



December 1, 2021

To: Mayor Sally Russell & Bend City Council Members

Delivery via email

Mayor Russell and Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed sequence schedule of the transportation bond projects. The Bend Chamber supported the GOBond, and I was personally co-chair of the PAC that ran the campaign. I also served on the City's Transportation Advisory Committee (CTAC).

The selection process leading up to the final project list for the bond came with compromises from CTAC and the corresponding Transportation System Plan. It included negotiating neighborhood safety, multi-modal and connectivity projects as well as major projects, most notably Reed Market. Meanwhile, public opinion polling put Reed Market as one of the most important projects included on the bond. As I recall we listed Reed Market as a "second phase" project. This was due to the importance of completing projects that would ease diverted traffic caused by the considerable construction required for a new overpass at the railroad crossing on Reed Market.

We have recently heard from Chamber members that they would like the Reed Market project to happen sooner than a 2029 construction start. As noted above, adequate bypasses and improved east/west alternatives must be in place for us to accommodate the surge of traffic that will be disrupted by construction on Reed Market. These projects include the Wilson Avenue Corridor, the Powers/Parrell/Chase/Brosterhous Connection, and Murphy Parkway Ramps. We view these projects as part and parcel of improvements to Reed Market.

Selecting the right project list for the first phase is essential to instilling trust in voters while balancing expectations and delivering on safety, connectivity and livability. That makes for some difficult choices on sequencing projects in the bond, and we ask that you consider a strategy that would enable the Reed Market project to progress more quickly.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Katy Brooks
President & CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

Creating an environment where businesses, their employees and our community excel together through collaboration, advocacy, resources and leadership to meet Bend's business challenges.