

CITY MANAGER'S UPDATE—September 27, 2019

Prepared for Mayor and Councilors. Please contact Steve Powers, City Manager, for additional information.

At Your Service!

In July, August and September Center 50+ offered 25 classes Downtown. All ages had the opportunity to learn, play and connect. A shuttle was provided from Center 50+

Upcoming Issues

The October 21st council work session will be on economic development and urban renewal. Staff will be reviewing enterprise zones, urban renewal areas, and other tools available to cities. Kristin Retherford will help Council begin exploring how urban renewal can continue to be used to incentivize developers to provide affordable housing.

City staff are preparing the regulatory framework for electronic scooters. Salem has been contacted by multiple scooter providers. A report will be provided to Council when the staff work is complete.

Strategic Plan

Courtney Knox Busch and the communications team are preparing the City's annual report on the strategic priorities from the 2019 policy agenda, accomplishments, and good stories to share. The report will be coming out in October. In November, Council will have a work session to begin developing the 2020 policy agenda.

Safe Community

A group from Fire, Finance, Public Works, the Salem Housing Authority, and the City Manager's Office attended the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness in Alabama to learn about effective communications during emergencies and disasters. Employees travel for many work-related reasons aimed at providing the best services and using best practices in our community's interest. From time to time, City staff participate in conferences to share experience, learn from other experts in the field, and, in some cases, earn continuing education credits to maintain professional credentials.

The police station general contractor provides a weekly status report. If interested in the report, please contact Chief Moore.

Management

The Health Hub is the City's employee health clinic. The Health Hub has been open for one year. In the first twelve months, the nurse practitioner and nurse have had 1,355 appointments, seen 774 patients, and made 86 specialist referrals. Employer health clinics are a proven way to manage health care costs.

Welcoming and Livable Community

For the first two months of the fiscal year, 380 building permits have been issued, including two multi-family developments for 51 units, and more than 100 commercial/industrial new construction or additions/alterations. The number of permits for the first two months of 2019-2020 is the lowest for the same two-month period since 2011-2012. The number of single-family housing permits issued in July 2019 (32) and August 2019 (29) were at or slightly above the 14-year average for July (29) and August (29).

A forum on the sidewalk and public spaces ordinance was held September 26 at Salem Housing Authority. More connections were made at the forum with the HRAP program. There were 51 people signed in and 49 people left written comments. Comments will be scanned and available to Council.

The City has been awarded an Oregon Parks and Recreation grant for \$331,585 for the new bathrooms at Riverfront Park. The grant will be matched with \$384,677 from Parks SDCs. Construction is going to be next summer. Salem was one of 17 grant awards.

Updating Salem and Keizer's community housing and development needs is underway to target federal HOME Investment Partnership and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding resources for five years (2020-2024). The Consolidated Plan is a five-year housing and community development strategic plan based on data collection and community feedback to inform how to best utilize the scarce federal resources over the five-year period. [Surveys are available](#) to provide input on community affordable housing needs, household needs to achieve self-sufficiency, and experiences with housing discrimination. Staff are available for presentations to community organization about the Five-Year Consolidated Plan. To follow the planning process, sign up by emailing conplan2020@cityofsalem.net

The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency is preparing for the upcoming warming center season. The City has provided CDBG funding for administration, facilitation, and expansion of the warming center network. There will be three locations, with two additional potential locations. Activation will be from November 1 to March 31. Capacity will be increased to 250 per activation night. The shelters will open when temperatures or a combination of precipitation, wind chill, wind and temperature become dangerously inclement.

Good Governance

The opportunity for Ward 7 residents to apply for the open seat has been distributed through the City website, FlashAlert to local media, direct contact to local reporters, the City Facebook page and the Neighborhood Services Facebook page, Twitter, and NextDoor. Applications will be received through October 8.

Natural Environment Stewardship

The City will receive a \$343,622 grant for a Minto Island Floodplain Forest. The restoration will be on the west edge of the conservation area. The grant is from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the Meyer Memorial Trust, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

Salem River Crossing

I received notice from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) that pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 304(a) and 23 U.S.C. 139(n)1, ODOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have prepared a combined Record of Decision and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the No-build Alternative for the Salem River Crossing Project. According to the notice, the Salem River Crossing Project proposed to construct a proposed new third bridge crossing of the Willamette River in Salem, Oregon, along with associated surface street improvements. The purpose of the project was to improve mobility and safety for people and freight for local, regional, and through travel across the Willamette River in the Salem-Keizer metropolitan area while alleviating congestion on the existing bridges and connecting highway and arterial street systems. The actions by the agencies, and the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the project, approved on September 5, 2019. The FEIS will be available to be viewed and downloaded from the project Web site at <http://www.salemrivercrossing.org/> no later than September 27. The Salem River Crossing FEIS/ROD and other project records are available by contacting FHWA or Oregon DOT at: Emily Cline, Environmental Program Manager, FHWA Oregon Division Office, 530 Center St., NE, Salem, OR, 97301. Office Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, Office Phone: 503-316-2547, Email: emily.cline@dot.gov. Dan Fricke, Senior Planner, Oregon Department of Transportation or Anna Henson, Senior Project Leader, Oregon Department of Transportation, 455 Airport Rd SE, Salem, OR 97301, Office Hours: 7:00 am to 4:00 pm, Office Phone: 503-986-2639, E-mail: anna.henson@odot.state.or.us.

Partnerships

Cycleshare reports since the June 22, 2019 launch, 406 members have joined and have taken 743 rides totaling 582 hours, burning 2.9 million calories and avoiding 200+ lbs. of CO2 emissions. There are [22 bikes at five locations](#).

City and Housing Authority staff are working on closing the budget gap for the Fisher Road affordable housing development. The North Gateway Urban Renewal Area will be providing a construction grant for the project. The grant meets program criteria and the amount is under the executive director's \$300,000 approval limit.

Thanks for reading,
Steve