

## The Portland Tribune

# Green Loop Gets City Moving for Sunday Parkways

By Zane Sparling

July 22, 2018

**Thousands cycle between east and west side for urban trail event on Sunday, July 22.**

Why can't it be Sunday Parkways every day of the week?

It might seem fanciful, but city leaders hope to make the car-free urban path a permanent fixture of Portland's street grid. Plenty of residents got their first taste of the foot-and-pedal proposal — known as the Green Loop — on Sunday, July 22.

Bikes filled the boulevards of the inner east and west sides, with an estimated 15,000 making the trek between the Broadway Bridge and Tilikum Crossing as they cruised from Portland State University to the North Park Blocks and on to the Rose Quarter and the Central Eastside.

"I like that there's some shade every now and then, and there's plenty of places to go," said Brenna Belezos during a pit stop in front of the Moda Center. "It's really fun. I really like riding."

The six-year-old's dad, Tom, says the family tries to participate in two or three Sunday Parkways a year, but didn't realize that this route was a rough draft for the six-mile Green Loop. The Milwaukie resident says he supports investments in pedestrian infrastructure — but also wants the city to tackle the traffic.

"I want both. I want the option to ride my bike safely, and I want to be able to drive my car efficiently," he explained.

While plans for the Green Loop date back to 2012, the concept wasn't officially embraced until June 6, when the City Council unanimously adopted the project as part of the Central City 2035 plan.

The document calls for construction of the Sullivan's Crossing bike and pedestrian bridge at Northeast 7th Avenue over Interstate 84, new bikeways along the North and South Park Blocks and the soon-to-be redeveloped Post Office blocks, as well as at the I-405 off-ramp at Southwest 4th Avenue and Lincoln Street.

Mayor Ted Wheeler has become an enthusiastic booster of the plan, though he's hinted he doesn't expect to be sitting in City Hall when many aspects of the Green Loop come online in the next 10 to 20 years.

"As Portland continues to grow and thrive, we need new ways to help Portlanders travel safely and easily," Wheeler said in a Tuesday, July 17 press conference announcing the new route, according to a prepared copy of his remarks. "That is what the Green Loop is all about."

Westside Portland resident Katie Chang could see herself commuting across the river for work using the Green Loop.

Chang tried out a Biketown cycle for the first time on Sunday, and while some naysayers have forsworn the neon orange behemoths, she said using the bike was a breeze.

"I wasn't planning on riding. They made it easy," she said. "It feels very safe to ride on these streets."

# Portlanders Getting Utility Discounts Aren't Doing What They Promised

*By Steve Law*

*July 21, 2018*

## **Audit finds 8 of 15 residents getting Clean River Rewards didn't disconnect their downspouts as promised or are sending stormwater into the street**

A spot check by city auditors found half the Portland residents who pledged to manage stormwater on-site to get utility discounts aren't doing what they promised.

An audit released Friday by the Portland City Auditor noted that eight of 15 residents enjoying Clean River Rewards discounts had not disconnected their downspouts as promised, or were diverting water from their property onto the street, contrary to the goals of the discount program.

The program to reward residents for managing their own stormwater causes a \$1.70 monthly rate increase for other residents to pay for the discounts, auditors noted.

The audit's main finding was that the city Bureau of Environmental Services has experienced tremendous success by enlisting private property owners to keep stormwater on site rather than burdening the city's combined sewer and stormwater system. That enabled the city to put in smaller pipes in the \$1.4 billion Big Pipe project designed to prevent sewage overflows during storms into the Willamette River and Columbia River Slough.

However, auditors said the bureau has a poor understanding of which property owners are doing what, so it isn't that clear about the impact of those improvements. More than 30,000 properties, primarily homes, have never been inspected to verify residents are doing what they promised to get the discounts.

Auditors got a "great" response from the Bureau of Environmental Services about their findings, said Elizabeth Pape, senior management auditor.

Mike Jordan, director of the Bureau of Environmental Services, said he welcomed the audit and is already working to address some of the issues raised.

BES has three different databases for stormwater improvements that don't "talk to each other very well," Jordan said. The agency has identified a need for better software and business systems, he said, and added three employees in its 2018-19 budget.

It's not cost-effective to send inspectors to each of the 34,600 properties getting discounts in the Clean River Rewards program, Jordan said. But the bureau likely will begin its own spot-checking of properties to verify the promised systems were installed and are working as intended, he said. A statistical analysis could reveal if any changes are needed in the program.

The audit did not evaluate whether the city's stormwater billing systems are fair.

A Portland Tribune investigation in February found significant inequities in bureau charges to residents for off-site stormwater management. Though the city facilities benefit everyone equally, single-family residents pay \$18.60 a month, while those living in condo and apartment high-rises pay as little as 61 cents to \$1 a month, based on a spot check of utility bills. Residents of medium-sized apartments pay roughly \$2 to \$3 a month.

The audit did not evaluate rates, Pape said, because BES is about to undergo a multi-year review of its rate-setting.

Jordan said the agency is now preparing a request for proposals to hire a consultant for that effort.

## **Fish: New Cancer Treatments to Affect Public, Private Life**

*By Jim Redden*

*July 20, 2018*

### **Commissioner expresses confidence as he posts health update on City Council website about changes in OHSU treatment routine.**

Commissioner Nick Fish has announced that changes in his cancer treatment may require him to cut back his public schedule.

Fish was diagnosed with stomach cancer last year and has been receiving treatments for it at OHSU. They have included chemotherapy treatments, which have required him to be out of the office on Fridays and recover on Saturdays.

In "health update" posted on his City Council website on Thursday, Fish says the treatments are being "modified to maximize progress," which will have an impact on both his public and private life.

Fish tells the Portland Tribune the changes are not a surprise or the result of a setback, but the schedule his doctors have told him they will follow as they make progress with his treatments.

"The cancer has not spread and the goal is to make me a candidate for surgery, which would be a major milestone in my progress," says Fish.

"I have always been confident I can balance my job and my treatments, which is why I ran for reelection and fully expect to finish my next term," says Fish, who was reelected in the May 2018 primary. "People just might not see as much of me for awhile, and I want to prepare them for that."

Fish has maintained a busy schedule since his diagnosis, and has frequently been the only council member to attend evening events. He says his office and the bureaus that he oversees — including the Portland Water Bureau and the Bureau of Environmental Services — have been very productive over the past year, which will continue.

Here is the complete post:

Friends,

About a year ago, I was diagnosed with stomach cancer.

I am so grateful for all the love and support my family and I have received. Thank you. Today, I am even more confident that I will win this fight.

My doctors are modifying my treatment for a few months to maximize our progress — and it will have an impact on my public and private life.

Here is a snapshot:

1. I will receive infusions every two weeks. That means two Fridays a month at OHSU's Knight Cancer Institute.
2. I will have less energy.

3. I may lose some more hair — but as my son reminds me, most people won't notice any difference!

4. The tumor will continue to take a pounding.

The new treatment will have one other important side effect — I will need more recovery time.

That means that while I will continue to keep a very busy schedule during the workday, I will be doing fewer evening events for now. I hope everyone understands.

Thank you for your continued support. My goal is to continue to meet and exceed all the responsibilities of my day job, while laying the groundwork for my full recovery.

## **Willamette Week**

### **A Plan to Increase Number of Homes Allowed in Portland's Single-Family Neighborhoods Delayed**

*By Rachel Monahan*

*July 20, 2018*

**Mayor Ted Wheeler is hoping the controversial proposal can "create more housing" but "without disrupting" neighborhoods.**

A vote to increase the number of homes in Portland's single-family neighborhoods has been delayed until next year.

The Planning and Sustainability Commission has been deliberating on changes that could allow two houses where one is currently allowed as well as double the number of backyard cottages and other accessory dwelling units allowed.

For advocates of development, the "residential infill project," as it's called, is the next big step toward increasing a shortage of supply of housing in Portland. For critics, there's a fear the proposal will increase the number of demolitions and utterly change neighborhoods for the worse.

The latest analysis of the city's draft proposal shows little of either: 1,700 more single-family homes over a 20 year period than would be otherwise developed.

The delay on the proposal was first reported by the Portland Tribune.

The Tribune reported that Mayor Ted Wheeler was uncertain that the changes being contemplated "would strike the right balance," in the Tribune's words. Wheeler was quoted as saying "I'm in no rush."

When asked whether the mayor continued to support the concept of increasing building in residential neighborhoods, the mayor's office reiterated Wheeler's support for the idea, but argued that the proposal need not be contentious.

"We believe we can create more housing in Portland neighborhoods without disrupting those things that make our neighborhoods great," says Chief of Staff Michael Cox.

The Planning Bureau says the delay happened because the Planning and Sustainability Commission has been delving into the technical details of the proposal more than expected.

It won't be possible to have all the necessary hearings at City Council before the end of the year, when a new commissioner will be sworn in.

"The PSC will likely vote on the RIP package toward the end of the year, which means that a new Council will be the body considering their recommendation," says spokeswoman Eden Dabbs.

## **Mayor Ted Wheeler Sends Portland Police to the Occupy ICE Camp After Patriot Prayer Leader Said He Would Show Up to “Talk With Protesters”**

*By Katie Shepherd  
July 20, 2018*

**Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson said he was going to show up at the protest camp Friday evening.**

Mayor Ted Wheeler says he decided to send Portland police to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building on Southwest Macadam Avenue after Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson said he was going to show up at the protest camp Friday evening.

Gibson posted on Facebook Thursday that he was going to "talk with protesters" at the camp that has been erected outside of the federal building for more than a month.

Wheeler says he spoke with Portland police chief Danielle Outlaw and the two leaders decided to send police to "address any criminal behavior" at the ICE building. The mayor had previously vowed to keep local police out of skirmishes between protesters and federal law enforcement officers.

"Given recent past incidents of violence between groups of demonstrators, I asked Portland Police to maintain a presence near the facility to ensure those present can safely express their First Amendment rights," Wheeler said in a statement.

Gibson recently held a so-called campaign event in Portland that turned violent on June 30. The riot sent five people to the hospital.

"The Portland Police Bureau protects and defends constitutionally-protected activity but may take police action should events involve criminal behavior, such as disorderly conduct, harassment, assault, or criminal mischief," Outlaw said.

## **The Skanner**

### **Community Invited to Forum on Policing in Portland**

*July 21, 2018*

Mayor Wheeler's office will host a community forum on Portland's Independent Police Review Division, a program of the City Auditor's Office, from 6:30-8:30 pm on Wednesday July 25th at the Taborspace Dining Room, 5441 SE Belmont Street, Portland.

Panelists will discuss IPR's processes for investigations and reviewing policy as well as answer community questions about the Portland Police Bureau's discipline process.

Panelists include Constantin Severe, director of the IPR; KC Jones, IPR senior management analyst; and Eric Berry, the IPR's lead investigator.

The Mayor's Office is also spearheading a new program – the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing which will develop recommendations for how the Portland Police Bureau can better engage the community in its development of policies that directly affect Portlanders.

The committee will focus on racial justice, constitutional policing and mental health issues.

Part of committee's role is to host community forums to continue the conversation with Portlanders about public safety and police accountability.

The Mayor's office will host interim community forums until the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing has been established and its members are seated.

These interim meetings are being held the last Wednesday of every month.

Forum on Public Safety: Independent Police Review (IPR)

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

6:30-8:30 pm

Taborspace Dining Room

5441 SE Belmont Street

Portland, Oregon 97215

**TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING:**

The Trimet #15 bus stops near Taborspace.

If you're driving: Taborspace is equipped with a large parking lot on the corner of 54th and Belmont (enter on 54th).

It is directly across the street from Taborspace's 54th Avenue lower level entrance.