

**ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 17, 2026**

I. Business Meeting

Council Present: Councilors Sherrell, Dahle, Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne, and Hansen.

Present Via Zoom: Mayor Graham

Staff Present:

Sabrina Cotta	City Manager
Johan Pietila	City Attorney
Alissa Kolodzinski	City Recorder
Jordan Rooklyn	Deputy City Manager

Chair Dahle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- a. Land Acknowledgement**

Hansen read the land acknowledgement.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sherrell led the pledge of allegiance.

III. ROLL CALL

IV. MAYOR'S/ CHAIR OF THE COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENT

Council Chair Dahle noted that he was presiding in Mayor Graham's absence due to her attendance at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference.

- a. *National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation*

Dahle read the proclamation into the record. DuQuenne spoke that Governor Kotek ordered flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of former State Senator Avel Grodly, the first Black woman elected to the Oregon State Senate who passed away on February 16, 2026.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. *Minutes of the March 2, 2026 – Study Session Meeting*
- b. *Minutes of the March 3, 2026 – Business Meeting*

Bloom moved to approve the minutes as stated. Seconded by Hansen.

Roll Call Vote: Sherrell, Dahle, Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne, and Hansen –YES. Motion passed.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. *Appointment to Housing and Human Services Committee*

Bloom moved to approve consent agenda. Seconded by Kaplan.

Roll Call Vote: Sherrell, Dahle, Bloom, Kaplan, DuQuenne, and Hansen –YES. Motion passed.

VII. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. RVTD Levy Presentation

Kelly Madding, Operations Manager for the Rogue Valley Transit District (RVTD), and Denise Krause, RVTD Board Member, presented an overview of the district's current financial situation, recent service cuts, and the upcoming five-year levy on the May 2026 ballot (presentation attached).

RVTD had cut 40% of its services in 2025, impacting Route 1X, Route 17, and reducing Route 10 frequency, due to a 78% rise in operating costs over seven years with only a 2.5% revenue increase annually. As a result, Saturday and evening services were eliminated. They mitigated budget constraints by suspending contracts and freezing wages. The proposed levy keeps the rate at 13 cents per \$1,000, similar to past successful levies.

Councilors voiced support for service restoration with the passage of the levy, emphasizing the importance of weekend and nighttime transit services for Ashland. It was acknowledged that there is high community demand for enhanced weekend service. Questions were raised about assessing rider demand following recent service cuts, with assurances given that data from nearby routes would be analyzed to gain insights. To increase awareness about the levy, plans are in place to distribute area-specific postcards as part of a comprehensive campaign aided by committee involvement.

Councilors noted that the levy rate of 13 cents per \$1,000 was highly affordable compared to other local levies and requested the actual per-ride cost of service. Krause formally requested that the City of Ashland endorse the five-year levy, noting that the endorsement would appear in the voters' pamphlet.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM –

During public forum, several topics were addressed by speakers:

- Support for the RVTD Levy: Comments included the bus system's vital role for seniors, students, and workers.
- Ashland Community Hospital Concerns: Speakers expressed concerns about service reductions at the hospital, specifically the elimination of the birthing center. There were calls for the council to uphold the contractual obligations with Asante and to consider dedicating any collected penalties to a special fund.
- Exclusion Zone Ordinance: Disappointment was voiced over the lack of public presentation on the ordinance with concern for when the ordinance's application did not align with its goals.
- Concern was voiced regarding committee conduct, suggesting that behaviors perceived as intimidating might undermine committee effectiveness.
- Homelessness and Night Lawn: Concerns were raised about incomplete follow-up on police data, ordinance clarification, and city-owned property assessments as alternatives for homeless individuals. The population at the night lawn continues to grow.
- An employment-related dispute was brought up concerning a former city employee, noting the absence of a city response due to pending litigation.

IX. PUBLIC HEARING

X. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS

a. *Second Reading of Ordinance 3282 Creating Section 2.55 of the Ashland Municipal Code: Disposal of Real Property*

The ordinance codifies the real property disposal process in alignment with ORS Chapters 221 and 271 and includes a non-exhaustive list of evaluation factors. No changes noted since the first reading.

In response to an inquiry, Pietila clarified that the notice provision in the ordinance pertains to the public hearing, published concurrently with the council packet, and that the parameters of any bid process, including its duration, would be set by the council at the public hearing. Cotta confirmed that once the ordinance is codified, the referenced ORS statutes will be hyperlinked within the city's municipal code database. Councilors noted that ordinances can be amended if issues arise in practice and emphasized the ordinance's transparency provisions to ensure that all real property disposals come before the council for a public vote.

Hansen moved to approve Ordinance 3282 creating Section 2.55 of the Ashland Municipal Code: Disposal of Real Property. Seconded by Bloom.

Roll Call Vote: Hansen, Sherrell, Dahle, Bloom, Kaplan and DuQuenne – YES. Motion passed.

b. *Second Reading of the following Ordinance Language Changes:*

1. *3288 An Ordinance creating 15.04.270 to prohibit permits when code violations are outstanding*
2. *3289 An Ordinance updating 15.36.030 to correct for the proper department that assigns frontage*
3. *3290 An Ordinance amending 9.08.170(3) –to create certain exemptions for heat pumps or mechanical devices from noise regulation*
4. *3291 An Ordinance amending 13.16.035 to require property owners to remove or prune dangerous trees without a permit*
5. *3292 An Ordinance amending chapter 6.50 to reflect marijuana retail regulation*

Pietila noted no changes from the first reading. Councilors confirmed with Pietila that the hazardous conditions exception in Ordinance 3288 are intended to apply to situations such as loss of heat or water.

Bloom moved to approve the following ordinances:

3288 An Ordinance creating 15.04.270 to prohibit permits when code violations are outstanding

3289 An Ordinance updating 15.36.030 to correct for the proper department that assigns frontage

3290 An Ordinance amending 9.08.170(3) to create certain exemptions for heat pumps or mechanical devices from noise regulation

3291 An Ordinance amending 13.16.035 to require property owners to remove or prune dangerous trees without a permit

3292 An Ordinance amending chapter 6.50 to reflect marijuana retail regulations.

Seconded by DuQuenne.

Roll Call Vote: Sherrell, Bloom, Dahle, DuQuenne, Hansen, and Kaplan – YES. Motion passed.

c. Second Reading of Ordinance 3295 Amending AMC 14.02 Utility Systems – Customer Accounting Policies

Cotta noted no changes from the first reading with councilors noting the ordinance update was long overdue and necessary.

Bloom moved to approve to approve Ordinance 3295 Amending AMC 14.02 Utility Systems – Customer Accounting Policies. Seconded by Sherrell.

Roll Call Vote: Kaplan, Sherrell, Bloom, DuQuenne, Dahle, and Hansen – YES. Motion passed

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Endorsement of 15–240 Rogue Valley Transportation District

Cotta explained that the Rogue Valley Transit Now political action committee had requested a formal endorsement from the City of Ashland of the RVTD five-year local option levy appearing on the May 2026 ballot. Authorization was requested from the council to sign and submit the SEL 400 form on behalf of the city. All councilors expressed support for the endorsement.

Kaplan moved to endorse the local option levy for general operations of the Rogue Valley Transportation District and authorize the City Manager to sign and submit the SEL 400 form on behalf of the City. Seconded by DuQuenne.

Roll Call Vote: Sherrell, Bloom, Dahle, DuQuenne, Hansen, and Kaplan – YES. Motion passed.

b. Approval of Pedestrian/Bicyclist Wayfinding Signage Design

Rooklyn and Piper von Chamier of Terrain Landscape Architects presented the wayfinding signage design developed through an extensive stakeholder process involving the Transportation Committee, downtown and A Street businesses, Parks and Recreation, Travel Ashland, the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, and OSF.

The project's goal is to direct pedestrians and cyclists from the downtown core to three destination districts: the Railroad District, the University District, and the Watershed Trails. Three sign types were developed: map kiosks providing contextual and historical information, pedestrian directional signs, and bicycle directional signs. The bicycle signs are substantially governed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), which mandates materials, colors, and font size. Design inspiration was drawn from Ashland's existing metal gateway signs, which have demonstrated strong durability over time. All sign components feature laser-cut metalwork with artistic representations specific to each district. Maps within the kiosks are removable and replaceable as needed.

Two kiosk design options were presented to the council. Option 1 features an asymmetric, larger side marker in powder-coated steel. Option 2 features the district name atop the map panel with symmetrical bookend markers.

Councilors raised concerns about the height of certain pedestrian sign components. Von Chamier clarified that low-mounted signs must be placed out of the path of travel—in a planter or similar location—per MUTCD standards. Councilors asked about cost, noting no pricing was included in the packet. Rooklyn explained that cost estimates would be obtained after council approves a design direction, with fabricators typically varying by sign type. The project currently has \$100,000 earmarked in Tourism (TLT) funds.

Councilors discussed the districts, their names, and asked about the inclusion of QR codes. Rooklyn confirmed that the city places high-quality QR code stickers on signage to provide dynamic digital content, including links to the public art map and district information. Council recommended the installation of pedestrian signs before the Transportation System Plan is finalized, proposing signs can be relocated if necessary, later. Plans to eventually connect mountain bikers from upper parking to downtown was noted as part of Phase 2. SOU was less involved due to other priorities, and the University District sign's location will be collaboratively decided. Initial pedestrian routing was advised to start soon, being less likely altered by future plans.

After extensive discussion and a withdrawn motion, the council moved first to express a preference for Option 1 over Option 2; and second, to direct staff to return with detailed pricing:

Kaplan moved support Option 1. Seconded by Bloom.

Roll Call Vote: Sherrell, Bloom, Dahle, DuQuenne, Hansen, and Kaplan – YES. Motion passed.

Kaplan moved to direct staff to return with separate pricing for the Option 1 kiosk, an alternative lower-cost kiosk option, and pricing for the pedestrian and bicycle wayfinding. Seconded by DuQuenne.

Roll Call Vote: Sherrell, Bloom, Dahle, DuQuenne, Hansen, and Kaplan – YES. Motion passed.

XIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT

a. Look Ahead

The next Study Session will include a Madrone Ridge update and a discussion on the food and beverage tax as requested by DuQuenne and Bloom. Prior to the next Council Business Meeting, there will be an executive session for a litigation update at 5:00 PM, followed by the regular meeting which will include a winter shelter update from OHRA, budget transfer requests for cost overruns, and a discussion of proposed natural gas ordinances.

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS/REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

Graham reported on her attendance at the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. She served on a panel regarding streamlining the federal grant process and

attended sessions on housing, opioid settlement fund uses, and proposed revisions to FEMA operations. Graham expressed interest in bringing back ideas from the conference on engaging youth in civic life, including through the National League of Cities youth delegate program, and proposed exploring how Ashland might participate in commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Bloom moved to adjourn. Seconded by DuQuenne

All Ayes. Motion passed.

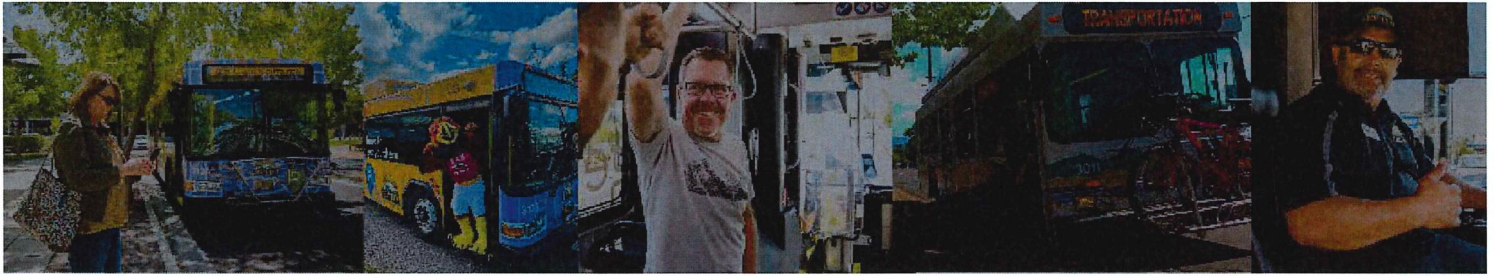
The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



City Recorder Alissa Kolodzinski



Mayor Tonya Graham



Local Funding Option for Sustaining and Enhancing Transit Service



Benefits of Transit Service

- Access to Jobs
- Access to Higher Education
- Improves Commerce
- Increases Mobility
- Improves Community Vitality
- Improves Safety
- Mitigates VMT and emissions

2025 Passenger Survey Findings

65% of riders rely on and use transit every day

70% of passengers do not have a car to use

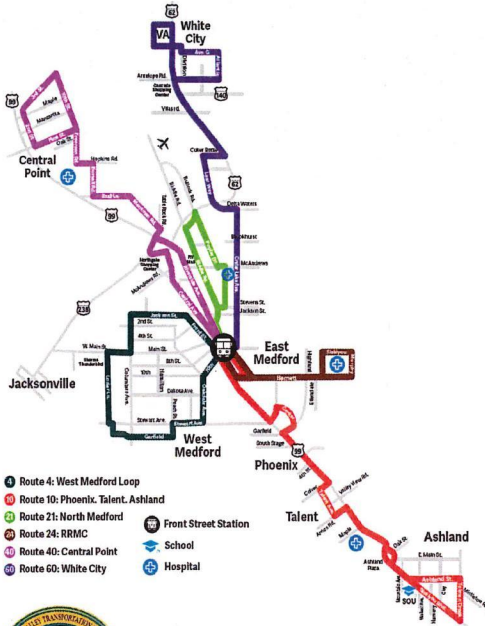
54% of passengers are employed yet 68% of riders make less than \$25,000 per year

25% of riders are disabled or retired and 10% are students

7% of trips are to medical appointments, 8% to commerce/shopping and 6% to essential services

24% of riders would not have made the trip at all if bus service were not available

RVTD Service & Ridership



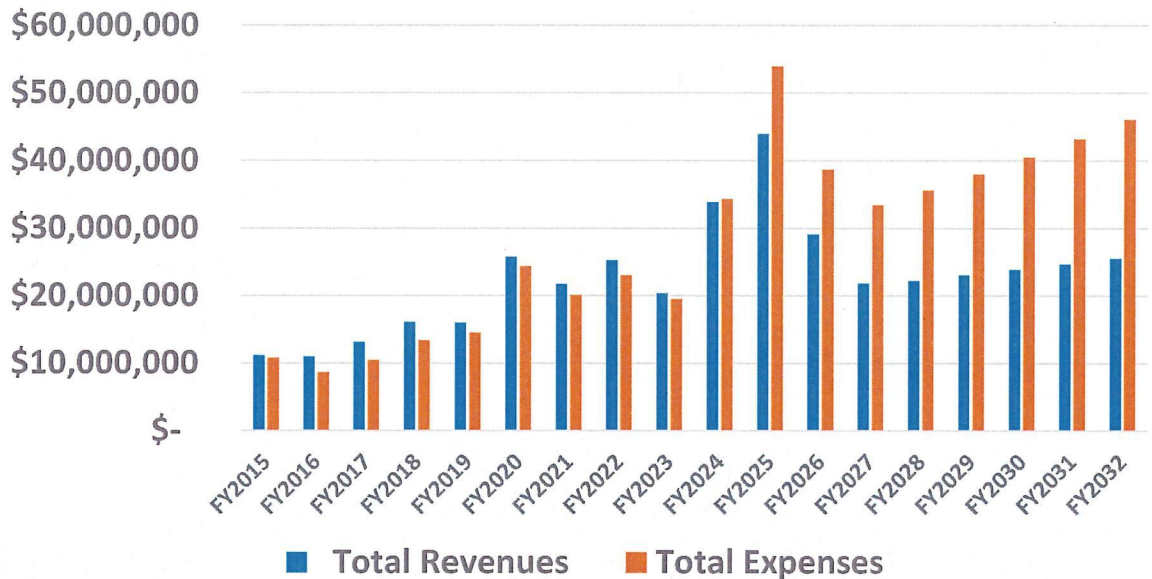
Last Year RVTD Provided:

- 1,004,582 fixed route rides
- 83,316 Valley Lift and Paratransit rides
- 44,555 biked on buses transported
- 39,875 SOU and RCC rides



Fixed Route & ADA Services 2015-2032 Revenue and Expenses

RVTD
Budget
and
Forecast
through
2032





Cost of a bus per mile
(Fuel, Labor, and Maintenance)

CNG Bus: \$0.77 per mile
Diesel Hybrid: \$1.23 per mile

59% cost



Cost of a bus engine rebuild

2019: \$28,500
2025: \$46,027

61% cost



Cost to service a fixed route bus

2019: \$689.19
2025: \$1,347.87

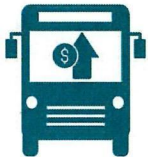
95% cost



Healthcare and other Benefits

2017: \$2,336,452
2024: \$5,116,604

119% cost



Cost of a new CNG 35 ft bus

2015: \$451,292
2024: \$738,443

64% cost



Cost Per Service Hour

2017: \$70 Per Service Hour
2025: \$125 Per Service Hour

78% Cost



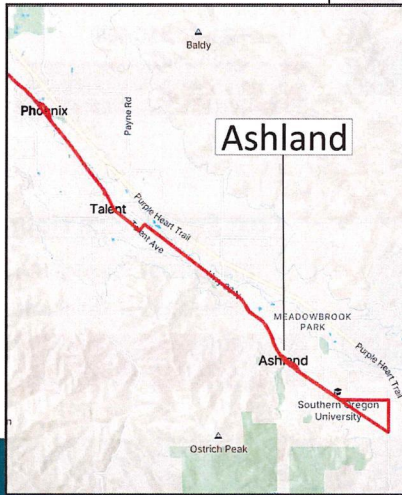
Recent Service Cuts

Impacts:

- RVTD recently cut service by 40% resulting in the suspension of 9 bus routes, weekday evenings, and Saturday service.
- Suspension of several key service contracts including janitorial and landscaping and security in downtown Medford
- Canceling all advertising on TV, Radio, newsletters, etc.
- Travel restrictions
- Freezing wages for all Management
- Requiring higher health insurance contributions of all employees



Route	24-25 trips
10 (Ashland)	186,613



Past Levy Voting Results

Election Date	Yes	No
Nov. 2014	39.17%	60.83%
May 2016	61.41%	38.59%
May 2021	62.67%	37.13%



A 'Yes' vote allows RVTD to maintain bus routes ensuring access to education, healthcare, employment, affordable housing and the goods and services that support everyday needs. Service will also be expanded based on community feedback. This measure does not raise the current tax rate, it continues funding transit at 13 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years.

A 'No' vote will result in additional service cuts to what was already eliminated in 2025 due to funding uncertainty and the escalating costs to provide transportation. Last year's reductions eliminated several routes, scaled back daily schedules, and eliminated Saturday service.

The proposed tax rate will raise approximately \$2,846,254 in the first year and \$15.4 Million over the entire 5 year period to fund transit operations.

For an assessed value home of \$400,000 the levied amount would be \$52 annually.

Measure 15-240

Rogue Valley Transportation District

Ballot Title

15-240

Renewal of Five-Year Local Option Tax for General Operations. This measure renews current local option taxes.

QUESTION: Shall District continue imposing \$0.13 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning July 1, 2026 to fund general operations?

SUMMARY: This is not the State transportation bill, this is a local tax renewal. The Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) currently operates six routes serving Medford, Ashland, Phoenix, Talent, Central Point, and White City. RVTD provides public transportation services, including ADA paratransit, within the territory of the District, Monday through Friday between 6:00AM and 6:30PM. If adopted, this measure would continue a 5-year local option levy at the same rate of \$0.13 per \$1,000 assessed value that was approved in 2016 and 2021. Without renewal, the current tax levy will expire June 30, 2026.

Renewing the local tax levy allows RVTD to maintain bus service District-wide providing access to education, healthcare, jobs, affordable housing and goods and services that meet basic needs. Without the levy funding renewal, RVTD cannot maintain current bus service to our community. RVTD provided over 1 Million rides in the previous year, primarily serving older adults, low-income individuals, families and persons with disabilities. Levy funds will be used to maintain and enhance bus service based on community feedback and available funding.

The proposed tax rate will raise approximately \$2,846,254 in 2026-2027, \$2,960,204 in 2027-2028, \$3,078,508 in 2028-2029, \$3,201,649 in 2029-2030 and \$3,329,715 in 2030 - 2031. The estimated tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate and may reflect the impact of early payment discounts, compression and the collection rate.

Explanatory Statement

The Rogue Valley Transportation District (RVTD) provides public transit and paratransit service to Medford, Central Point, Ashland, Phoenix, Talent, White City, and Jacksonville. RVTD is more than just a bus service. RVTD provides Valley Lift ADA service to older adults and disabled individuals who are unable to use the bus. RVTD also provides programs to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, to enhance employee commute options and to offer an affordable transportation option for youth, seniors, low-income and vulnerable populations that cannot drive.

A 'Yes' vote allows RVTD to maintain bus routes ensuring access to education, healthcare, employment, affordable housing and the goods and services that support everyday needs. Service will also be expanded based on community feedback. **This measure does not raise the current tax rate**, it continues funding transit at 13 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value for five years.

A 'No' vote will result in additional service cuts to what was already eliminated in 2025 due to funding uncertainty and the escalating costs to provide transportation. Last year's reductions eliminated several routes, scaled back daily schedules, and eliminated Saturday service.

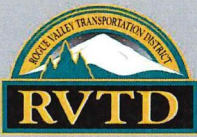
Public transit is a critical service for your community. RVTD conducted a passenger survey in 2025 to find:

- 65% of riders rely on and use transit every day
- 70% of passengers do not have a car to use
- 54% of passengers are employed yet 68% of riders make less than \$25,000 per year
- 25% of riders are disabled or retired and 10% are students
- 7% of trips are to medical appointments, 8% to commerce/shopping and 6% to essential services
- 24% of riders would not have made the trip at all if bus service were not available

The same passenger survey found that passengers and regional employers want weekday evening hours and Saturday service to be restored. With the passage of the levy, RVTD will continue to seek community and rider feedback on service additions the renewal levy could fund.

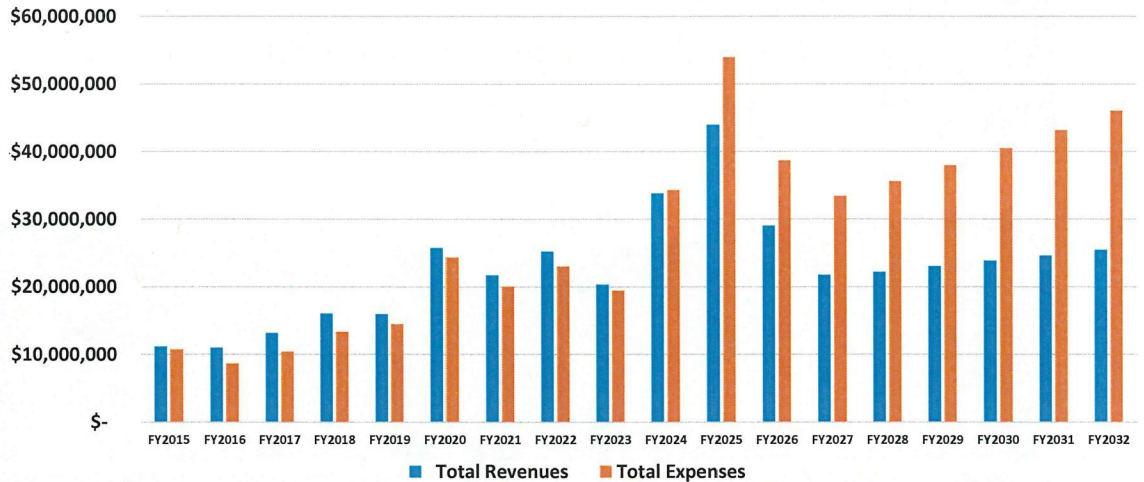
Transit service and routes have fluctuated over RVTD's 50-year history due to available local, state and federal funding. Due to federal and state funding issues, RVTD recently cut service by 40% resulting in the suspension of 10 bus routes, weekday evenings, and Saturday service. RVTD reduced staff by 66 employees, which was nearly half of RVTD's workforce. Due to the continuing Federal Transit Administration funding delays and ODOT's own funding challenges, RVTD cannot rely on these funds to provide all of our community's transit needs. This levy is our community's local contribution and will provide a reliable source of revenue to fund bus routes and ADA services to our most vulnerable community members.

Passenger fares, bus advertising, clean fuel tax credits and more contribute to RVTD's revenues by 16% helping to offset overall expenses. Local voters supported RVTD in 2016 and 2021 for the first time in over thirty years. This tax measure will continue the current tax rate of 13 cents that was approved before. Homeowners with a taxable home value of \$300,000 would pay \$39.00 per year.



**RVTD
Budget and
Forecast
through
2032**

**Fixed Route & ADA Services
2015-2032 Revenue and Expenses**



**Increasing
Costs**



**Cost of a bus per mile
(Fuel, Labor, and Maintenance)**

CNG Bus: \$0.77 per mile
Diesel Hybrid: \$1.23 per mile

59% cost increase



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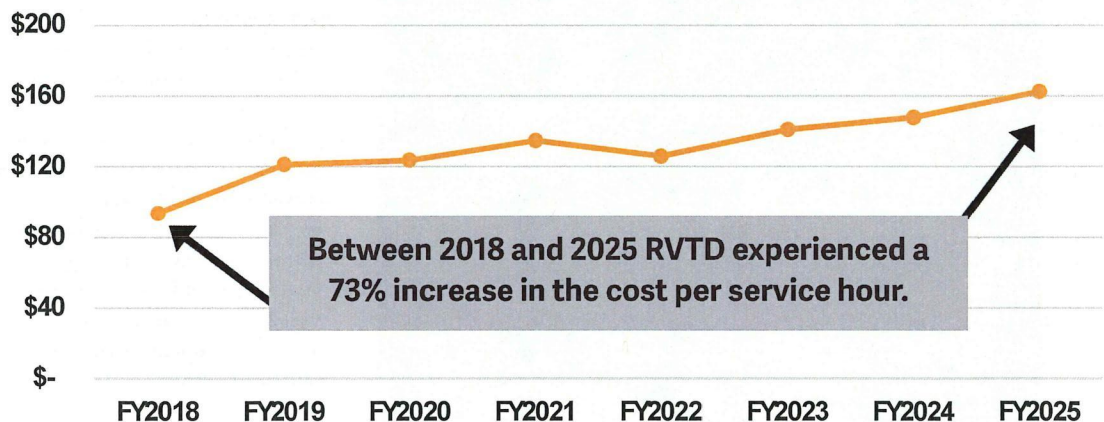
Cost Per Service Hour

2017: \$70 Per Service Hour
2025: \$125 Per Service Hour

78% Cost Increase

**Increasing
Operations
Costs**

**Annual Fixed Route Cost Per Service Hour
(allows a comparison independent of service changes)**



Why are costs increasing?

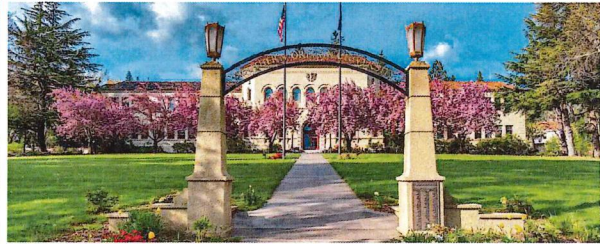
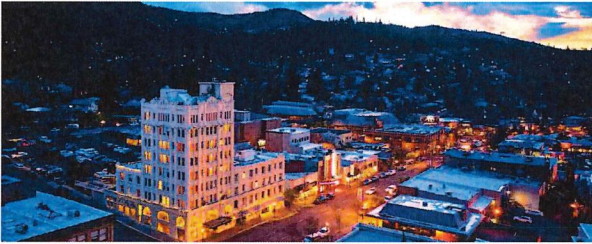
- Increased capital, fuel, and materials costs due to inflation.
- Driver spare ratio increased due to FMLA, OFLA and Oregon Paid Leave.
- Increased labor costs due to health insurance inflation and wage competitiveness.



City of Ashland

Wayfinding Signage Design Project

Presentation to the Ashland City Council
March 17, 2026



PAM KUHN CREATIVE &  TERRAIN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Contents



- Project Background 3**
 - Project Goals 4
 - Sign Types 5
 - Context: Wayfinding Signs Link Historic Districts & Watershed Trails 6
 - Steps and Timeline 7
- Wayfinding Background 8**
 - DRAFT Pedestrian Wayfinding Routes Proposed by City 9
 - Pedestrian Wayfinding Sign Styles 10
 - Bicycle Wayfinding Design 11
 - Context: 2012 Transportation Plan Bicycle Routes 12
 - Bike Wayfinding Approach 1: MUTCD (Like Portland) 13
- Design Direction and Process 14**
 - Sign Theme Selected: Mt A + Metal / Examples Using Selected Materials . . . 15
 - February 19 Committee Feedback: Kiosk 16
 - February 19 Committee Feedback: Wayfinding 17
 - March 5 Committee Feedback: Kiosk 18
 - March 5 Committee Feedback: Wayfinding 19
- Final Design Options 20**
 - Wayfinding Signs 21-22
 - Kiosk Options and Mockups 23-30
 - Mt Ashland + Metal Wayfinding Sign Package 31



Project Background

Project Goals

The City of Ashland is working with the Wayfinding Advisory Committee to develop a pedestrian and cyclist wayfinding plan.

The plan focuses on **directing pedestrians** and **cyclists** to and from our downtown core to other commercial attractions in our community, including our Railroad District, our University District, and Ashland watershed hiking trails.

Welcome to Ashland

- Incorporate Ashland’s branding
- Unique look that represents Ashland
- Classic aesthetic that will work for many years
- Create sense of identity and arrival

Clear, Legible and User-Friendly

- Optimize visitor enjoyment
- Visually cohesive
- Avoid sign clutter where possible
- Embrace Universal Design principles
- Consider accessibility needs

Define Behavior Norms

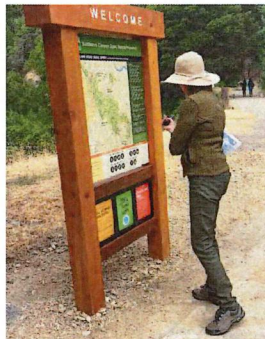
- Professional: set tone of respect
- Direct path of travel
- Optimize safety
- Compliance with relevant plans, policies, regs (i.e. accessibility, Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices)

Materials

- Readily available
- Durable: can be maintained over time through normal weathering, vandalism, and age
- Worried about wood re: wildfire
- Comply with relevant regulations (i.e. retroreflective for MUTCD-compliant sign types)



Downtown District Marker in Worcester, Massachusetts



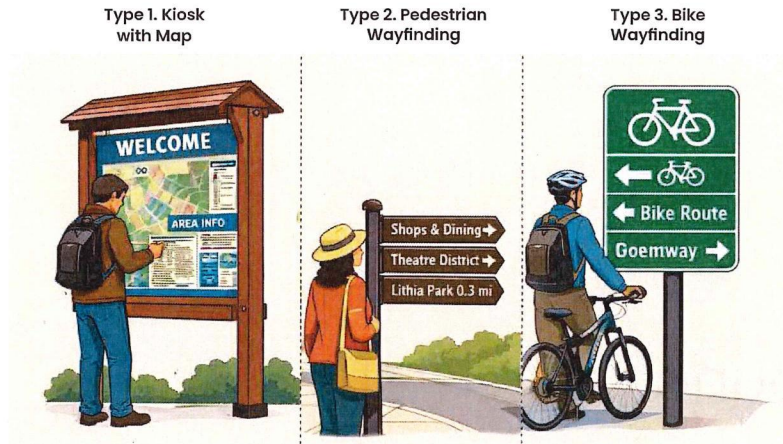
Map Kiosk in Marin County Open Space District Preserves



Pedestrian Wayfinding in Asheville, North Carolina



Sign Types

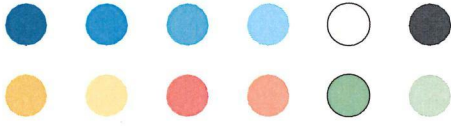


Deliverables

- Exploration of Sign Designs (3 sign types, 2 sets of revisions)
- Full-size sign templates
- Cost estimates for the various types of signs from a sign fabricator
- Two sets of architectural drawings of each sign types (color hard copy and digital)

Project does not include selecting the sign locations or developing the sign content

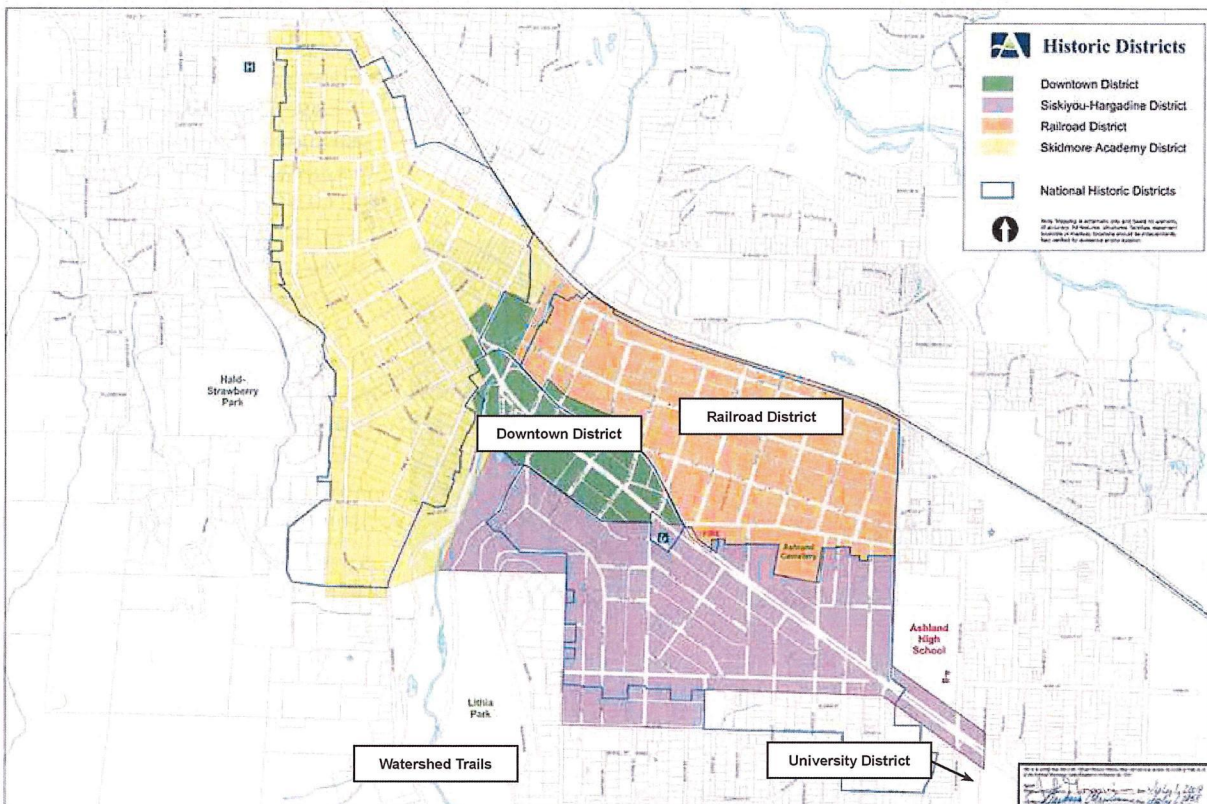
Ashland Branding



Poppins *Heritage*

Context: Wayfinding Signs Link Historic Districts & Watershed Trails

Final District Name TBD. Routes Provided by City - Decisions regarding Historic Districts are not considered within Wayfinding Sign Project scope



Steps and Timeline



Wayfinding Committee meets every 2 weeks to complete project.

Anticipated Schedule:

- Jan 22: Listening session with committee
- Feb 5: Present Concept Design Drafts
- Feb 19: Present Design Refinements
- March 5: Present Final Design Options
- March 17: Present to City Council

The City will be implementing the wayfinding program over many years.



City of Ashland
**Wayfinding Signage
Design Project**

Wayfinding Background

DRAFT Pedestrian Wayfinding Routes Proposed by City

TBD with Transportation Plan – Decisions regarding pedestrian routes are not considered within Wayfinding Sign Project scope



Pedestrian Wayfinding Sign Styles

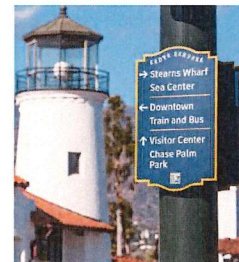
One color



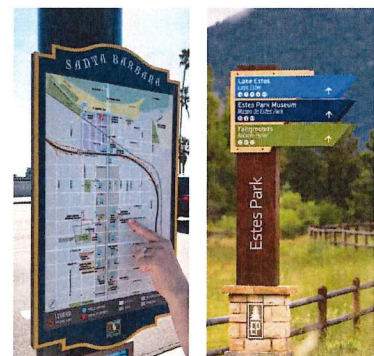
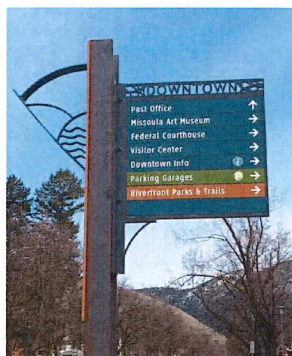
Color-coded Districts



Shape (adds expense)



Includes mileage



Bicycle Wayfinding Sign Design



Retroreflective

MUTCD specifies retroreflectivity for all traffic control devices installed on any street, highway, bikeway, or private road open to public travel. Retroreflection occurs when the sign surface returns a large portion of directed light beam back to its source, and from a much wider angle than reflective material. Retroreflectivity is very important for visibility and safety at night and in lowlight conditions.

Core Guiding Principles

- **Connect places:** easily and successfully find way to destination
- **Promote active travel:** validate cycling as transportation option; expand use and awareness of bicycle facilities
- **Maintain motion:** quick comprehension, navigate without frequent stopping
- **Be predictable:** quickly understood and recognized
- **Keep information simple:** clear and logical, universal and usable for widest possible demographic
- **Optimize safety**

Materials

- Readily available
- Retroreflective

Compliance with Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)

- Legibility and size combine with placement to permit adequate response time
- Size, shape, color, composition, contrast, and retroreflectivity defined by MUTCD
- No more than 3 destinations; straight ahead in top slot
- Lots more...over 1,000 pages...
- Bicycle guide signs are green. If using color-coded system as described per Community Wayfinding signs, red, orange, yellow, purple, fluorescent yellow-green, and fluorescent pink are prohibited colors to minimize possible confusion with critical, higher-priority regulatory and warning signs.

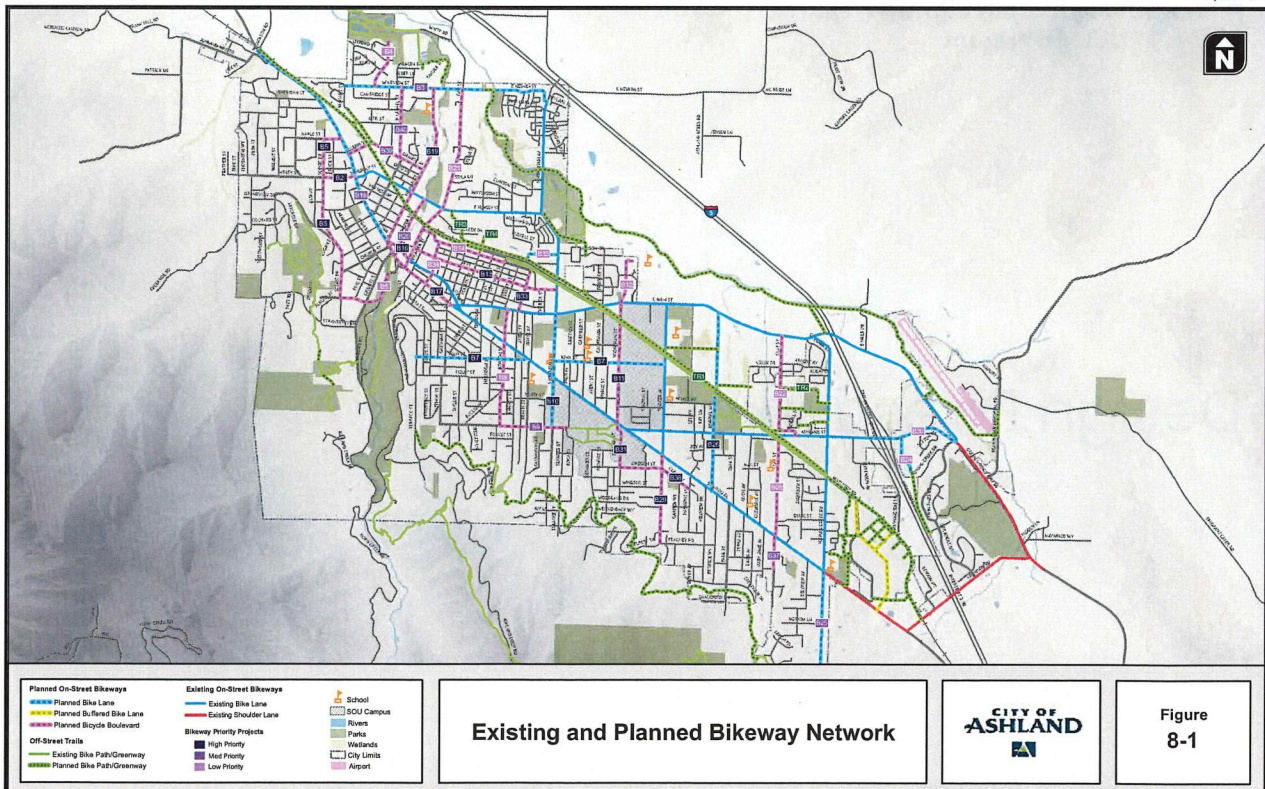


Context: 2012 Transportation Plan Bicycle Routes

TBD with Transportation Plan – Decisions regarding bicycle routes are not considered within Wayfinding Sign Project scope

City of Ashland Transportation System Plan Update

September 2012



Existing and Planned Bikeway Network

CITY OF ASHLAND

Figure 8-1

Ashland Wayfinding Sign Project
Bike Wayfinding
Approach 1: MUTCD (like Portland)
 02/19/26

Questions:

Should bike routes be confined to just the historic districts that are part of this project or should they encompass all potential routes (i.e. to Bear Creek Greenway, wineries, etc)?

Does Ashland use bike route names or numbers?

MUTCD templates are to be used unless engineering judgement determines that other signs are appropriate. All bike wayfinding signs should be reviewed by the City of Ashland for compliance with applicable regulations, guidelines, and policies. Consult the 2023 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 11th Edition adopted by Oregon effective January 1, 2026. Applicable sections include:

- Section 2D.55 Community Wayfinding Signs
- Part 9: Traffic Control for Bicycle Facilities

Note that MUTCD Figure 9D-1 Guidance states:
 19 Travel times should not be used on Bicycle Destination signs.
 Support:
 20 Travel times can vary greatly for bicyclists based on a variety of factors including individual speed, bicycle type, and type of facility.

Figure 9D-1. Guide Signs and Plaques for Bicycle Facilities



MUTCD 11th Edition

Portland 2019



Scale: 1/2" = 1'

Bike Decision: Wayfinding Guide Sign
 Federal MUTCD template: D2-ka, 2a, 2a

MUTCD Bike Route Confirmation and Turn
 Federal MUTCD template: D-1H (bike route), M-8a / 8c (route name), M-8 (arrow)

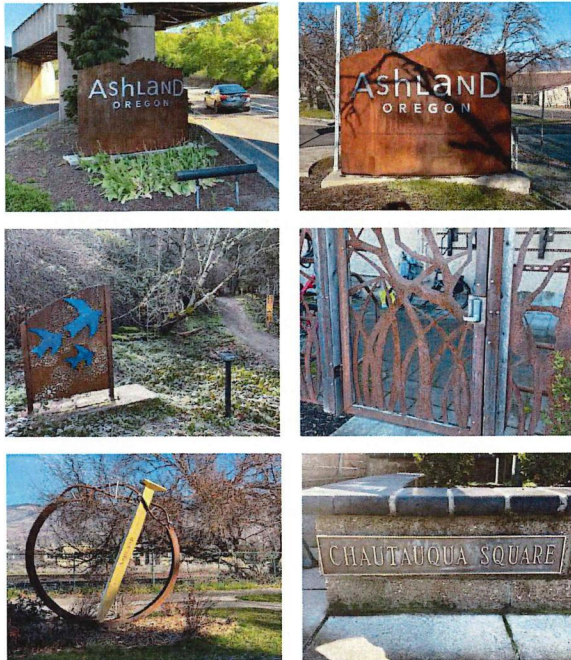
MUTCD Bike Route Confirmation
 Federal MUTCD template: M-8 / 8a (numbered bike route)



Design Direction and Process

Sign Theme Selected: Mt A + Metal

Coordinates with Town Entries which went through collaborative arts committee process in 2016



Every District and Both Town Entries Have Steel Metal Work
Ties existing signs into the system

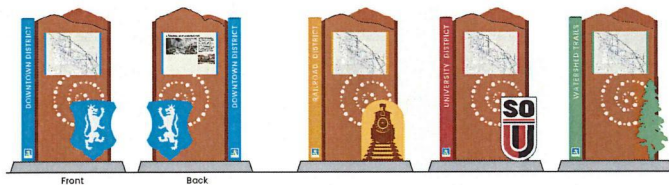
Examples Using Selected Materials

- 2 layered Corten weathering steel sign with cutouts
- Raised Aluminum letters
- Powdercoated colored post
- Concrete base

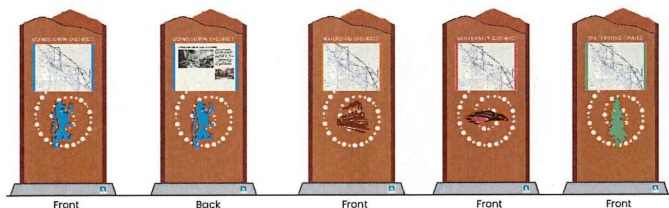


February 19 Committee Feedback: Kiosk

Selected Draft to Refine 02/19/26 meeting



Option 1



Option 2

Two options were shown with varying levels of simplicity:

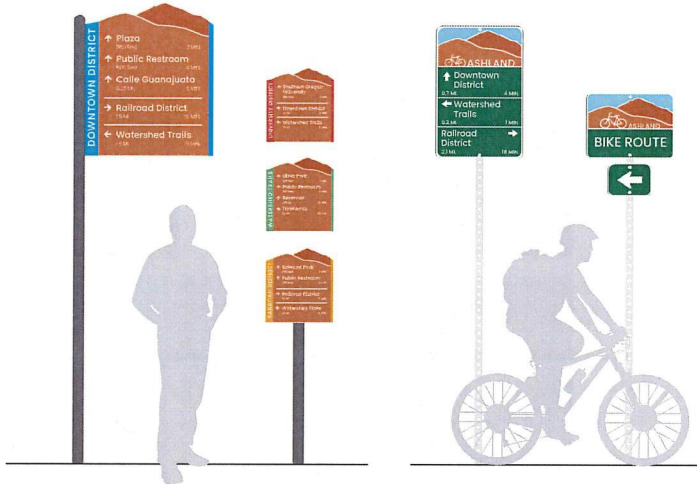
- There was discussion about the elements to be included; Different people had different thoughts about which elements were most important to include, but there was a general movement towards more simplicity.
- The committee agreed to try 2 additional versions using the mountain top, which ties to the existing City entry signs:

Option 1: Colored post but no symbol/icon and just a metal cutout

Option 2: With the symbol/icon but no post on the side

February 19 Committee Feedback: Wayfinding

Selected Draft to Refine 02/19/26 meeting



Pedestrian Wayfinding

Bike Decision Wayfinding Guide Sign

Federal MUTCD templates: D2-1a, 2a, 3a

MUTCD Bike Route Confirmation and Turn Signs

Federal MUTCD templates: D-1H (bike route) M1-5a / Bc (train name) M5 (arrows)

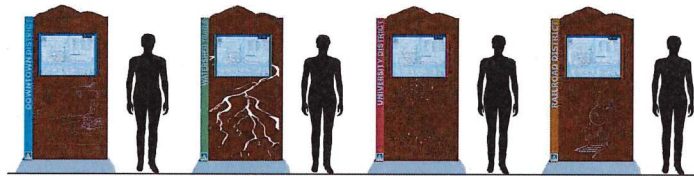
Bike Wayfinding:

- MUTCD-compliant with mountain topper artwork
- Needs ODOT approval
- City doesn't use bike route numbers, just names

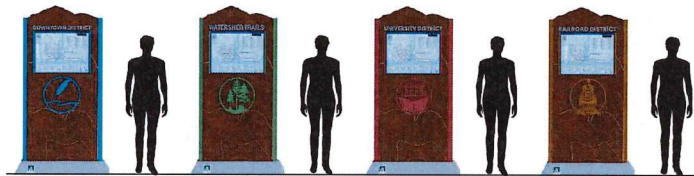
Pedestrian Wayfinding:

- Regular sign (versus fingerpost or wayfinding post)
- Color-coded
- Can we add a metal or artistic mountain element?
- City will use miles OR minutes, probably not both
- Likely will mount signs to existing posts where possible
- Lower/smaller pedestrian signs may get used more to avoid visual clutter and confusion with existing vehicle signs

March 5 Committee Feedback: Kiosk



Option 1



Option 2

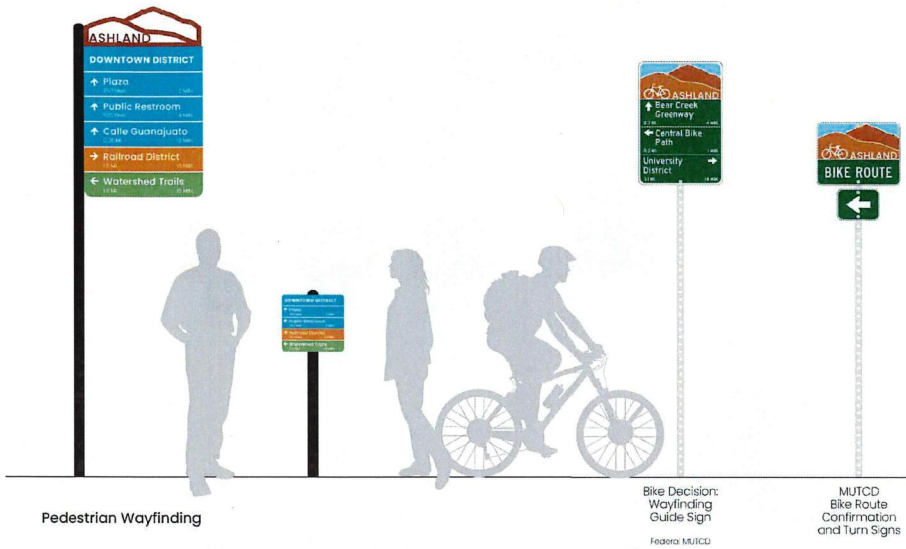
Two options were shown based on the February 19 feedback:

Option 1: Colored post but no symbol/icon and just a metal cutout

Option 2: With the symbol/icon but no post on the side

- The committee agreed to move forward with Option 1, with options for the side posts and text placement
- Make the city logo one color so it doesn't distract
- Committee liked the concepts shown for the Watershed Trails, Railroad District, and University District.
- A range of ideas were discussed for the subject of the Downtown cut out, including Shakespearean themes, built environment / downtown skyline, and a scene with mountains

March 5 Committee Feedback: Wayfinding



Bike Wayfinding:

- No changes needed

Pedestrian Wayfinding:

- Like the look
- Discussed interchangeability and adding / deleting destinations over time
- Discussed handling of double sided / back-to-back signs with varying numbers of destinations
- Discussed leaving open space at the bottom of signs



Final Design Options

Wayfinding Signs

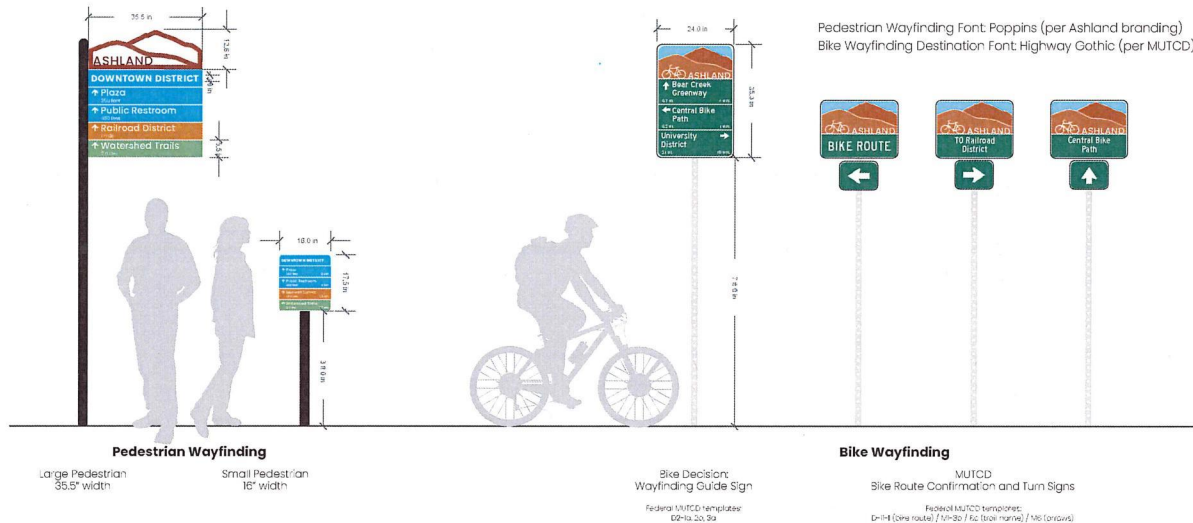
Pedestrian Wayfinding:

- Color coded system using a uniform grid system so that all destinations are the same size
- Mileage and miles can be included or deleted
- Metal artwork on higher pedestrian signs; too likely to be vandalized on shorter signs
- Uses City of Ashland fonts and a darker variation of brand colors

Bike Wayfinding:

- Mostly MUTCD-compliant with mountain topper artwork
- Follows Portland's system
- Uses MUTCD-compliant Highway Gothic font and MUTCD Green

Color Variations Used in Sign Drafts:



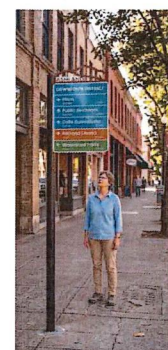
Wayfinding Sign Mockups



Wayfinding Sign with Metal Topper



Smaller Pedestrian Wayfinding Sign

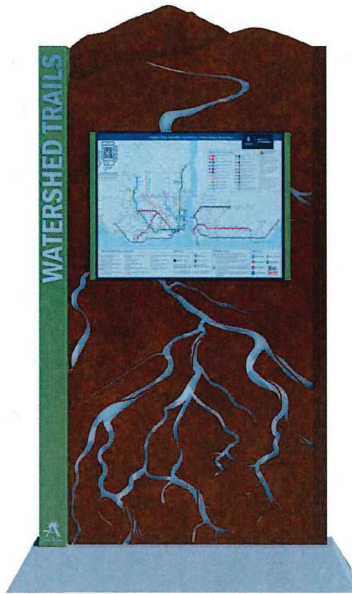


Pedestrian Wayfinding Sign with Metal Topper, Downtown

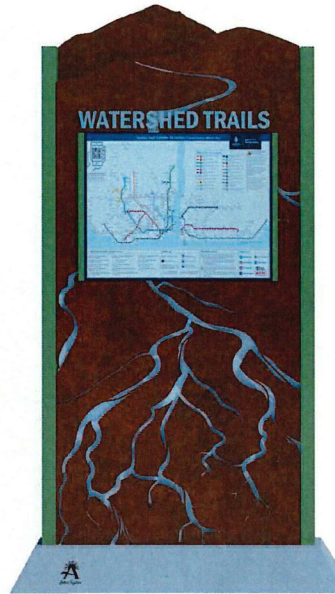


Bike Wayfinding Sign

Watershed District: Kiosk Options



Option 1: Single colored post with vertical text

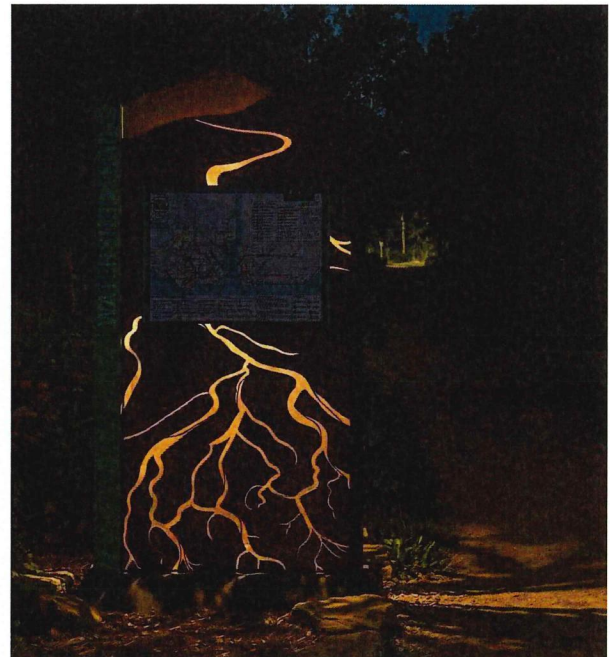


Option 2: Double colored posts with horizontal text

Watershed District: Kiosk Mockups

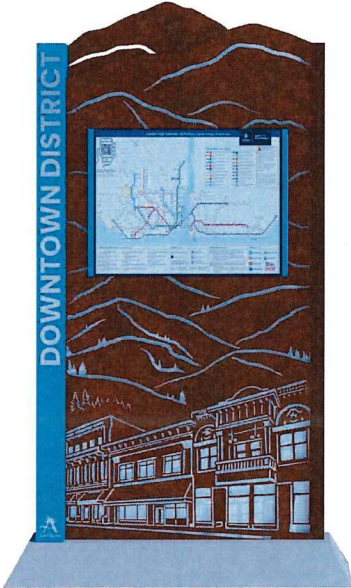


Kiosk Day Mock Up: Watershed District

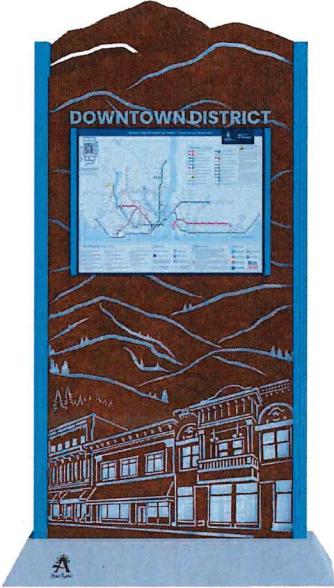


Kiosk Night Mock Up: Watershed District

Downtown District: Kiosk Options



Option 1: Single colored post with vertical text



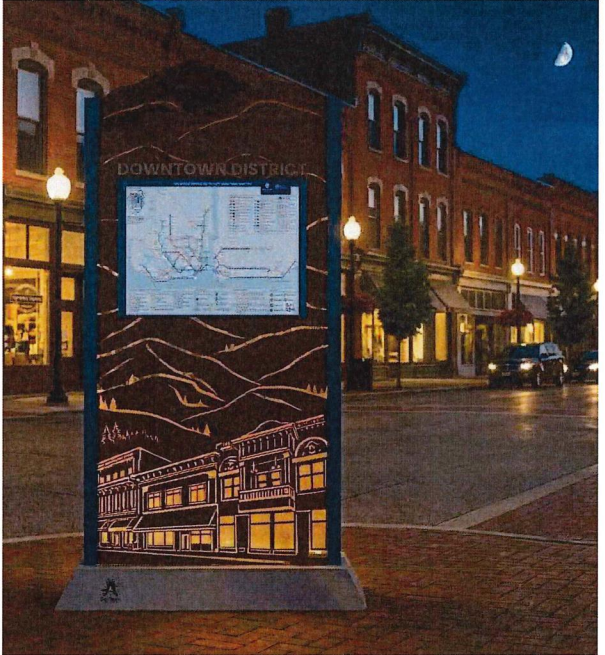
Option 2: Double colored posts with horizontal text



Downtown District: Kiosk Mockups

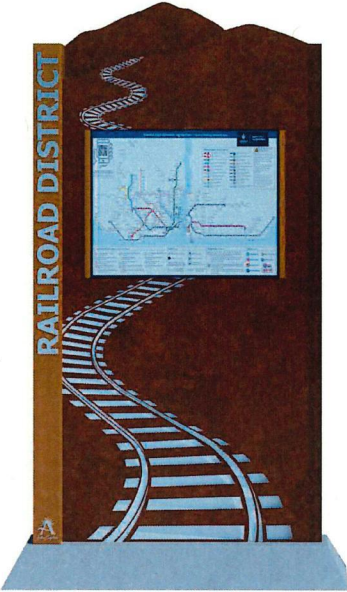


Kiosk Day Mock Up: Downtown District

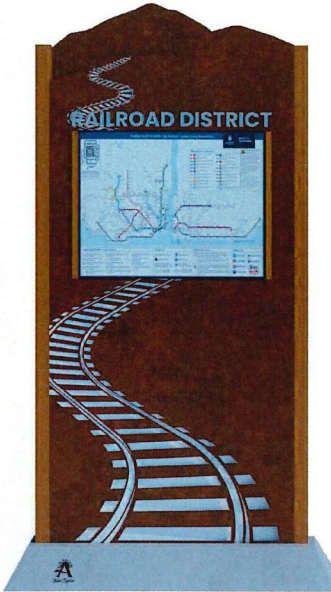


Kiosk Night Mock Up: Downtown District

Railroad District: Kiosk Options



Option 1: Single colored post with vertical text



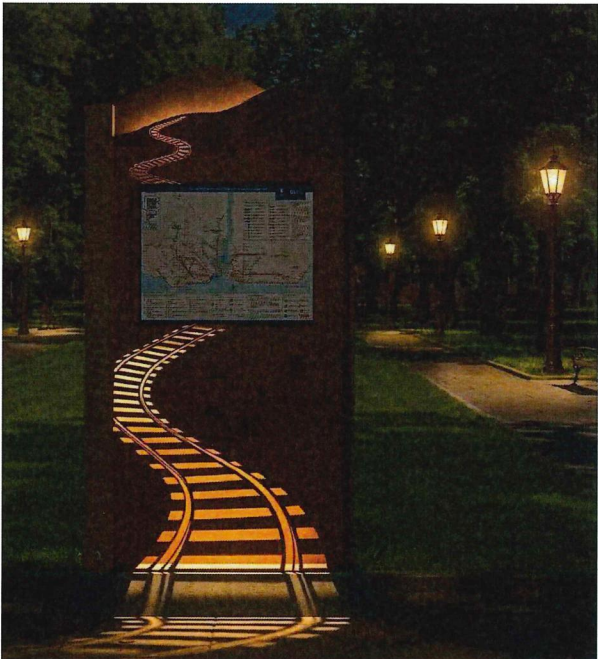
Option 2: Double colored posts with horizontal text



Railroad District: Kiosk Mockups

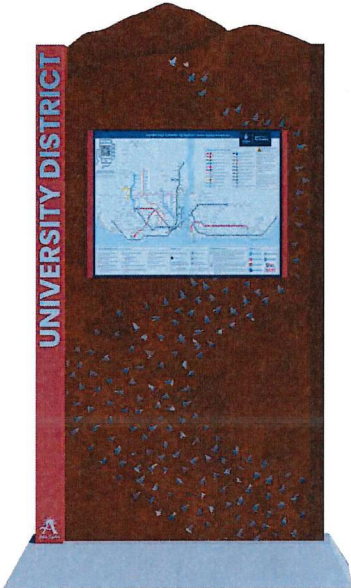


Kiosk Day Mock Up: Railroad District

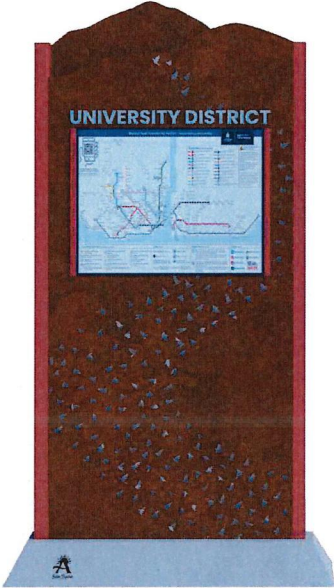


Kiosk Night Mock Up: Railroad District

University District: Kiosk Options



Option 1: Single colored post with vertical text



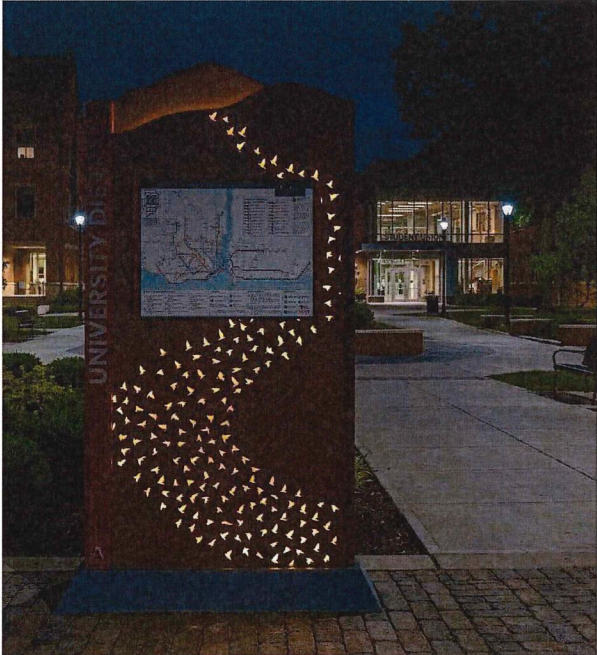
Option 2: Double colored posts with horizontal text



University District: Kiosk Mockups



Kiosk Day Mock Up: University District



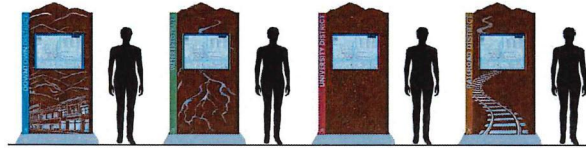
Kiosk Night Mock Up: University District

Mt Ashland + Metal Wayfinding Sign Package

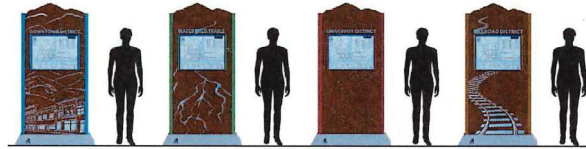
Wayfinding Family



Kiosk Option 1:



Kiosk Option 2:





SPEAKER REQUEST FORM

Submit this form to the meeting Secretary prior to the discussion item.

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- 5) Speakers are solely responsible for the content of their statement

Date: 3/17/26

Name: (Please Print)
LINDA ADAMS

Ashland Resident:
 YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number:

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):
RVTD Levy Vote Yes

Please respect the order of proceedings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are loud or disruptive are disrespectful and offenders will be requested to leave.

Disclaimer: By submitting this request to address the Public Body, I agree that I will refrain from the use of any obscene, vulgar, or profane language. I understand that if I do not follow procedure my speaking time may be terminated, and I may be requested to sit down or leave the building.



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Date: 17 March 2020

Name: (Please Print)

Benjamin Ben-Baruch

Ashland Resident:

YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number:

Asante

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):

Asante

Please respect the order of proceedings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are loud or disruptive are disrespectful and offenders will be requested to leave.

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Date: 3/17/26

Name: (Please Print) Lauri Hoagland

Ashland Resident: YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number:

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item): Ashland Community Hospital

Please respect the order of proceedings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are loud or disruptive are disrespectful and offenders will be requested to leave.

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Date:

3/17/26

Name: (Please Print)

ERIC AIAVICKAS

Ashland Resident:

YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number:

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):

ELEA REPORT

Please respect the order of proceedings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are loud or disruptive are disrespectful and offenders will be requested to leave.

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Date:

3/17/20

Name: (Please Print)

John Maurer

Ashland Resident:

YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number:

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):

Healthcare

Please respect the order of proceedings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are loud or disruptive are disrespectful and offenders will be requested to leave.

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Date:

3/17/26

Name: (Please Print)

Cate Hartzell

Ashland Resident:

YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number:

Public Forum

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):

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Date:
3/17/26

Name: (Please Print)
Lauri Hoagland / Fernando Gasparin

Ashland Resident:
 YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number:
~~Public~~

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):
Ashland Community Hospital

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Date:

3/17/26

Name: (Please Print)

SUZANNE HAVEMAN

Ashland Resident:

YES NO City: Ashland

Agenda Topic/Item Number:

Ashland Community Hospital

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):

YES - NON-AGENDA

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Did not speak



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Date: 5/17/20

Name: (Please Print) SEAN NEVILL
CHRISTOPHER GEORGE

Ashland Resident:
 YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number: COMMUNITY WORKSHEET EXCD

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item): MULTIPLE NOTES

Please respect the order of proceedings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are loud or disruptive are disrespectful and offenders will be requested to leave.

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Date:

3/17/26

Name: (Please Print)

Paul Mozina

Ashland Resident:

YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number:

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):

McGowan case

Please respect the order of proceedings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are loud or disruptive are disrespectful and offenders will be requested to leave.

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Default Judgement against the City

The case of [Thomas McGowan vs City of Ashland 25CV66716](#)

and the case I have made for the last 10 months regarding the city's misconduct regarding adopting the 2025-2027 biennial budget, reveal a pattern of disdain by the city administration and this council for city employees and the citizens of Ashland.

In McGowan's case, the violations of the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy are blatant. After receiving McGowan's reports against current AF&R Chief, Marshall Rasor, directly from former AF&R Chief Ralph Sartain, it appears that the City Manager did NOT initiate an investigation into Rasor's misconduct, because neither McGowan or Sartain were interviewed, or received any reports.

Whistle Blower

*Retaliation
Discrimination
Shoulder
Sue*

In the case of the 2025-2027 Biennial Budget, the Ashland Charter requires the Chief of Police to investigate any violations of the Charter. The Chief did nothing in response to my inquiry and brief summary of the issues beyond asking the parliamentarian, Johan Pietila to investigate his own actions, and those of the City Administrator and the Council. I subsequently filed a formal complaint to which neither O'Meara or Pietila responded.

*Notice of
Default*

I have written a dozen articles in the Ashland Chronicle and spoken to the Council numerous times documenting how this Council violated the ORS regarding the public hearing on the budget, and your failure to have a motion and vote on the amendments you made to the budget, as required by the Ashland Charter. No one has pointed out a single factual or logical error in my complaint, subsequent articles, or my public comments. The only response I got was a pathetic email from Johan Pietila sent to me before I even filed my formal complaint. That is what you are hiding behind.

Dylan Bloom advised me that I should sue the city. Is that what it takes? That is what Tom McGowan was forced to do. Why can't you just follow your own rules and respect your employees and the citizens of Ashland? Instead, anyone who complains is ignored. You expect us to trust you?

I have been speaking to you and writing about this council's misconduct in amending the 2025-2027 biennial budget since last June. The only substantive response I received from you, or anyone in the administration, is an email from the City Attorney sent to me on July 2, before I had even filed my formal complaint.

Attorney Pietila did not address the fact, that this council violated ORS 294.453, which requires the public hearing to be on the budget as approved by the CBC. You amended the CBC approved budget at your May 19 Study Session—two weeks from the June 3rd vote. He did not mention the fact that the Ashland Charter requires a motion and vote on ANY action that you take, especially one as momentous as amending the biennial budget. Rather, he said it was enough that you all discussed the changes at two sessions, when in fact, you only discussed this at your May 19 study session. Perhaps he just made a mistake, or maybe it was a lazy attempt to make the council's action look good by claiming you had discussed this multiple times.

Attorney Pietila was new on the job at the time and perhaps he hadn't read the Ashland Charter when he responded, but it definitely requires more than simply discussing things prior to acting. The charter is so emphatic on this point that it actually says, if you don't have a motion and vote on the action, it is not legally binding.

You all have failed to answer two simple factual questions: Did you amend the budget before the public hearing, which according to ORS 294.453, was supposed to be on the budget as approved by the CBC? Did you have a motion and vote on those amendments as required by the Charter? After 10 months none of you can or will defend your actions—even via a proxy.

Councilor Bloom suggested that I sue the city. You are being dishonest by pretending these issues have been resolved by a pathetic email from the city attorney. Your lack of integrity—demonstrated by your silence on this issue—is further eroding any trust the people of Ashland may have had for you.



SPEAKER REQUEST FORM

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Date: 3/17

Name: (Please Print) Debbie Neisewander

Ashland Resident:
 YES NO City: _____

Agenda Topic/Item Number: ~~102~~

Public Forum Topic (Non-agenda Item):
Nite Lawn

Please respect the order of proceedings and strictly follow the directions of the presiding officer. Behavior or actions which are loud or disruptive are disrespectful and offenders will be requested to leave.

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ASHLAND CITY COUNCIL
STUDY SESSION MINUTES
Monday, September 15, 2025

After extensive discussion about future options, staff was directed to come back with answers to three questions prior to the December retreat:

1. Data on police calls at the lawn
2. Clarification of ordinances related to camping bans and state law
3. Assessment of city-owned properties as potential alternative sites

Sept 15, 2025



Council Study Session

November 17, 2025

Update on Prohibited Camping Enforcement
Police
Tighe O'Meara, Police Chief

The City's legal team has assessed that Ashland's management of the night lawn and housing and shelter efforts to be reasonable, based on related state cases and case-law updates (including the recent Supreme Court *Grants Pass* decision). If the night lawn is at capacity, Ashland may partner with neighboring cities for houseless services, provided such efforts to connect individuals with outside assistance is reasonable.

1) Data on calls at the Nite Lawn
attached

Keep in Mind :- Citations NOT Convictions

- Info obtained from APD Blotters

- Blotter Data Incomplete

3) Assessment of city-owned properties
as potential alternative site never addressed!

Nite Lawn 2024

Prohibited Camping (65)

Jan (5) Feb (14) Mar (18) Apr (19) May (5)
June (3) July (0) Aug (0) Sept (0) Oct (0)
Nov (1) Dec (0)

Arrests (50)

- (18) Warrants (1)(4)(1)(2)(1)(0)(4)(1)(0)(0)(1)(3)
 - (5) Trespass (1)(2)(0)(1)(0)(0)(0)(1)(0)(0)(0)(0)
 - (9) DOC (0)(2)(0)(0)(2)(0)(3)(1)(0)(1)(0)(0)
 - (4) PCS Apr (3) Nov (1)
 - (1) Offensive Littering Mar (1)
 - (1) Criminal Mischief Oct (1)
 - (1) Harassment May (1)
 - (1) Harassment Phone Dec (1)
 - (1) Providing False Info July (1)
 - (1) Parole Violation Jan (1)
 - (2) Resisting Jan (1) Apr (1)
 - (2) Assault 2
 - (2) Menacing
 - (2) Reckless Endangerment
- Nite Lawn
Explosion
Jan 15, 2024

Nite Lawn 2024

Violations (13)

- (4) Dog Control Req'd Mar(2) Apr(1) Oct(1)
- (3) Scattering Rubbish Jan(1) Feb(1) (Mar(1))
- (2) Keeping Junk outdoors Feb(1) Oct(1)
- (1) Drinking in Public June(1)
- (1) Open Container (Oct(1))
- (1) Public Use Mj Mar(1)
- (1) Failure to Supervise Children Feb(1)

Property (14)

(1)(1)(1)(1)(2)(1)(1)(2)(0)(0)(2)(2)

Nite Lawn Report 2024

No Info: (32) Incomplete Blotter Entries

- (1) Jan 24-186 (ORD)
(1) Feb 24-344 (ASSTAP)
(4) March 24-491 (ORD) 24-625 (ORD)
24-460 (ASSTAP) 24-596 (ASSTAP)
(2) April 24-768 (All other offenses) 24-892 (ASSTAP)
(1) May 24-971 (ASSTPP)
(4) June 24-1176 (ORD) 24-1248 (ASSTAP)
24-1249 (ASSTAP) 24-1284 (ORD)
(2) July 24-1542 (ASSTAP) 24-1400 (All other offenses)
(4) Aug. 24-1680 (SS) 24-1720 (ORD)
24-1741 (ASSTPP) 24-1787 (ORD)
(8) Sept. 24-1864 (ASSTAP) 24-1896 (ORD)
24-1906 (ORD) 24-1908 (ASSTPP)
24-1918 (ORD) 24-1941 (ASSTAP)
24-1974 (ORD) 24-1999 (ASSTAP)
(2) Oct. 24-2150 (ORD) 24-2180 (ORD)
(3) Nov. 24-2256 (ASSTAP) 24-2279 (ORD)
24-2350 (ASSTAP)
(0) Dec

Summary:

(14) ORD (3) ASSTPP (1) SS
(12) ASSTAP (2) All other offenses

Nite Lawn Report

January thru August 2025

Prohibited Camping (17)

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
(5)	(0)	(7)	(4)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(0)

Arrests (26)

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A
(17) Warrants	(4)	(3)	(1)	(3)	(3)	(1)	(1)	(1)
(6) Trespass	(0)	(0)	(0)	(1)	(3)	(2)	(0)	(0)
(3) DOC	(0)	(0)	(1)	(0)	(1)	(1)	(0)	(0)

Violations (12)

(3) Scattering Rubbish	March (1)	April (2)
(4) Prohibited Use Marijuana	April (2)	June (2)
(1) Open Container	June (1)	
(1) Dangerous Animal	February (1)	
(1) Dog Control Required	March (1)	
(1) Loitering in Public Parking Lot	May (1)	
(1) Parking Prohibited	March (1)	

Property (20)

(1)	(1)	(1)	(6)	(4)	(4)	(0)	(3)
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Nite Lawn Report

January thru August 2025

No Info (30)

Incomplete Blotter Entries

(1) Jan 25-153 (ORD)

(3) Feb 25-254 (ASSTAP) 25-266 (ORD) 25-270 (BITEP)

(6) March 25-466 (ASSTPP) 25-469 (ORD)

25-476 (All other offenses) 25-481 (ORD)

25-486 (LLAWS) 25-493 (ORD)

(2) April 25-584 (ORD) 25-656 (ASSTAP)

(3) May 25-846 (ORD) 25-851 (ORD) 25-583 (ASSTPP)

(5) June 25-910 (ORD) 25-942 (ORD) 25-975 (SUSP)

25-995 (ORD) 25-1036 (ORD)

(5) July 25-1123 (Redacted) 25-1171 (ASSTAP)

25-1195 (FOOTP) 25-1220 (Assist Law Enforcement)

25-1221 (ORD)

(5) August 25-1412 (ORD) 25-1444 (ORD) 25-1463 (ORD)

25-1466 (Redacted) 25-1524 (ORD)

Summary (No Info)

(17) ORD

(3) ASSTAP

(2) ASSTPP

(2) Redacted

(1) LLAWS

(1) FOOTP

(1) SUSP

(1) BITEP

(1) All other offenses

(1) Assist Law Enforcement