risk or regulatory requirements?
- **Operations and maintenance:** Will the project reduce operating costs, enhance effectiveness or efficiency in operations and maintenance?
- **Relationship to other projects, leverage:** Can this project be bundled with adjacent or concurrent projects planned or on-going?
- **Equity:**
 - does it benefit Title VI (minority and low-income) populations?
 - does it help balance investment geographically?
- **System benefit:** Does the project improve level of service? Does it prolong the useful life of the existing park system? Does the project complete a project the City or development the community started?

When the initial project list is assembled into a **package**, as a whole, the package should be:

- **Distributed geographically:** does the package, as a whole, benefit all Wards?
- **Equitable:** is there more benefit for North/Northeast Salem within the proposed bond package?
- **Reduce our impact on the climate:** on the whole, does the proposed bond package reduce or have a neutral climate impact?

Project Ideas - to consider including in November 2022 Community Improvement Bond

KEY

- Positive impact
- Neutral impact
- Negative impact

Recommend?
1st or 2nd Tier

Streets and Sidewalk Project Ideas

Project Name	Ward	Order of Magnitue Cost Estimate	Readiness	Improves Safety	Improves Mobility	Improves Capacity	Helps Access to Jobs	Benefits Many	Benefits Minority or Low-Income	Extends Use of System	Reduces GHG Emissions
TBD	8	\$5 to 8 million									

Parks Improvements

Project Name	Ward	Order of Magnitue Cost Estimate	Readiness	Reduces Day to Day Cost	Improves Condition, Lowers Risk	Improves Safety	Add to Other Projects	Benefits Minority or Low-Income	Extends Use of System	Reduces GHG Emissions

Assessment of Bond Package

Geographic Balance Equity Climate Impact

Project ideas discluded

Salem River Crossing Reason: Not feasible within available bond funding or time frames

Streets and Sidewalks Project Ideas

SIDEWALK IDEAS

- **Finish sidewalks** in areas that do not have sidewalk, particularly within 1/4 of a mile of bus stops. One place I'd like to see them is along Rosemont (as there is no sidewalk connections down Glen Creek to the Walker middle school) and down Glen Creek to Roth's.
- Many residential **neighborhood sidewalks** are old, crumbling, damaged by city tree roots. These sidewalks are unsafe. Many residents in the neighborhoods cannot afford to repair or replace the sidewalks. Could the city use funds to do these repairs/replacements? And how about installing **sidewalks and bike lanes along streets** like Browning Ave. S, Cunningham Rd S. and a bike lane along parts of Liberty Rd S., for instance between Madrona Ave. S. and Browning Ave?
- Streets without sidewalks, especially high-volume streets, should have **sidewalks** added. Specifically, I can think of NE Hawthorne. There should also be a concerted effort to study and potentially institute road diets on streets passing through residential areas. I would like to see **Market Street** taken down from four lanes to two lanes, with a turn lane, from *25th street to Summer Street*.
- Seismically upgrade and/or rebuild essential bridges throughout the city. Build sidewalks where they do not exist - especially in neighborhoods where children play. Invest in a sustainable future with studies for another crossing over the Willamette River. Create a safe environment on Front Street similar to the 12th Street promenade.
- Please repair our **sidewalks** in NE Salem so they are safe and usable. Clean up the graffiti everywhere. Painting over it patchwork style STILL suggests gangs, and violent activity in the area. It is especially bad along Salem Parkway. Also, please put in some trafficking radar on the parkway. Almost nobody notices the ONE 55 MPH sign coming off of I-5. It is a raceway with no penalties. Repair the Clock on Court Street downtown. It hasn't worked at all for the 7 years I have lived here. Pretty ridiculous. Install litter bins around town, but especially on the pedestrian bridges. Post signs about the preciousness of our waterways and the creatures who live there. They don't need litter turning their homes into toilets, essentially. Perhaps start a new "Give a Hoot...don't pollute" campaign like we had many years ago. It created pride in our State, rather than shame. Might even help the trash that is part of the homelessness issue. Pride can do all sorts of wonderful things in a Community.
- Fisher Road **sidewalks**
- Repair broken **sidewalks**, and definitely add more to areas that need them. **Hrubetz Road** in the Faye Wright neighborhood needs sidewalks, especially with a new apartment building being added at the intersection of Liberty.
- Pedestrian Safety Enhancement: Add **sidewalks** as appropriate on busy streets in residential areas, along with **pedestrian-activated warning lights** (similar to the pedestrian crossing of Commercial St at the entrance to the City Hall complex. Requires survey of neighborhoods and input from neighborhood associations.
- Tree and Sidewalk Renovation: Identify City-owned trees impacting sidewalks throughout the city. Remove trees that have damaged **sidewalks**, replace the sidewalk sections, and replant with more appropriate trees.
- **Sidewalks** on Fisher Road NE from Sunnyview Road NE to Ward Drive NE
- **Sidewalks** on Commercial St SE at 12th St SE cutoff
- Replacement of **sidewalks** in NEN that are safety hazards. An enormous number of the sidewalks are old, cracked, spalled and heaved up by tree roots. Many photos were sent to "Dispatch" and the locations were examined and documented by city staff. I realize that the bond money for sidewalks will be spread over the city and I'm sure that other older neighborhoods have sidewalk issues also. I

do hope that the money isn't spent only on new sidewalks but would be split between new and replacement sidewalks. i would like to see a committee of residents work with the city to set up criteria for use of the funds just as the streetlight committee worked with Kevin Hottmann to prioritize where streetlights would be located.

- Creating a sidewalk on **Madrona** between 16th St and Croisan Creek Rd.

IMPROVE MAJOR ROADS

- **Sunnyside road se widening** from Kuebler to creekside **Hawthorne** from market to sunnyview
- **McGilchrist SE** improvements, including curb, gutter, storm sewers, and sidewalks. **Pringle Rd SE** from Hoyt St. to Battle Creek Rd, including replacing the deep ditches w/ storm sewers, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. Battle Creek Rd from Pringle Rd SE to Kuebler Blvd, including replacing ditches w/t storm sewers, curbs, gutters and sidewalks.
- **widening Cordon road** (similar to Parkway)
- Bring **Salem Heights Avenue** South up to collector street standard, based on recommendations from the City's Salem Heights Avenue South Street Refinement Plan.

BIKE FACILITIES & LANES

- Improve network connection with **Church Street/High Street buffered bike lanes** for bicycle trips between downtown and South Central Neighborhood.
 - Curb ramp from bottom of soap box derby track to parking lot in bush park would allow for continuous rolling.
 - At High/Trade, people riding bikes have to merge with cars in the intersection to continue south. Continue bike lane to Mill St. to move conflict out of the intersection. This would connect to the path that wraps behind SAIF to Church Street. If not enough space due to parking, people can easily park in Pringle Parkade.
 - Install 2-stage turn boxes to allow for left turns off of buffered bike lanes, especially at State Street now that it is 2-way. Install RRFB crossing at Liberty and Leslie to connect library with neighborhoods to south (e.g. if people can walk to Bush Park, they can continue and cross to the library. Complete path along Pringle Creek to connect Pringle Park/Bush Park with Riverfront Park. Or finish biking connection thru downtown to Riverfront Park designed for people age 8 to 80.
- **Bike lanes** on major thoroughfares need to be protected by curbs rather than by white lines only. I use my electric bike for pleasure riding and would also use it for running errands if it was safer. Other cities have done this and it has reduced accidents as well as increasing the number of people using bikes rather than cars for local errands
- **Bike facilities** (both separated paths and parking/charging locations)
- Increased accessibility for **bicycling downtown**. Replace existing angle parking with metered parallel parking would generate revenue and free up space on roadways to build bike lanes. It is part due that Salem expand its bike infrastructure, and downtown is a good place to start.

SAFETY: REDUCE SPEEDS, ADD SIGNAL, RAIL CROSSINGS

- **Street bumps on Stortz Av.** A petition where those living in this street signed 100% asking for speed bumps . Too many accidents from those driving too fast and using this street as a short cut from Portland Rd to Silverton Rd . Seem like streets all around us have them expect us . A survey was done by the city and their final conclusion was that we do need them . The board of Northgate association agree and support it .

- **D Street:** Reduce speed to 25 MPH on D Street between Hawthorne and 5th Street and add and repair sidewalks. There are FOUR schools on D with many low-income students walking, no bike lanes or room for bikes, no sidewalks on the south side in sections or sidewalks in poor condition, and some sidewalks in poor condition on the north side. **Market Street "Road Diet"** between Park and Summer : Two lanes plus a center turn lane and bike lanes or buffers between the lanes and the sidewalk. I know -- a huge project. Traffic calming with bump outs and/or speed humps on 23rd between D and Market. (I know, it's a collector and therefore "can't have speed humps", but other towns manage to put troughs in the humps the width of fire engine tires so that it works! Photo-speed ticketing cameras anywhere and everywhere.
- We need the **signal** at Ratcliff SE and Commercial SE
- For infrastructure, spending would definitely be appropriate on **street and bridge repairs** throughout the city. Starting perhaps in the lower income areas since they appear to be last on the order sheet.
- Upgrade the **rail crossings** on the Highland rail line so train horns are not required and people can sleep.
- Seismically upgrade and/or **rebuild essential bridges** throughout the city. Build **sidewalks** where they do not exist - especially in neighborhoods where children play. Invest in a sustainable future with **studies for another crossing** over the Willamette River. Create a safe environment on **Front Street** similar to the 12th Street promenade.
- Add additional safety cross walks to **Lancaster Dr** and other main streets (**Brown Rd NE**).

Salem River Crossing

- Additional West Salem Bridge
- Bridge from east to west Salem needs repair work.
- Another vehicle bridge is needed between West Salem and Salem. We cannot continue to build multifamily housing in West Salem without the appropriate infrastructure.
- Third bridge for West Salem, please!!
- Another bridge to W Salem
- We need to stop routing a state highway on a City street, especially in this congested area. In West Salem, we lack interchanges for the state highway system. We need a system interchange for OR22 and OR221. The third bridge at Hope Street is the solution. One of my concerns with the proposed Marine Drive at grade would cause a significant impact on Wallace Marine Park. It would increase the noise level from traffic and would bring more conflicts with pedestrians and bicycles that could lead to an increase in crashes. I understand the need for a solution to the congestion, but it should not damage the small recreational use areas we have in West Salem. To minimize impact, Marine drive should be a separate grade highway that goes from OR22 to a new full interchange at Hope that connects Third Bridge and the OR221 West Salem Bypass. It is essential to move regional traffic away from Wallace Road. I often commute to work on a bicycle. Currently, we lack an adequate connection from Edgewater to the Union Bridge crossing. Adding another on grade street would make it more difficult and less desirable to use this facility. With the loss of Recreational Areas, we should begin thinking of replacement options for other Riverfront property such as the one in the West end of Edgewater next to OR22(on the riverside), where we could build a park to replace the impacted areas at Wallace Marine Park and connect the two with an Edgewater multi-use path and Salem to Rickreall multi-use path. We need to maintain the quality of our green areas and replace the loss of regions with the same quality or better.

- Commuter bridge from West Salem to Keizer. We aren't NY, we do not need an expressway. With new unity housing West Salem is over crowded with 1 old Bridge. One bridge puts West Salem residents in danger, drives home prices down, food, products and fuel prices up..one way in one way out off extreme hi traffic Wallace Rd. Time council figure it out, and realize over crowding ruins this city, and safety comes first.

General Transportation Improvement Ideas

- There is a need to create a more resilient city in the face of the coming impacts of Climate Chaos. I would like to see more projects looking at **capturing rain water and run off and treating/storing this water**. The goal of these types of projects would be to reduce the chance of flooding during the wet season and provide gray water for use during the dry season.
- 1.As housing density increases, but parking requirements are reduced, the city should provide area **"park and ride" facilities** for vehicle overflow. Many complexes exist on designated no-parking streets, so residents leave their cars on neighboring streets or along unimproved sidewalk shoulders (River Rd South for example, near Schurman Dr). It's a safety concern for pedestrians, bikes and drivers alike. No matter how much we want to reduce car travel, our climate and public transit services do not sync with those planning goals. 2.Coordinate with neighboring communities to also establish *Park and Ride lots* for commuters (and ultimately public transit). The traffic impacts and road maintenance from "bedroom communities" such as Independence and Aumsville is a notable burden on Salem, so reduced numbers bodes well for us financially. 3.**Sidewalks** or at least paved and designated shoulders are a must for safe pedestrian and bike use on the many busy but long neglected streets all over Salem.
- The roads in Salem are really bad. So many patches on top of patches.
- There is a need to create a more resilient city in the face of the coming impacts of Climate Chaos. I would like to see more projects looking at capturing rain water and run off and treating/storing this water. The goal of these types of projects would be to reduce the chance of flooding during the wet season and provide gray water for use during the dry season.
- Add and improve bike lanes, sidewalks, and park trails throughout the City. Rather than continuous separation of residential and commercial, add mixed use developments (shops combined with residential, parks, and recreational spaces in communities to encourage walkability (work, play, live).
- I wonder how you can "consider" additional or other projects under the available funds instead of using this time to comply with Federal and State laws concerning accessibility. There are countless intersections, crosswalks, and sidewalks that are not passable to persons with mobility issues. ODOT is in the middle of a 1-Billion dollar ADA settlement to update the crosswalks and curb ramps along all highways in the state. There are over 25,000 ramps that need remediation under that program. How many does the City of Salem have? How much will it cost? How can you justify spending the funds on anything else before meeting compliance with the law? This work will trigger street paving and signal improvements which are also on your list of potential projects.
- Something that wouldn't cost much money and would be extremely useful in planning and transparency is generating a public-facing GIS layer of all the sidewalks in the city with an estimate time of last maintenance/ installation and condition. High schoolers and neighborhood associations could help with this inventory using apps like Survey 123. Then the City could easily and fairly prioritize maintenance in areas with high tree root damage, oldest and most corroded, and areas with the lowest income. I would caution against building too many roads and making any roads wider (more dangerous for pedestrians and bikers). Please consider adding roundabouts and other

traffic-calming devices. A simple way to try speed bumps out is to buy ten or so temporary (rubber/plastic) speed bumps and divi them up between neighborhood associations to try in various locations. Then permanent ones could be installed in successful spots.

- There is difficulty in identifying some of the main throughfares in Salem. Throughfares with two or more lanes going Northbound and Southbound do not have enough identification markers, especially at the lighted intersections. It is really easy to get lost in some of the back roads. Why are the new sidewalks so narrow? They are supposed to be ADA compliant. Currently, there is not enough room for a wheelchair traveling in one direction and pedestrians (joggers) and or bicyclist traveling in the opposing direction.
- Electric vehicle charging infrastructure for residents without off street parking or in apartments etc.
- Have more brightly Lighting on streets.
- Repair street and stormwater drainage on **200 block of Luther Street South** between Saginaw and Fir Streets.
 - This section of Luther Street is heavily damaged due to “weep” drain method for managing stormwater on Fairmount Hill. The entire street is cracked with water coming through the concrete cracks at multiple places that run nearly the entire block. Erosion by the water is extensive under the concrete as well. The erosion has continued to grow and now the impacts residential private property (driveways, curbs, water meters, paved areas and sidewalks) and could soon impact the foundations of homes. I have reported this issue multiple times over the last tens years. It has continued to get worse, while the City response, if any, has been a bandaid approach to major problem. At this rate I will soon need to re-do my driveway and walkway to front door (I live at 260 Luther St. S.). My worry is if I do this work without the source of problem being corrected, the problem will come back, and this expensive home improvement will need to repaired or soon done again. The homes on this block are all single-family residence, owner occupied each lot pays property taxes along with city fees for sewage and stormwater. Due to the City’s inadequate stormwater system, the effected properties are 5 homes on the south-side of the street. It would be great to make this priority project for the Street Maintenance and Stormwater departments in of Public Works. I hope to hear from you soon.

Parks Improvements Project Ideas

- I live in the Highland area. It could really use a **dog park**, maybe some additional **pickleball courts** and **BBall courts**. There are several abandoned and marked properties the city could purchase in the heart of Highland. There are a lot of dogs in this community, particularly after Covid. People are always out walking them, and dogs need to do their thing. It's causing some contention as sometimes folks don't clean up. But if we had a dog park, dog owners could go there, meet up, create a sense of community. I know this because I used to live in Portland right across from Normandale Park - which had a dog area. It's a draw for folks who then stand there drinking their coffee and talk to each other.
- this may seem very trivial, but **public tennis courts** need to have a backboard so people can play and work on their strokes without a tennis partner. The only place I have found is the backboard at the Mental Health Museum, which is starting to fall down. I am not aware of another one in Salem. I would like to see those two courts re-surfaced, and the backboard repaired. Its a very nice frisbee park and a plus for that neighborhood. I am willing to help

- I would like to see **smaller, neighborhood parks** be invested in beyond basic upkeep. Parks with courts, playgrounds, etc. need reinvestment to keep them modern and usable.
- Repairing or upgrading **restrooms in neighborhood parks**. Upgrading **play structures** at neighborhood parks. Installing splash pads in parks.
- 1. We have several unique and enviable opportunities to establish **greenbelt and wildlife corridors**. Salem's variety of waterways and wetlands should be connected to forested and grass lands whenever possible. Unstable slopes not suitable for housing, lands bordering rail or other easements (BPA) or property adjacent to county parks would be key acquisitions for such corridors. Creating and connecting trails would diversify our existing park systems. 2. Designated pedestrian only trails in our larger parks. It has become difficult to take a walk on an unpaved path without frequently stepping aside for (trail) bike riders. 3. Purchase bikes for park ranger and police patrols in our parks.
- The new **Geer Park expansion** of a Baseball/ Softball field with Soccer use. I highly recommend and would make it a priority to make this a Field Turf field for all seasons! Every major city in Oregon has one or a complex with multiple fields. We could play year round on this type of field without doing any damage to the field. We get up to 40 inches of rain per year, it only makes sense to have a place to play baseball/softball year round. I would also recommend that you put in lights to play at night for the maximum use of the fields. All the local high school baseball/softball fields will use this when the weather is not great in February, March, and April. Currently they are having to use the High School Football field to get any field work done. We do have several surrounding school districts that have field turf. Central, Stayton, Scio, etc. Let's step up Salem!!
- The City should consider purchasing and maintaining the Lakewood Park Homeowners Association common grounds from the association. This is located between Genie St and Shannon Ave. The cost of maintenance is burdensome for homeowners, and the care and use of the park would be better maintained by the city. The park currently hosts a tennis court, recreation building, and softball/baseball field. This would open the park a rapidly developing South Salem community.
- More **water access**, not next to a freeway, under a bridge or overrun by homeless people.
- Purchase and **restore floodplain land and put walking paths** where it is safe to do so. This will help reduce climate change hazards while storing carbon in wet soils and shading the waterways with increased tree canopy. Imagine how beautiful it would be from the air to see all our streams buffered in green.
- The **Woodmansee Park** Master Plan was recently completed. It's a heavily used community park that needs trail repairs, damaged tree limbs removed, and other work. This may not be a candidate for the funding, but since it's an especially popular park, it certainly could use some new equipment, tennis/multi use court, and basketball court.
- A **roller skate rink** indoor or outdoor A large fenced **dog park** in West Salem A build it play ground where kids can use hammers and be a little more creative and dangerous. An Art park that changes every few month with interactive pieces to climb, go under, or look at from different angles.
- **Skatepark** areas in our city parks.
- Obtain parkland in underserved locations instead of investing in adding facilities to existing parks.
- Build more **soft-surface running trails and upgrade several existing trails**. Salem is an active city, but there are limited network of running trails, especially in comparison to neighboring cities like Corvallis, Eugene and Portland. There are many locations where informal running trails currently exist in **Minto-Brown Island Park, Wallace Marine Park**, and other well-used public places. In many locations, a simple trail of bark mulch or packed gravel would be more than enough would encourage physical activity in these outdoor spaces. In other places where trails do exist, such as Bush Park or Fairmount Park, maintenance is at an undesirable level, leading the trails to be rendered much more difficult to use with high traffic and/or inclement weather. Additionally, there

are no public tracks within the city limits. This discourages exercise by the public and encourages illegal trespass in order to use private tracks at schools across the city. The city of Salem should seek to build a 24-7 track venue that is relatively centrally located and welcoming.

- Entertainment center, like "Big Al's" in Beaverton. An indoor recreation/entertainment area to bowl, play billiards, ping pong, board games, watch sports have an auditorium for neighborhood committees/guest speakers.
- We need a field turf facility for Softball/Baseball/Soccer that our community can play on year round with Lights. We are the only major city in Oregon that doesn't have this available to the public. It is time to step up as a community and fund a field turf Baseball/Softball/Soccer complex. Re-Due Geer Park would be ideal and you will get our community to exercise outside year round and host multiple type tournaments that will help fund our city and fields. All of the high schools would be able to have access for their sports when they cannot participate on their own fields!

Other park improvement ideas

- Hire arborists to prune the trees in parks and downtown. Dead trees are unsightly and dangerous. Get in touch with the "Solve" group and organize clean ups, planting and restoration projects. They have them all the time in Portland and at the Coast but almost never in Salem.
- We need a food pavilion at Minto Brown Park. Someplace for drive thru food carts and farmers market. Music and art....and flowers. What a wonderful place it would be! And it would make the park much safer than it currently is.

Housing and Sheltering Project Ideas

- **Affordable housing** Complexes for homeless families, men and women (all in one service facilities with support for health, counseling, career, finance, etc.) - one year program to move from streets to affordable housing complex to own sustainable housing
- Salem needs more **Affordable Housing** projects. The wait list for Section 8 housing is very long and the need is great. Homelessness is Salem's greatest problem, and housing is a large part of the solution.
- **Temporary Housing** for Homeless: Purchase appropriate properties in wards that have not been able to identify vacant property appropriate for siting a "tiny house" camp, and complete appropriate preparations such as leveling and graveling.
- Often, Salem Police and other public servants do not know where to take the unmanageable homeless people who have a need to be outdoors and who refuse any shelters available for them. We could designate a certain roofed and concrete floored vast area with showers/restroom stalls a bit away from the main and expensive part of Salem, yet close enough to travel via free bus pass to their agents. Also, we should build a **24/7 open treatment center** for the addicted and the mentally ill.
- Construction development for sustainable and **subsidized housing** targeted at our most vulnerable populations please.
- **Shelter** is needed for the homeless. However, required substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling and medication management/compliance should accompany the housing to increase the odds of lasting success.
- Keep them moving along and away from here
- I feel like there is some serious lack of **public housing** in west Salem, and I feel like there should be apartments developed next to the schools for families using vouchers to live in

- Salem needs to provide **more permanent housing solutions** so the homeless do not need to keep moving from place to place. Small houses seem to work in a managed site Also the City needs a mental and drug addiction treatment facility
- I would like to see **more hotels/motels turned into short term housing**. It's probably the easiest and most accessible way to provide short term housing to help transition persons experiencing homelessness to more permanent housing. Also, places for camping, cars, or RVs would be a great short term solution for housing. Despite the failure with the West Salem location, more places throughout Salem that would allow people to safely survive/live would be great. A managed site in any part of the city would be great.
- Buy existing apartments and operate them in a stable way for long term residents
- Train competent houseless in counseling and resource attainment. Also give them support to train their houseless peers. Also train them as support for mental distress and give them basic medication education and support to be the on the ground force toward uplifting and sustaining the highest percentage of the local houseless population possible. If we build each other up, and continue to support those who are able to build each other up, then support those unable to support themselves through peer education and experience, we can fix as much of the houseless crisis as possible. I liked the tiny houses idea, but I seem to remember that being shot down by communities not wanting them in their area. I say clean up and repurpose the recreational areas and empty lots the houseless are already congregating in. Additionally, find jobs within the City of Salem community (IE: trash collection/tiny house building) that will extend beyond the symptoms of houselessness and lead to betterment across the entire human wellbeing spectrum. Thanks for the opportunity to voice these thoughts/opinions.
- -make wallcr a a controlled campsite -make affordable housing for people with dogs that weigh over 40 lb or more specifically for pitbulls because there's like literally almost no places in Salem Oregon especially places that are affordable that people with dogs like those can go to and there's a lot of people with pitbulls out here in Salem OR in the homeless community in general and that's one major hurdle people in the homeless Community ends up going through is it comes down to the point where you either like in department or you lose your job which nobody should have to do is specially when they're actually taken care of and not neglected at all
- Buy single family housing from tax foreclosure and create a land trust model for affordable housing.

Other Project Ideas/Comments

Branch Libraries

- We need more **branch libraries** to equitably serve underserved areas of Salem. City policies have supported the idea of more branches for years; this is our opportunity to act! Library branches on the bond measure would help passage of the bond.
- I would like to see bond money used to establish one or two branch libraries.
- I would like to propose that the city support two branch libraries in underserved areas. As Salem Oregon's population approaches 200,000, the need for library services will grow. Please!
- Since the City is unable to provide branch libraries, funds should be provided to purchase a new vehicle for outreach. A bookmobile would be a versatile and low cost alternative to the construction or acquisition of buildings. It would provide library access at the neighborhood level.
- Salem needs at least one more branch of the library in the northeast area of town. This area has few library resources. If an equity lens is being used then this northeast area does not have the resources that other higher income neighborhoods have.

- Open up libraries for use. Residents need to show their local library cards to enter. No homeless squatters allowed inside.

Pools or Water Park

- City pools or a small water park would be really nice. Not everyone has access to the YMCA, Kroc center, or private gyms, and they are so overcrowded. We once visited a city that had a water ramp (a very wide slanted wall with continual water flow) that people could slide down into a gradually inclined pool. The same park also had a long zip line that zipped down a strip of sand (like a sand volleyball court). It would be great to have more recreation for pre-teen/teens, like the bike park in Geer Park, especially with the rise in childhood obesity and gaming addiction among our young people. My children will be in that age category in about 2-3 years, and I would consider it a great investment.
- Public swimming pool (or takeover courthouse and make it more accessible).

Comments on the Proposed Bond Measure

- Prioritize replacement of first responder equipment for both fire and police. Considering the need level, the increase in incidents and the level of incidents from things like natural disasters, first responders need the latest best equipment, including transportation.
- The **Edgewater Park Connection** I frequent the city's parks for recreational and leisure activities. As a Salem resident; the park systems is one of the prides of Salem. I'm excited we completed the pedestrian bridge connection to Minto-Brown Island Park. The new bridge has made it more accessible for pedestrians and bicyclists. I noticed the increased use of the Riverfront Park, and it was great to have an area to spend outdoors. The city of Salem has the opportunity to add another green area to the riverfront park system for its residents. Approaching the state capital from the west; a sizable piece of land used for construction debris exist on the riverside of the highway (OR22). This land is part of the old railroad alignment which is visible on Edgewater Street. As a West Salem resident I been concern for some time about water runoff from the site draining directly to the Willamette River and safety concerns with the many camps site established on that property. A riverfront park on Edgewater Street would be a great improvement to the area. The city of Salem should change the zoning and extend the West Salem Urban Renewal Area to include this site for recreational use. Question: Has the city ever consider building a pedestrian bridge across the Willamette River from Minto-Brown Island Park to connect with the multi-use path on OR22 that will give a direct connection to Polk County and West Salem Residence to the park? The Edgewater Park could serve as the landing for a the pedestrian bridge across the Willamette River to Minto Island Park and provide a variety of amenities to the park users. The planing for Peter Courtney Minto Island Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge took decades to become a reality. We need to begin planning now for the missing bridge that will connect West Salem to Minto Island Park. Minto-Brown Park and Riverfront Park have limited number of vehicle parking space. The Edgewater Park on the other side of the river could provide more parking space and restrooms while minimizing the impacts to the parks and provide access to the park and ride at Edgewater. The property has great access on the west and east with two existing underpasses. The old railroad track can be established as a trail to the park and a connection to the multi-use path that would connect many communities along OR22 all the way to City of Monmouth. I understand how complicated a pedestrian bridge across the river, but it would increase the access to park for the community,

promote a healthier living, connect west Salem communities, add a safe route to commute, and make Salem a more attractive city to live in. I'm anticipating that the funding could be a combination of local, state and federal. With the goals to increase of pedestrian and multi-modal transportation the federal and state has increase funding allocated for this type of project which the city could apply for that funding. If the new downtown bicycle and pedestrian bridge is a success, I am sure the city will have the support of the residence to build the missing bridge connection that would complete the circle. I understand this will be no easy task to take on. Still, this endeavor will demonstrate the city's commitment towards its residents to provide pedestrian facilities that promote health, intermodal transportation, recreational areas and revitalize the community. It would be great if this feature could be added to the master plan as a long range goal.

- Develop a city-wide program to have multiple "Neighborhood Watch" organization. Helps deter crime, neighbors share with each other, and if a disaster occurred (flooding from tsunami, wildfires, earthquakes) we would know an evacuation plan or how to offer help to the elderly neighbors or homes that have pets/animals.