

Memo

TO: Mayor and City Council

Cc: Scott Fleury, Alison Chan, Elizabeth Taylor

FROM: City Manager Pro Tem

DATE: August 17, 2021

RE: **Transportation Agenda Items for August 17, 2021 City Council meeting**



Following discussion with several Councilors, including Transportation Commission liaison Paula Hyatt, and the Transportation Commission Chair, staff is recommending that the following items be removed from the August 17, 2021, City Council Business Meeting and rescheduled for a City Council workshop.

Approval of a Professional Services Contract with Kittelson & Associates for the Transportation System Plan Update

Resolution No. 2021-21 Setting the Vision Zero Goal for the Transportation System

Staff believes that it is important to move forward with the TSP in the near term. With a large infrastructure funding Bill recently enacted by Congress, we are entering an era of increased federal funding becoming available for transportation projects. It is likely that these federal funds will be allocated to the State's which will, in turn, develop categories of eligible local projects. The transportation grant funding program typically requires that any proposed project be included in, or be consistent with, a TSP, and the State will review the currency of the TSP and the method the City has used in securing community input into the TSP. Thus, the TSP is an essential building block needed to support future grant applications. It is also important to update the TSP periodically to reflect changing public attitudes toward transportation and take into account new traffic data, changes in demographic data and land use development that has occurred over the last decade. The TSP development process would likely carry into 2023, which would be at a 10-year TSP update juncture.

Additionally, the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) is implementing a program to develop Regional TSP's. This means that the Area Transportation Commissions and ODOT Regional Offices will be collecting information from local TSP's and consolidating them into draft Regional TSP's, which will



Memo

then be reviewed and approved up the “chain” within ODOT. This will then feed into OTC funding decision making. It is important to have the latest information available about Ashland’s transportation needs and projects ready for inclusion in the Regional TSP.

Finally, I recall in Brookings we received a \$190,000 grant from ODOT/DLCD under the Transportation Growth and Management (TGM) program to help fund the Brookings TSP about four years ago. The total cost was \$225,000. Scott Fleury reports that Ashland applied for a TGM grant a couple of years ago to help fund the TSP, but that effort was not successful (applications often exceed available funding). Fleury advises that City secured a TGM grant for the 2012 TSP. Staff will be contacting ODOT and DLCD again regarding funding for the new TSP; the TGM application process typically occurs in the Spring. I am not sure if the current contract service would be eligible for grant funding as the procurement process would have preceded the grant award and most grant agreements prescribe a procurement process.

It is also important that this matter be fully vetted with the City Council and the community. At the workshop staff will provide additional information as to how the TSP will be funded...it is not budgeted to be funded from the General Fund...and progress made in implementing the 2013 TSP.

