

Shelby Guizar

From: Sadie Carney <sadie.carney@cherriots.org>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2022 4:13 PM
To: Shelby Guizar; Eunice Kim
Cc: Ian Davidson; Allan Pollock
Subject: Letter of Support for Our Salem from Cherriots Board
Attachments: 20220315_Salem Planning Commission_Cherriots Letter_signed.pdf

Good afternoon,

Please find our attached letter of support for the Our Salem project directed to the Planning Commission for their consideration at this evening's meeting of Agenda item 5.1.

Many thanks,
Sadie Carney

March 15, 2022

Salem Planning Commission
555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Our Salem Project

To the Salem Planning Commission,

As the governing board for the public transportation provider for Salem, Keizer, Marion, and Polk counties, the Cherriots Board of Directors wants to express our strong support for the Our Salem Project and proposed Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Revisions shown in the updated Vision Map. We are tremendously grateful for the city staff and community participants who have invested countless hours in bringing this community focused vision to life.

We agree with the adopted Vision Statement for Our Salem: To create a future where Salem is a livable, equitable, carbon neutral city where everyone has access to affordable housing and safe mobility choices, families and local businesses are thriving, diversity and culture is celebrated, and open spaces and the environment are valued and protected.

We also applaud and support the proposed approach to increasing equitable outcomes and climate justice for residents of Salem. Our Salem proposes to address the transportation needs and safety of people of all ages, abilities, races, ethnicities, and incomes, including those who have been historically marginalized or underserved. The transportation investments of the city and MPO should respond to the needs of system users, be context sensitive, and distribute the benefits and impacts of transportation decisions in an equitable manner throughout the Salem Urban Area. Transportation investments made in the past have had negative impacts on low-income populations, communities of color, and other underserved communities. Future investments should seek to correct this injustice.

The City is aligning much of its land use planning around the Cherriots bus system, particularly its Core Network. The Core Network is a network of bus corridors where frequent service is prioritized. The City aims to encourage high-density housing and mixed-use development near the Core Network. The Cherriots Board supports this effort.

The coordination of transportation and land use planning efforts that are included in the goals of Our Salem will ensure infrastructure improvements that support transit-oriented development patterns, greater housing densities, and a sustainable future for Salem.

We also support Our Salem's goal of reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. We are ready to offer our support in pursuit of strategies and investments to reduce travel demand, increase transit ridership and utility, and support nonmotorized transportation to help Salem pursue its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation.

Adoption of Our Salem will support a public transit system that provides convenient, robust, and accessible transit services to residents throughout the Salem Urban Area, particularly in transportation disadvantaged areas. It will also support the development of additional transit stations or hubs outside of downtown Salem to improve access to transit services, reduce the length of transit trips, and make taking transit more convenient. These commitments are aligned with the priorities of the Cherriots Board of Directors.

Finally, the Cherriots Board would like to offer our support for better parking management, a goal that is loosely defined in Our Salem. Excess parking has a significant negative impact on housing costs, business costs, the feasibility of housing development and business redevelopment, walkability, air and water pollution, climate pollution, and general community character. Current parking mandates force people who don't own or use cars to pay indirectly for other people's parking. Carless households tend to be the poorest households. Parking demand varies significantly from development to development, and about one-sixth of Oregon renter households own zero vehicles. Planning practices of the past have imposed a one-size-fits-all requirement everywhere, creating incentives to own more cars and drive more. We propose that the City of Salem take strong action and eliminate parking mandates, allowing developers the flexibility to right-size parking for new development, and allowing businesses to operate in locations with limited parking.

Eliminating parking mandates, and appropriately pricing parking in areas close to the urban core could have the dual outcome of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging trips made by walking, biking, or transit and increasing transit ridership. Both of these outcomes align with numerous future development goals set forth by the state and in the Our Salem proposal.

We encourage the Salem Planning Commission to vote in favor of the proposed Our Salem project.

Thank you for your service to Salem and for considering our comments,

Sadie K Carney

Sadie Carney,
SAMTD Board of Directors
Representative to the Our Salem project

Ian Davidson

Ian Davidson, President
SAMTD Board of Directors

CC: SAMTD Board of Directors
Allan Pollock, General Manager

Signature: 
Sadie K Carney (Mar 15, 2022 15:59 PDT)

Email: sadie.carney@cherriots.org

Signature: 

Email: ian.davidson@cherriots.org









PDF 03-15-22 LTR Salem Plan Comm Our Salem

Final Audit Report

2022-03-15

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