



777 NW Wall St. Ste. 200
Bend, OR 97703
www.bendchamber.org
(541) 382 - 3221

Bend City Council
710 NW Wall Street
Bend, OR 97703

March 8, 2018

RE: Capital Improvement Project Investment Areas

Mayor Roats and City Council Members,

The Bend Chamber Board of Directors understands the importance of investments in infrastructure, well-planned development and urbanization as the population and economy of our city grows. We support dedicating Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding that aligns with the Comprehensive Plan and the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) processes. These investments should generate jobs and opportunities for Bend businesses, address the need for additional and varied housing, support efficient transportation, leverage other public investments and sustain the livability of our community.

With limited public funds, we also believe the city should invest in projects that provide city-wide benefits. Specifically, we believe CIP funds should be spent on infrastructure and development in the Bend Central District (BCD) and the southeast area of the city where significant residential, school and commercial growth is planned.

Public funding in the BCD will invite and incentivize private investment, which is essential to bringing the vision for this district to fruition. This district will not only address the need for more central workforce housing, but will provide a new, centralized job and activities area that will support multi-modal connections between the growing eastside, downtown and the Innovation District. This will expand the benefits far beyond the BCD border. Ultimately, the city's investment in this district will produce viable development that generates a high rate of return.

Although the chamber supports investment in roadways and other infrastructure in the Cooley, Empire and additional areas at the northern end of Bend, we believe CIP funds should, for the near-term, be focused on the southeast portion of the city. This area includes some of the largest land additions to the UGB and will maximize sewer, water and roadway investments that have already been made.

CIP funding in the southeast area of Bend will also leverage other investments already committed by the Park & Recreation District and Bend-La Pine Schools to develop uses envisioned in the city's Comprehensive Plan.

In summary, the Bend Chamber asks that the Bend City Council approve the creation of a new Urban Renewal Area for the Bend Central District, invest CIP funds into it and, includes the adjoining Korepine development. We also request the city to invest CIP funds into necessary infrastructure investments in Bend's southeast opportunity areas.

Sincerely,

Katy Brooks
CEO/President