



# Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee

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## Committee Members

Mayor Chuck Bennett, *Chair*  
Councilor Jose Gonzalez  
Councilor Chris Hoy  
Councilor Virginia Stapleton  
Councilor Micki Varney

## City Staff

Kristin Retherford, *Interim City Manager*  
Dan Atchison, *City Attorney*  
Josh Eggleston, *Chief Financial Officer*  
  
Peter Fernandez, *Public Works Director*  
Krishna Namburi, *Enterprise Services Director*  
Mike Niblock, *Fire Chief*  
Michelle Teed, *Assistant City Attorney*  
Courtney Knox Busch, *Strategic Initiatives Manager*  
Brian Martin, *City Engineer*  
James Wharton-Hess, *Management Analyst II*  
Kelli Blechsmidt, *Management Analyst I*

## Guests

John Horvick, DHM Research

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## Meeting Agenda

Friday, June 10, 2022

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### City of Salem Public Meeting Channel (YouTube)

To register to provide oral testimony to the committee, please sign up the day of the meeting between 8AM and 12PM on the [Committee webpage](#).

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of 4/15/2022 Meeting Minutes
3. Public Comment – each person has 3 minutes to address the Committee
  - a. Correspondence from Charles Weathers regarding bond composition.
4. Update Public Opinion and Community Research – DHM Research
  - Findings from May, 2022 polling
5. Update on Public Testimony data request
6. Consider Changes to Steering Committee Recommendation
7. Next Steps – June 13, 2022 City Council Meeting
8. Adjourn

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# City of Salem Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee Minutes

**DATE:** April 15, 2022

**CHAIRPERSON:** Chuck Bennett

**PLACE:** ZOOM

**STAFF LIAISONS:**

Courtney Knox Busch

[cbusch@cityofsalem.net](mailto:cbusch@cityofsalem.net)

Josh Eggleston

[jeggleston@cityofsalem.net](mailto:jeggleston@cityofsalem.net)

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**Members Present:**

Mayor Bennett

Councilor Jose Gonzalez

Councilor Chris Hoy

Councilor Virginia Stapleton

Councilor Micki Varney

**Guests Present:**

Clark Worth, Barney & Worth

Libby Barg, Barney & Worth

John Horvick, DHM Research

**Staff Present:**

Kristin Retherford, Interim City Manager

Peter Fernandez, Public Works Director

Dan Atchison, City Attorney

Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer

Courtney Knox Busch, Strategic Initiatives  
Manager

Krishna Namburi, Enterprise Services Director

Mike Niblock, Fire Chief

Brian Martin, City Engineer

Michelle Teed, Asst. City Attorney

Robert Romanek, Parks Planner

James Wharton-Hess, Management Analyst II

Kelli Blechschmidt, Management Analyst I

Julie Warncke, Transportation Planning Manager

Jennifer Keller, Parks and Rec Manager

Tammi Starrs, Engineering Program Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER: 1:00 PM / Quorum

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES MARCH 28, 2022 MINUTES:

Motion by: Member Hoy

**Action:** Motion passes

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay:

Abstentions:

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

a. Phil Carver regarding bonding projects

Questions or Comments by: Member Stapleton

Answers or Comments by: None

4. UPDATE ON PUBLIC OPINION AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH

a. John Horvick, DHM Research presented to the committee the previously conducted polling research originally provided in February to the committee.

Questions or Comments by: Members Hoy and Stapleton, Chair Bennett

Answers or Comments by: John Horvick, DHM Research

5. REQUESTED OPTIONS FOR BOND PACKAGE

- a. Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer and Brian Martin, City Engineer lead the Committee in a general discussion about the bond composition as currently allocated and reviewed specific projects and staff recommended adjustments to fit within the \$300M package.

Questions or Comments by: Chair Bennett, Member Hoy, Member Stapleton, Member Varney.

Answers or Comments by: Brian Martin, City Engineer, Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer, Kristin Retherford, Interim City Manager, Peter Fernandez, Public Works Director, Mike Niblock, Fire Chief

Member Stapleton requested a five-minute recess at 2:25PM, the meeting recommenced at 2:30PM

6. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL FOR BOND PACKAGE

- a. Chair Bennett moved staff recommendation for adjustments to the bond package to fit within the \$300M requirements. Motion was seconded by Member Hoy.

Questions or Comments by: Chair Bennett, Member Hoy, Member Stapleton.

Answers or Comments by: Josh Eggleston, Chief Financial Officer, Kristin Retherford, Interim City Manager, Peter Fernandez, Public Works Director.

**Action:** Motion passes

Vote:

Aye: Unanimous

Nay:

Abstentions:

7. ADJOURNMENT: 2:34 PM

The next meeting regarding the Infrastructure Bond will be a City Council Work Session planned for May 16, 2022 (Monday). The next scheduled Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee is June 10, 2022.

**From:** [Charles Weathers](#)  
**To:** [Bond 2022](#)  
**Subject:** Bond Spending Allocation Feedback  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 25, 2022 10:12:33 AM

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Hello,

I'm looking at your pie chart of bond funds allocations and I see a gross mismatch with community needs.

\$10 million for affordable housing and almost \$40 million for civic center seismic improvements. This should be the inverse.

City, County and State-wide the story is the same "housing shortage / affordability crisis / homelessness risk". This makes headlines and is a topic of every civic agenda.

Here we have an opportunity to put a dent in the problem and instead we are sending 4x the amount to keep an old building from maybe falling down during a potential earthquake. Seems like priorities are out of whack and do not reflect what is stated publicly by leaders so frequently.

Especially when the percentage of remote workers is taken into account these days, the "need" to retrofit the civic center seems to pale in comparison with the dramatic, daily plight of housing insecurity.

Reinforcing a building can wait - it isn't derelict or falling down - but people need housing solutions now before more lives are in severe disrepair.

Thanks,

Charles Weathers  
503.510.8834

Sent from my iPhone 83 1/2



# MEMO

**TO:** Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee

**FROM:** Josh Eggleston, CFO  
Finance Department

**DATE:** June 10, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Testimony Analysis

During the City Council meeting of May 23, 2022 it was requested that staff review the prior pieces of testimony and outreach that has been received or conducted for the Infrastructure Bond. Staff reviewed written testimony to both City Council meetings and Steering Committee meetings, ideas generated at public forums such as neighborhood association meetings, and the bond idea survey from the City website. This data is current through June 7, 2022.

This analysis does not limit the number of times people testify on a particular topic and thus has duplicate ideas presented. Additionally, if there was a list of signatures gathered on a particular idea than each person’s signature was counted as one number in support of that idea. Meanwhile, ideas mentioned in public forums like neighborhood association meetings count as a single vote since it is unknown the number of individuals from a neighborhood association would support or oppose one member’s idea. This analysis is a very basic count of what ideas those who engaged with the bond process thus far have supplied and either supported or opposed. It is not statically valid or reflects the demographic or geographic distributions in Salem.

Idea	Generally Support	Generally Oppose
Affordable Housing	36	2
Bike lanes / infrastructure	171	13
Branch Libraries	182	0
Bridges – generally	10	0
Bridges – Salem River Crossing	21	0
Civic Center	5	3
Dog Parks	10	1
Fire Projects	8	5
Futsal Courts	15	1
Parks - generally	63	3
Pools	42	1
Sheltering (housing)	30	6
Sidewalks	73	1
Speed Humps	34	0
Splash Pads	6	1
Sports Complexes	27	2
Street and Road Improvements	69	9
Other ideas	78	2
Bond proposal – generally	4	5