

## The Oregonian

### Should Portlanders get to vote on Portland Street Fund?: Portland City Hall Roundup (poll)

*By Andrew Theen  
November 24, 2014*

Last Thursday, Portlanders packed the City Council chambers at City Hall for a nearly five hour public hearing on a proposed \$46 million street fund.

The meeting was a mostly civil affair, compared to some occasionally contentious public town halls and a feisty May meeting on a previous proposal.

Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Steve Novick continue to say they will move forward with a Dec. 3 vote on their funding plan to raise millions for street safety and paving. The plan consists of a progressive income tax on residents and a fee on businesses. (Read more background here)

Of the 80 people that registered to speak Thursday, several pushed the politicians to send their income tax and business fee proposal; to voters for the ultimate approval.

"The voters should have an opportunity to have their say," said Marion Haynes with the Portland Business Alliance. The chamber of commerce had said they'd through their considerable weight behind a referral option.

Joe Walsh, frequent council gadfly, said without a referral to the voters, just three members of the City Council are deciding an issue for 600,000 residents.

Hales continually asked members of the public what they would have voters decide on, if not the current \$46 million plan. "What's the measure that we could send to voters, and you'd campaign for?" Hales asked to street fee critic Craig Rogers.

"Tell us what this measure looks like," he added.

Commissioner Amanda Fritz said most of the emails and phone calls she's received on the street fund can be summed up as such: "Let us vote on it."

"But what should the 'it' be?" Fritz asked.

What would you like to see the City Council do?

Take our poll and share your thoughts in the comment section.

## The Mercury

### An Airline Says the City Owes it Almost \$40,000 for Supplying Potentially Poop-Tinged Water

*By Dirk VanderHart  
November 21, 2014*

We were all terribly inconvenienced in late May, when a series of bacterium-ridden test results meant Portland's water supply was under a boil order for a day. Utah-based SkyWest Airlines is perhaps the only entity demanding \$40,000 for that inconvenience.

The airline has filed a tort claim notice with the city—the first step in a potential lawsuit—saying it was burdened with dumping and testing water it picked up at Portland International Airport from May 20-23, when consecutive tests turned up evidence of dreaded E. coli in the water supply. Its total costs, including employee time and paying for lab results, totaled \$37,687—money SkyWest says the city should have to pay.

From the claim:

*SkyWest Airlines received notification from the City of Portland that the potable water received at PDX Airport had possible contamination. Our Maintenance Dept. immediately began researching which of our aircraft had been through PDX during May 20-23, 2014, and taking appropriate measures to drain, cleanse, sanitize and sample all potable water on the aircraft. ... Please note: the potable was immediately drained and the system deferred until the aircraft could fly through a base where the sanitization and sampling could take place.*

SkyWest filed the notice back in July, and doesn't appear to have filed suit. That's doesn't mean it won't. A tort claim is a necessary step before suing the city, and needs to be sent within 180 days of the alleged damage. We asked a company spokesperson yesterday whether a lawsuit's in the works. He promised to call us back, but hasn't.

Here's a blurry itemization of SkyWest's claimed costs.

Water bureau employees test water from our above-ground reservoirs incessantly, and alerted customers on May 23, after three tests for the bacteria came back positive. The order was lifted on May 24. Boil orders don't necessarily mean anyone's in danger, but the City of Portland errs on the side of caution in such instances.

You never know who might file a lawsuit.