

# MINUTES

**Downtown Advisory Board**  
Thursday, June 27, 2019–12:00 P.M.  
Urban Development Conference Room  
350 Commercial St NE

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** 12:00 PM

**Roll Call:** Hillary Banks; Brad Compton; Vincenzo Meduri; Scott McLeod; Laurie Miller; Maria Palacio; Aaron Terpening; Dana Vugteveen

**Absent:** Ed Whipple

**Staff:** Kristin Retherford, Anita Sandoval; Sheri Wahrgren; Rebecca Ziegler; Julie Warncke

**Guests:**

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** Move to approve the agenda for June 27, 2019, amended to add “What’s Happening?” under #6

**Motion by:** Board Member Vugteveen

**Seconded by:** Board Member Palacio

**Action:** Approved the agenda for June 27, 2019, as amended.

**Vote:** Aye: Unanimous **Motion PASSES**

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**Motion:** Move to approve the Minutes from May 23, 2019, as presented.

**Motion by:** Board Member Vugteveen

**Seconded by:** Board Member Palacio

**Action:** Approved the Minutes from May 23, 2019; as presented.

**Vote:** Aye: Unanimous **Motion PASSES**

## 4. PUBLIC COMMENT on items not on the agenda –

a. none

## 5. ACTION ITEMS –

### a. Approval of September 16, 2019, for the DAB Public Meeting

**Motion:** Recommend September 16, 2019, for the Downtown Public Meeting

**Motion by:** Board Member Vugteveen

**Seconded by:** Board Member Meduri

Comments/Questions:

**Action:** Approve recommendation of September 16, 2019, for the Downtown Public Meeting

**Vote:** Aye: Unanimous **Motion PASSES**

### b. Cancellation of July 25, 2019, DAB Meeting

**Motion:** Recommend canceling the July 25, 2019, DAB meeting

**Motion by:** Board Member Vugteveen

**Seconded by:** Board Member Meduri

Comments/Questions:

**Action:** Approved canceling the July 25, 2019, DAB meeting

**Vote:** Aye: Unanimous **Motion PASSES**

## 6. INFORMATION REPORTS

### a. Update on Front Street Traffic Congestion – Julie Warncke

*PowerPoint presentation: Congestion relief Task Force*

Julie Warncke, Public Works, presented an update on Front Street Traffic Congestion

Comments/Questions: McLeod, Meduri, Terpening, Banks, Wahrgren, Palacio, Compton

**Motion:** DAB does not recommend closing the north crosswalk at Court and Front

**Motion by:** Board Member Vugteveen

**Seconded by:** Board Member Miller

Comments/Questions:

**Action:** Approved to NOT recommend closing the north crosswalk at Court and Front

**Vote:** No: McLeod, Meduri **Motion PASSES**

**b. Follow-up – DAB Public Meeting – Vincenzo Meduri**

Reviewed planning progress for the meeting on September 16. Preview of agenda will be shared with DAB at the August 22 meeting.

Comments/Questions:

**c. Take away from follow-up from Chamber Discussion**

Plan to invite the Chamber back annually and reach out to keep them advised of large projects.

Comments/Questions: Vugteveen, McLeod, Wahrgren, Terpening

**d. Temporary Mid-Block Landscape Survey Results – Sheri Wahrgren**

67% of respondents voted no. Most were out of town guests frustrated by fewer parking spaces.

Comments/Questions: Vugteveen, Compton, Meduri, Palacio, Miller

**e. “What’s happening?”**

- i. Budget passed on Monday; \$2 parking rate increase in garages was approved.
- ii. Homeless task force work group meetings will be taking place over the next 6 months focusing on implementing Council approved recommendations.
- iii. Nordstrom building was sold.
- iv. The Koz project is ready to pull permits.

**7. ADJOURN - 1:24 p.m. Next Meeting: August 22, 2019**



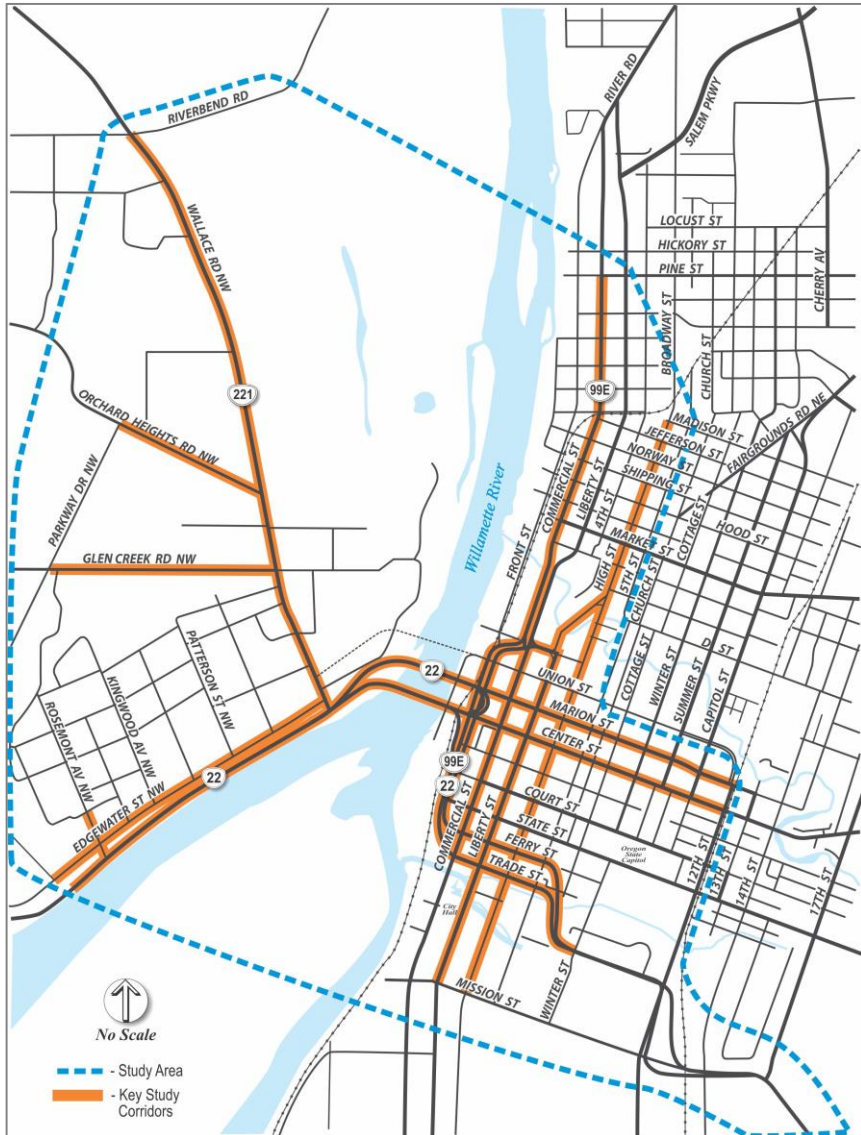
**Presentation to Downtown Advisory Board**  
**June 27, 2019**

# Presentation Overview

- Congestion Relief Task Force Overview
- Recommendations Focused in Downtown
  - Sign Bridge
  - Front at Court Street Crosswalk
  - Downtown Circulator
- Feedback from Downtown Advisory Board to City Council



# Purpose and Outcome



## Problem

Traffic congestion and delays in downtown and west Salem

## Goal

Recommendations to relieve congestion and advise the City on policies and actions

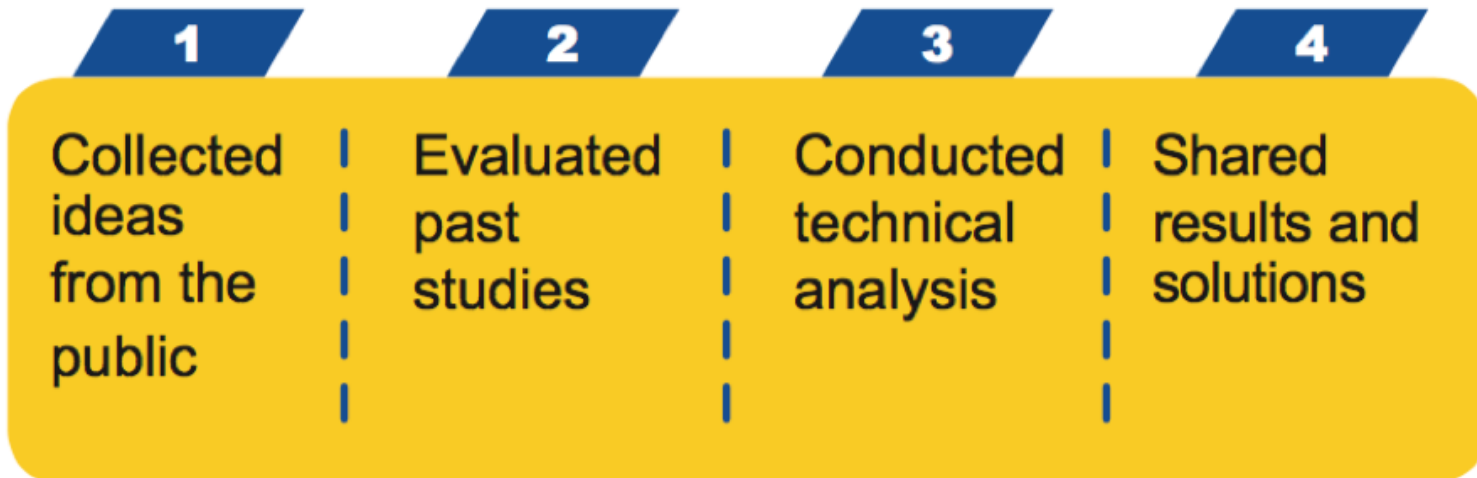
## Outcome

Short term recommendations, long term challenges

-  - Study Area
-  - Key Study Corridors

# Process

- Six meetings: neutral, focused, thorough
- Mayor and 3 City Councilors
- General Public: 1,300 questionnaire responses, open meetings
- Project Consultant: technical analysis and facilitation



# CONGESTION RELIEF TASK FORCE

A Technical Review of Transportation Infrastructure Options

## CONGESTION RELIEF TASK FORCE

A Technical Review of Transportation Infrastructure Options



### The problem today

With traffic levels hampering downtown circulation, and long delays in west Salem, policy makers are evaluating potential transportation infrastructure, programs, and policies.



Commercial St. at Division St. and Front St.



Wallace Rd. at Glen Creek Rd.



Court St. at Front St.

As the population of Salem increases, traffic and congestion will increase.

**+20%**  
GROWTH IN SALEM'S POPULATION  
predicted, 2018 to 2038

➔

**+1% per year**  
AVERAGE GROWTH IN TRAFFIC VOLUME  
predicted, 2018 to 2035\*

20% population increase in the next 20 years

Salem Bridges Traffic Volume  
P.M. COMMUTE



2035:  
10,700  
vehicles  
per hour

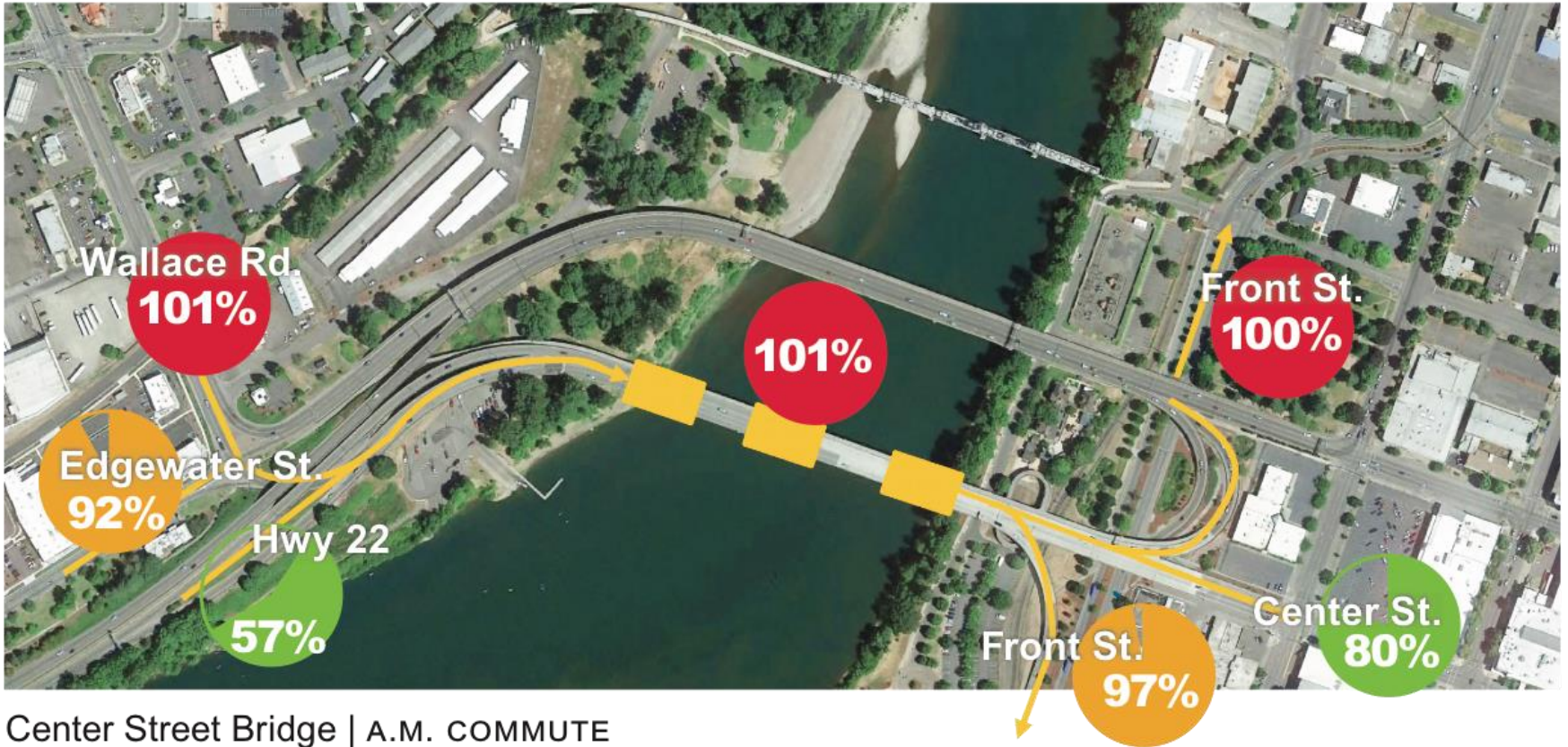
Current:  
9,000  
vehicles  
per hour

Note: 2002-2016 data based on ODOT Traffic Reports  
\*2035 PM peak hour volume based on data from the PSU Traffic Forecast

Composed of the Mayor and three City Councilors, the Salem Congestion Relief Task Force investigated potential ways for the City to relieve congestion and advise the City on policies and actions to improve traffic flow.



## Morning Congestion





# Capacity Concept

## Morning Congestion

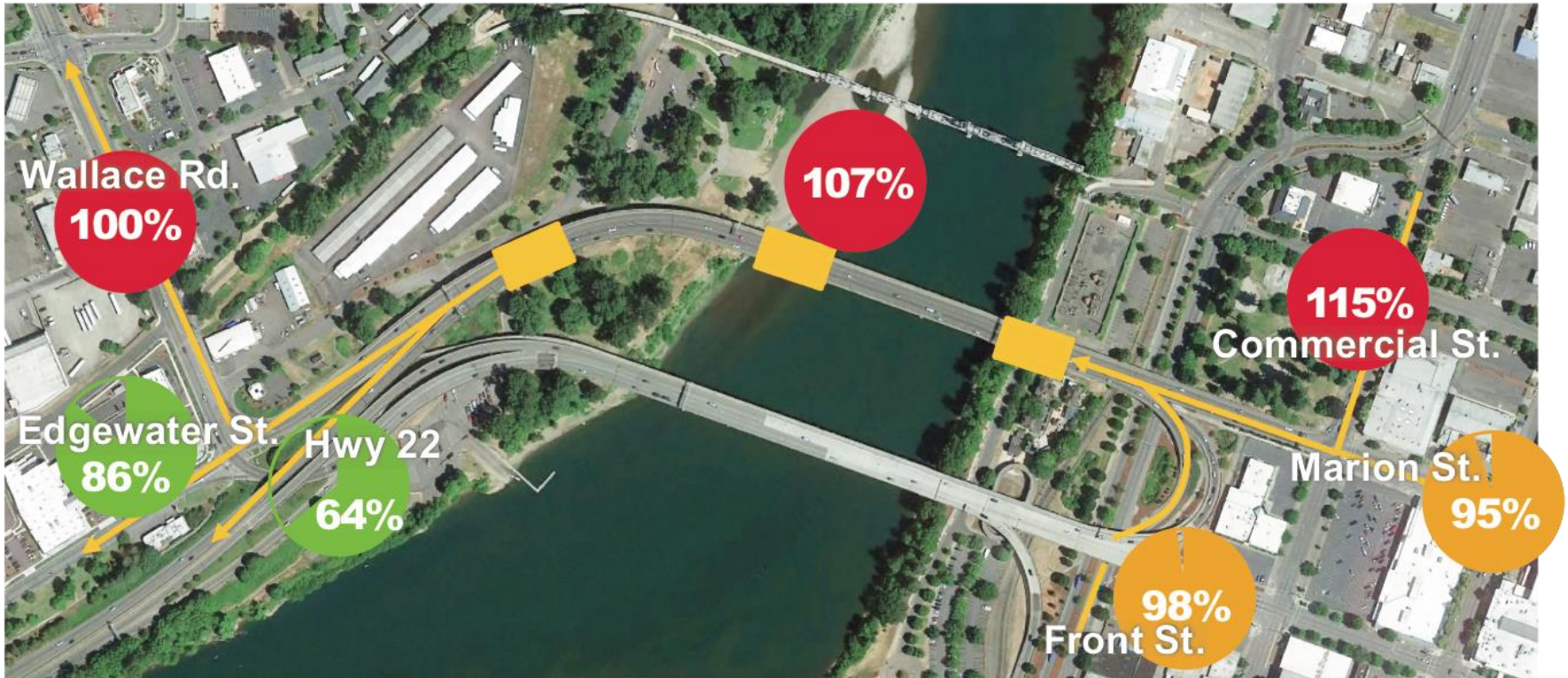


## Morning Congestion



- Fails to meet standards
- At or near standards
- Vehicle queuing (back-ups) during peak traffic hours

## Evening Congestion



Marion Street Bridge | P.M. COMMUTE



# Capacity Concept

## Evening Congestion

Marion St Bridge



## Evening Congestion



- Fails to meet standards
- At or near standards
- Vehicle queuing (back-ups) during peak traffic hours

## Conclusions and Recommendations

- **Congestion** is related to vehicle flows on the bridges
- **Population growth** and the lack of other routes will increase the problem
- **No single project** in the study area will solve the problem
- **Recommendations** for short term actions
- **No consensus** on longer-term options



**Short Term Actions Recommended by the Task Force**



**1. Signal Timing**

increasing pedestrian delays at signalized intersections during peak periods.



**2. Travel time sign**

**3. Commute trip reduction**

**4. Employee incentives**

and carpool.



**5. Improve guide signs**

**6. Construct Marine Drive**

**7. Reduce left turns on Wallace**

**8. Wallace/Taggart turn lanes**

Taggart Dr. approaches. Consider prohibiting left turns during peak congestion periods.

**9. Variable speed limit signs**

**Community dialog on acceptable travel times**



**10. Park and walk/ bike/shuttle**

**11. Downtown parking strategies & bus circulator**

**13. Emergency response**

**14. Close north crosswalk at Front & Court**

**15. Remove barrier on Musgrave to allow vehicles to access park**

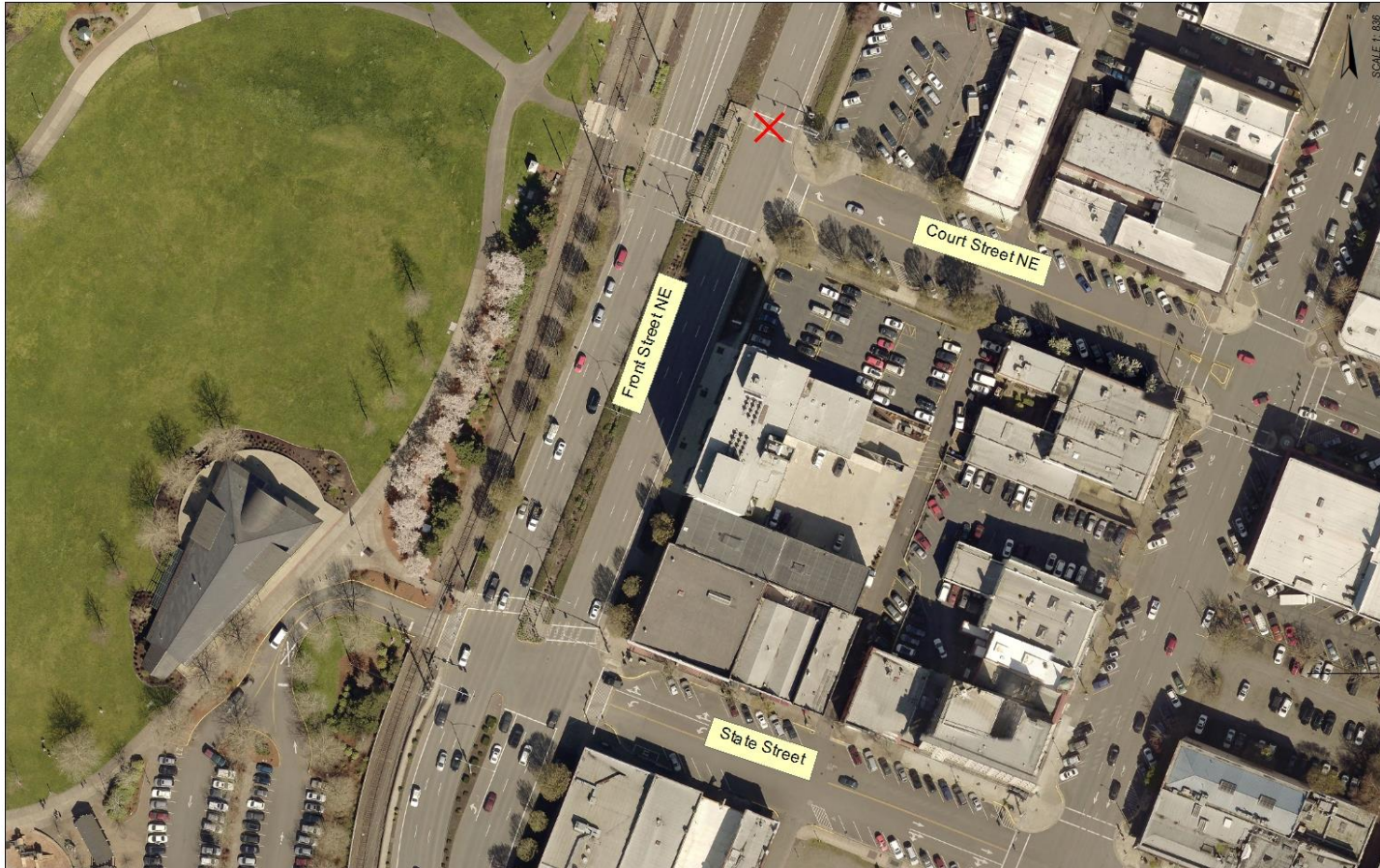


## ■ ODOT Proposed Sign Bridge





■ Front at Court Street



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- Downtown Circulator – Feasibility Study
- Develop Scope & Seek Funding: 2019 – 2020
- If funded, conduct study: 2021 – 2022
- If feasible & funded, budget & prepare: 2023
- Implement: 2024



Questions?

Feedback to City Council?

# CONGESTION RELIEF TASK FORCE

*A Technical Review of Transportation Infrastructure Options*





# CONGESTION RELIEF TASK FORCE

A Technical Review of Transportation Infrastructure Options

## Longer-Term Options

The Task Force evaluated several packages of potential improvements. The most promising packages are described below. The Task Force did not reach consensus and therefore are not recommending these for further study.

### Center Street Bridge Package



#### Summary

- Improves Wallace Rd. and Front St.
- Bottlenecks still exist at both Commercial St./Front St. intersections
- Project Cost: \$100–\$137 million

### Marion Street Bridge Package



#### Summary

- Improves Commercial St., Marion St., and Wallace Rd.
- Weaving (lane-changing) on bridge still occurs, and with five lanes
- No improvements for Front St. on-ramp to bridge
- Project Cost: \$55–\$65 million

## Considerations

- Solution packages are beyond current available revenue.
- Based on the existing analysis, the benefits may not be long lived. Travel times initially could be reduced by as much as 50%, while some areas may not see any reduction. Travel times could return to preconstruction levels within 10 years.
- Making a single improvement, rather than implementing the whole package, could help in the immediate area, but it would either move the problem to a different spot, or fail to relieve overall congestion in the area.