

AGENDA ADDENDUM



INFRASTRUCTURE BOND ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

DATE: FRIDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2022

TIME: 1:00 PM

CHAIRPERSON: Mayor Bennett

PLACE: Virtual Online Meeting

STAFF LIASIONS:

Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer

503•588•6130

jeggleston@cityofsalem.net

Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives Mgr.

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cbusch@cityofsalem.net

AGENDA ADDENDUM

3. Public Comment

- a. Correspondence from Jim Schepcke
- b. Correspondence from Ashley Carson Cottingham

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [Bond 2022](#)
Subject: Petition to Include Two Branch Libraries in the Bond Measure
Date: Monday, February 14, 2022 12:06:44 PM

Dear Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee:



There are thousands of children growing up in Northeast and South/Southeast Salem that live 5-7 miles from our main library, and as a result do not use the library. Libraries need to be convenient to families if they are going to be well-used.

Salem only has one branch library in West Salem. Children growing up in Portland have access to 15 branch libraries, one within a mile or two of nearly everyone. Families and seniors and others can easily and conveniently travel to a branch library without having to make a special trip. The average U.S. city the size of Salem has five branch libraries.

A former U.S. Secretary of Education once said: "If a child arrives at kindergarten having never held a book, there is probably nothing the schools can do for that child." Decades of research has shown that access to books and reading programs for children, especially pre-school children, are essential for their future success in school.

There is evidence that the lack of branch libraries in Salem is harming our children.

Only a little over a third of Salem-Keizer students (37%) are able to pass the 3rd grade reading test! This is a full 10% less than the state average. In Portland 55% of third graders are able to pass the 3rd grade reading test. There may be several reasons why our students perform so poorly, but one of the reasons is certainly the lack of branch libraries in Salem.

Our City Council has recently committed themselves to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. That being the case, they must consider the fact that the two library facilities that we have in Salem are proximate to two of the most affluent and least diverse parts of the city. Yes, branch libraries are an equity issue.

The Salem City Council must give strong consideration to inclusion of two branch libraries in the bond measure package they are planning to put before voters this November. The bond measure is designed not to raise taxes. Voters need to have the opportunity to provide our children with the branch libraries they have long deserved.

We, the undersigned Salem residents, call upon the Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee to accept the recommendation of the Salem Public Library Advisory Board to include two branch libraries, in Northeast and South/Southeast Salem in the November 2022 bond measure.

Alden Thompson
Alice LaViolette
Alison Kaiser
Amber Kehoe
Amy Hiatt
Andrea Heywood
Andrea Lind
Ann Scheppke
Ashley Carson Cottingham
Beth Anne Huffine
Beth Cooley
Brian Hines
Carol Goldfarb
Carol Voeller
Cathy Howell
Chastitie Angel
Chelsea Bradley
Christian Duren
Christine Acosta
Christy Peterson
Crystal Rickman
Cynthia Robinson
David Lewis
Deb Patterson
Debbie Miller
Debi Rocco
Dee Buckley
Denise Duren
Dustin Ryan
Edith Buchanan

Elizabeth Henderson
Erin Good
Esther Friedman
Gabriela Perez-Mendoza
Gail McEwen
Gary Olsen-Hasek
Gerald Turner
Gus Frederick
Heather Hupp
Hollie Oakes-Miller
Howard Elwood
Isabelle Scottlind
Jane Scheppke
Jeanne Stewart
Jim Scheppke
Jo & Jim Hockenhill
John Whitfield
Jonathan Scott
Judy Rankin
Justin Castillo
Kaltwasser Susann
Kat Daniel
Katherine Daniels
Katherine Wallig
Kerri Cope
Kerri McGuigan
Kirbey Geissler
Kristen Klay
Kyle Elwood
LaLainya Kruger
Lana Gerber
Lea Spencer
Les Margosian
Linda Lockwood
Linda Snyder
Lisa Novak
Lois Stark
Loreen Wells
Lori Cole
Lorie Fontaine
Louise Meyers
Margaret Stephens
Maria Young
Mark Knecht
Matt Swain

Mcrae Carmichael
Melissa Gomez
Melissa Montigny
Michael Broderick
Michael Kelly
Michael Slater
Michelle Wardrip
Nadene LeCheminant
Nancy Ingham
Navneet Kaur
Nikki Paxton
Norine Ask
Ortwin Knorr
Pamela Ruona
Renee Jackson
Sage Aylon
Samantha McMahon
Sandra Oliver-Poore
Sarah Deumling
Sarah Rohrs
Scott Mainwaring
Sean Nikas
Shaundi W.
Shelaswau Crier
Shelby Koning
Sherri Lewis
Stephanie Madison
Steve Rosen
Susan Buckley
Tamra Hart
Teresa Joslin
Terry Sawyer
Thomas Krise
Tom McConathy
Tracy Powell
Virginia Green
Wesley Jolley

Jim Scheppke
jscheppke@comcast.net
503-269-1559

From: [Jim Scheppke](#)
To: [Bond 2022](#)
Subject: Washington Post Editorial
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:40:06 PM

Dear Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee:

I hope before your Friday meeting you will read this recent editorial in the *Washington Post*: “The Golden Age of Public Libraries Dawns Again” that describes all the wonderful new public libraries, including branch libraries, that are opening all over the U.S. and the world ...

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/01/01/public-libraries-golden-age/?fbclid=IwAR0v4rsZcYk6g1OP2XsNDpq5O41XTCRfbWZ5TnLabWCaWW32u7Uh5p3v284>

Takeaway quote: “Libraries are the heart of communities ... Communities that invest in libraries are well-prepared for whatever the next chapter brings.”

Jim

Jim Scheppke
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503-269-1559

For the Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee Meeting of: February 18, 2022
Agenda Addendum Item No.: 3.b.

From: [Ashley Carson Cottingham](#)
To: [Bond 2022](#)
Subject: Public comment - Bond Engagement Steering Committee
Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 10:00:14 AM

February 17, 2022

Dear Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee –

I'm writing today to ask you to support the Salem Public Library Advisory Committee's recommendation that two new branch libraries be included in the bond measure. The average city that is the size of Salem has five branch libraries.

We need branch libraries so that all children in our community grow up with libraries close by. Research shows that access to libraries is key in the preschool years and helps to set the foundation for student success.

We know that 88% of students who do not graduate from high school were struggling readers in the third grade. Public library resources start at birth when books and a first library card can be delivered to households with a new baby. Story time for infants and toddlers can lay the foundation needed to make reading and library visits a habit.

Our libraries currently sit in affluent areas and aren't accessible to the entire city. To truly achieve equity in Salem we must add branch libraries.

Thank you,
Ashley Carson Cottingham, Vice-Chair, Salem-Keizer School Board