

The Oregonian

Mayor Wheeler Proposes 2020 Budget Focused on Homelessness

*By Gordon Friedman
May 1, 2019*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler released his proposed 2020 budget Wednesday, asking the City Council to approve millions of dollars of spending on new programs, particularly initiatives meant to address homelessness and mental health.

Among those proposals are:

- \$877,000 to establish a “Hygiene Street Response Program” with three mobile showers and bathrooms for use by homeless people;
- \$500,000 to fund future costs associated with creation of mobile “street response” teams firefighters and emergency medical technicians to respond to 911 calls for welfare checks, removal of trespassers or mental health crises.
- \$250,000 to support anticipated operating costs for two new homeless shelters prioritizing women, veterans, people with disabilities and couples;
- \$182,000 to develop a plan for a mental health nurse triage program within the city’s 911 center.

The budget also renews last year’s \$32 million allocation to fund homelessness prevention and response programs within the city-county Joint Office of Homeless Services.

Unlike prior in years, the mayor’s proposed budget does not list the total city budget, making a year-to-year comparison difficult. Last year’s all-funds budget totaled more than \$5 billion, with about \$500 million coming from the discretionary general fund.

Wheeler’s spokeswoman, Eileen Park, did not have figures for the mayor’s proposed 2020 general fund and all funds budget.

Mayor Ted Wheeler Includes Albina Vision, Willamette River Ferry in Proposed City Budget

*By Andrew Theen
May 1, 2019*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler supports spending city money to study a passenger ferry system on the Willamette River, and to boost public outreach to help officials “understand how Portlanders envision the Rose Quarter.”

Those were two nuggets nestled in Wheeler’s proposed budget released Wednesday. Portland has an estimated \$18.4 million in additional one-time cash to spend in the upcoming 2019-20 fiscal year, thanks to a boom in business license fees and tourism dollars.

In November, Wheeler publicly threw his support behind the nascent effort known as the Frog Ferry, which seeks to bring passenger ferries to the Willamette and Columbia Rivers.

His budget plan puts that support in writing, setting aside \$200,000 for a study examining a ferry system's long-term viability.

"The passenger ferry would provide an alternative transportation option to ease the traffic burden on freeways and roads, and could be enjoyed by commuters, visitors, elders, and people with disabilities," the mayor wrote.

Frog Ferry backers had previously stated a feasibility study would cost an estimated \$625,000. Organizers were also seeking the state and TriMet's financial support. The Frog Ferry leaders said the first ferries would be available for service, if all goes according to plan, by 2022.

Wheeler's spending plan also included \$75,000 to pay for "community engagement" in the Rose Quarter.

The line-item spending plan appears under the descriptor "Albina Vision" in Wheeler's budget note, a nod to the coalition led by Meyer Memorial Trust executive Rukaiyah Adams and others which seeks to jumpstart development in and around the Rose Quarter with the goal of addressing historic displacement there.

The Albina Vision has increasingly gained public support from Wheeler and other elected officials like Metro Council President Lynn Peterson in recent weeks.

The Albina Vision seeks to bring housing, development and public spaces to the area currently carved apart by Interstate 5.

A proposed \$500 million Oregon Department of Transportation-led project in the Rose Quarter that would widen the freeway by adding merging lanes and shoulders has prompted criticism from transit advocates and Albina Vision leaders.

The freeway proposal calls for capping sections of I-5, but Albina Vision representatives say that plan isn't bold enough. Wheeler, Peterson and others have publicly sided with Albina Vision in recent weeks while simultaneously saying the interstate remains a critical artery that needs improvements.

"Any cap on Interstate 5 must be engineered so the urban streetscape can continue seamlessly over the freeway and accommodate built structures that support community continuity," Wheeler and Peterson wrote in an April letter to the Oregon Transportation Commission. "If done right, this project presents a rare opportunity to repair past wrongs while simultaneously improving the ability of the facility to effectively serve our region."

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who oversees the transportation bureau, has called for a more extensive environmental study of the potential impacts of that freeway project.

Wheeler's note indicates the city wants to talk to more people about the issue.

"The intent of the community engagement is to help the City better understand how Portlanders envision the Rose Quarter, as well as how that development will interact with other redevelopment plans for the Broadway Corridor and the North/Northeast Initiative in the Interstate Urban Renewal Area," the budget reads.

Wheeler also included \$5.3 million in one-time dollars for other transportation projects. The biggest item is \$2.3 million to replace the lining on Cornell Tunnel in Northwest Portland. Another \$1.5 million would go toward accessible sidewalk corners, part of the city's settlement agreement from a previous lawsuit.

Another \$500,000 in spending is dedicated to additional lighting on a 0.7-mile stretch of Southeast Stark Street, one of the city's most dangerous roads.

All of Wheeler's budget proposals are still preliminary. The full City Council will vote to approve the budget in June.

Portland Seeks Developer For Former Right 2 Dream Too Camp, Another Old Town Site

*By Elliot Njus
May 1, 2019*

Portland's urban renewal agency is asking for proposals to redevelop two Old Town Chinatown sites, including one where the Right 2 Dream Too homeless community sprang up.

Prosper Portland released a solicitation describing its goals for the two sites and financial incentives it could offer. The agency says it could either sell or lease the land after reaching an agreement that outlines the terms of the development.

The former Right 2 Dream Too site is a quarter-block at the corner of Northwest Fourth Avenue and West Burnside Street, next to the landmark Chinatown Gateway. Prosper Portland bought the Burnside site for \$1.2 million in 2017 after Right 2 Dream Too moved to a property near the Rose Quarter.

The other development site, known as Block 25, fronts Northwest Flanders Street between Third and Fourth avenues and surrounds the Blanchet House of Hospitality, a homelessness nonprofit that provides free meals and temporary shelter.

Both sites sit in the New Chinatown/Japantown Historic District. The solicitation calls for development with commercial space on the ground floor and mixed-income housing on upper levels. It also lists as a priority retail and community space oriented toward the Asian American communities that once lived in the district.

The sites also sit in a federal Opportunity Zone, which could make investors eligible for income tax breaks, and an Enterprise Zone, which could unlock property tax benefits.

Hundreds Gather for May Day Demonstrations in SW, NE Portland

*By Lizzy Acker, Everton Bailey Jr., Elliot Njus, Jayati Ramakrishnan, and Kale Williams
May 1, 2019*

Hundreds of people rallied in Southwest and Northeast Portland on Wednesday during May Day demonstrations advocating for the rights of immigrants, workers and other marginalized groups.

More than 100 protesters gathered at Elizabeth Caruthers Park on the southwest waterfront around 1 p.m., and at least 200 people were in Holladay Park near Lloyd Center by 4 p.m. Counter-protesters made appearances at both events, but the rallies remained peaceful.

May Day, also known as International Workers' Day, is a day of protest in support of worker rights in many places around the world, and Portland has a history of taking part.

In 2017, 25 people were arrested after a peaceful permitted protest erupted into a riot. In 2018, the primary May Day action was a family-friendly picnic at Lents Park.

Marco Mejia, a member of the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition and Portland Mayday Coalition that organized the Northeast Portland rally, said he remembers past demonstrations where thousands marched the streets of downtown Portland. Though numbers were smaller this year, he said he was still glad to see the annual event continue and provide people with opportunities to get involved in social issues.

“This event is more now to get people together and get back the sense of community and solidarity so we can continue working and fighting for our rights and people did that today,” he said.

Angelica Lim, another member of Portland Immigrants Rights Coalition and the Portland Mayday Coalition, said the Northeast Portland gathering was one of the first May Day events she’d seen without the presence of police officers wearing riot gear.

The day’s protests began in Southwest Portland where dozens of students mixed in with older folks as speakers rallied the crowd against the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, the federal government’s child separation policy and Trump’s border wall proposal.

After the speeches wrapped up, the protest marched a few blocks to a federal detention facility used by ICE to detain people held on unlawful immigration charges. The building, on Southwest Macadam Avenue and Bancroft Street, was the scene of a weeks-long occupation last year. On Wednesday, protesters set up a makeshift jail cell with a giant baby doll housed inside as federal police officers in riot gear looked on.

A few counter-protesters showed up, including Patriot Prayer’s Joey Gibson, but aside from a few minor verbal altercations, the rally remained peaceful and the demonstration wrapped up by about 3:30 p.m.

People and dogs later gathered in Holladay Park, where tamales were served, a child care tent stood and about a dozen community labor and human rights activist groups set up tables.

Several people gave speeches advocating support for workers, immigrants, people of color and the LGBT communities.

Some speakers asked people to support a bill that would allow undocumented immigrants to get a driver’s license.

A few dozen people from a Seattle-area group waved American flags and held a counter-protest on a nearby Interstate 84 overpass, but they didn’t go into the park.

Scores of Antifa, Far-Right Group Members Clash Outside NE Portland Bar

*By Jayati Ramakrishnan
May 1, 2019*

Portland police responded to a Northeast Portland bar Wednesday after scores of apparent members of antifa and far-right protesters clashed outside the business.

Cider Riot near Northeast Couch Street and Eighth Avenue was hosting a post-May Day rally gathering with live music when the far-right groups arrived. According to patrons of the business, about 60 people were at Cider Riot when about 20 far-right protesters showed up. Several patrons said Joey Gibson, founder of the far-right group Patriot Prayer, was at the scene.

“Patriot Prayer and their affiliates showed up, and started pepper-spraying people on our property,” said Cider Riot owner Abram Goldman-Armstrong.

Quintin Robinson, who lives across the street from Cider Riot, told The Oregonian/OregonLive that he saw both groups throwing things at each other and people being doused in bear spray.

“I was sleeping, and I heard the noise and woke up,” he said. “I see bottles being shattered, people screaming obscenities.” A news release from Portland police said some 60 people were involved in the clash.

Videos posted on Twitter by freelance reporter Mike Bivins show the fights starting after someone throws what appears to be a drink at the far-right protestors. One of them responds by deploying a chemical spray, leading to some of the group being doused in bear spray.

Two women outside the bar appeared to be suffering from being sprayed in the face. Goldman-Armstrong said he was busy during the incident trying to keep the far-right protestors out of his business, but he heard that a woman was punched and knocked unconscious. In a news release, Portland police said they did not find an unconscious person and that no one wanted to file a police report.

No arrests have been announced by police. The bureau’s news release said that police would review video footage and photographs of the incident and try to identify people involved in criminal activity.

Two men who were at the bar for the May Day event said members of their group defended themselves physically and verbally.

Goldman-Armstrong said this is not the first time his business has been targeted by far-right groups. He said members of the same groups that were at Wednesday’s fight stole a flag that was displayed outside his business.

Goldman-Armstrong said employees called Portland police, but officers did not arrive until about 20 minutes after the fight had ended. He chastised them for not showing up to defuse the fight, and Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler for his handling of far-right groups.

“They didn’t respond when it happened, and they left us hung out to dry, and to be assaulted by these thugs who don’t even live here,” he said. “Members of a known hate group are allowed to assault people. I’m very upset with Ted Wheeler for not doing anything.”

The Portland Tribune

Wheeler: Homeless Crisis Straining All Bureau Budgets

*By Jim Redden
May 01, 2019*

The mayor releases his proposed budget for the next fiscal year with a promise to delay potential parks bureau cuts.

According to Mayor Ted Wheeler, city programs to help fight the homeless crisis are costing so much money, they are straining the budgets of other Portland agencies.

"If we were not experiencing the homeless crisis, we would have \$33 million more dollars for other programs," Wheeler said, citing the city money spent on numerous homeless programs this fiscal year. "We would have a surplus, not a deficit."

Wheeler called such spending risky. He said it is only possible because the economy is strong, increasing projected city general fund revenue to a record \$577.3 million next year. But if the economy slows in the near future, as some economists predict, the choice between homeless services and other programs would be stark.

Another pressing need is the replacement of the computerized system that collects taxes for both Portland and Multnomah County. Wheeler said the system is failing because the platform is no longer supported by the manufacturer and the employees who know how to maintain it are retiring. Replacing the system is estimated at \$24 million.

Wheeler made his statements during a Wednesday afternoon press conference where he released his proposed budget for the fiscal year that starts on July 1. Although the city is expected to collect a record \$577.3 million general fund dollars, the proposed budget still calls for spending cuts in some agencies.

The proposed budget also includes \$2.5 million to delay potential Portland Parks & Recreation budget cuts caused by a projected \$6.3 million shortfall. Wheeler said the additional money is intended to help the parks bureau plan a transitional budget that will delay if not eliminate the need to close community centers and lay off staff.

"Parks programs are very important to Portland, and I do not want to be rushed to approve cuts because the bureau discovered the shortfall," said Wheeler.

At the same time, Wheeler is not proposing any tax increases to raise additional general fund dollars. Wheeler said he is open to a new source of revenue for the parks bureau, if that is what Parks Commissioner Nick Fish recommends after further study. But he did not endorse any of the new taxes or tax increases being considered by Commissioner Chloe Eudlay to raise an additional \$50 million for homeless services.

"I increased business licenses taxes \$17 million last year for homeless services and public safety programs. The Oregon Legislature is considering a \$2 billion tax increase for education right now that should be everyone's priority," Wheeler said.

Despite his concern of the ongoing level of homeless service funding, Wheeler said he is proposing spending close to the same amount next year, including around \$32 million for the city-county Joint Office of Homeless Services. An additional \$113,338 is requested to hire a communications position for the office to better educate the public on its activities. An additional \$877,000 is requested to establish a Hygiene Street Response Program with three mobile showers and bathrooms for use by homeless people.

Wheeler also proposed funded several initiatives in his budget, including:

- A \$60,004 request to hire a consultant to establish and implement a City Development Review Strategic Plan to better coordinate the activities of the seven development-related bureaus. The goal is have the bureaus work more closely together to reduce the time it takes to issue building permits and inspect projects. The consultant would work for the Bureau of Development Services.
- A \$500,000 request to help fund a Rapid Street Response program to be developed to reduce 911 response times, and to identify and dispatch first responders more appropriately. The program is to be developed by a public safety working group organized by the Chief Administrative Officer. It is to be presented to the City Council no later than Nov. 15, 2019.

"Who other than police officers should respond to people in crisis in our streets," Wheeler asked.

- A \$150,000 request for a market analysis of whether the Inclusionary Housing requirements for affordable units in market rate projects should be adjusted.
- A 661,103 request to launch a one-stop City 311 system to provide a first-stop for non-emergency community questions and requests. He expects to request additional funds for the service later in the fiscal year.
- A \$200,000 request for a water taxi feasibility study to be conducted by Friends of Frog Ferry, a nonprofit organization that has proposed operating such a service.

The City Council public hearing on Wheeler's proposed budget is scheduled for Thursday, May 9, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the World Forestry Center – Miller Hall, 4033 S.W. Canyon Rd., Portland.

The council is scheduled to vote on the budget at its regular meeting on June 12.

You can read Wheeler's proposed budget [here](#).

Sources: Who's to Blame for Gentrification?

*By Jim Redden
May 02, 2019*

Plus, second-guessing Oregon Harbor of Hope and City Council budget deliberations could be contentious.

The gentrification of close-in African-American neighborhoods is not only a Portland problem, according to a comprehensive analysis in the April 29 issue of The New York Times. Although city officials have been apologizing and offering reparations to African-American households displaced by redevelopment over the past 20 years, gentrification has been accelerating in such neighborhoods across the country since 2000, according to the article headlined, "The neighborhood is mostly black. The home buyers are mostly white."

"The pattern, though still modest in scope, is playing out with remarkable consistency across the country — in ways that jolt the mortgage market, the architecture, the value of land itself," reads the article.

Although some public policies may contribute to it, the article quotes several experts who say the trend is fueled by wealthier white households deciding they want to live near urban centers, and developers who realize the aging houses in such neighborhoods are nearing the end of their useful lives, but can be purchased and resold for a profit by being renovated or replaced with new ones. Although the story focused on Raleigh, North Carolina, the examples and accompanying photos resemble what is happening in North and Northeast Portland neighborhoods.

Second-guessing Oregon Harbor of Hope

The City Council may be asked to review the design of the homeless "navigation center" being constructed near the east end of the Broadway Bridge as it nears completion.

On April 18, the Design Review Commission agreed that there are no current design standards governing such a large, temporary structure in the River District — which is designed to offer wrap-around services for homeless people — and to set a June 27 vote on whether to refer the issue to the council. By then the structure will be nearly finished.

The facility is being built by the nonprofit Oregon Harbor of Hope on land owned by the city. A nearby resident appealed the project to the commission, arguing that it did not meet Portland design standards for the area. A staff report concluded that no existing standards govern it.

The council can waive zoning and other requirements for the facility under the housing state of emergency it has declared.

Let's get ready to rumble

The upcoming City Council deliberations on next year's budget could be the most contentious in recent memory. Although Mayor Ted Wheeler released his recommended budget on Wednesday, May 1, commissioners Chloe Eudaly and Jo Ann Hardesty already have signaled they may propose substantial changes.

Eudaly first said she wants to raise an additional \$50 million for homeless services when the council voted to extend the housing state of emergency for two more years in late February. At the time, she suggested a tax of vacant housing units, saying there are currently 16,000 empty apartments in Portland.

Since then, the Revenue Division has provided her with information on other options, ranging from an income tax on the wealthiest Portlanders to a property levy, The Oregonian has reported.

In the meantime, Hardesty proposed her own budget priorities following a public forum she convened on April 13. They include creating a Portland Street Response mental health program, restoring a rapid response vehicle at Fire & Rescue and emphasizing resiliency planning to help ensure resident safety during major public safety events.

Cannabis Tax Audit: More Transparency Needed

*By KOIN 6 News
May 02, 2019*

New audit says City of Portland is acting legally but needs to be more upfront about how the money is being spent.

A new audit released Thursday says the City of Portland needs to be more upfront and honest about the way it's spending money raised by taxing legal marijuana sales.

When Oregon voters signed off on legalizing recreational marijuana in 2014, Measure 91 included a provision that allowed cities to pass their own tax on the sales. Portland voters did that in 2016.

The new report, released by the city's own auditor's office, said Portland is using that money legally, but not being clear about where the funds are going.

According to the audit, voters were led to believe the money would go to drug and alcohol education and treatment, public safety focused on impaired drivers and support for small businesses.

However, looking at 2018's numbers, more than \$2 million was spent on training officers to identify intoxicated drivers. No money was spent on drug and alcohol treatment programs. Another \$1.7 million went to the Vision Zero Safety Program and more than \$2 million has been used to backfill the general fund.

The audit emphasizes that the city is acting legally, but highlights the need for more transparency.

The audit recommends forming an oversight committee, including legal marijuana tax collection numbers in budget work sessions and compiling annual public reports on how the money is being spent.

KOIN 6 News is a news partner of the Portland Tribune. You can find their story [here](#).

Willamette Week

Mayor Ted Wheeler Got a Surprising Question at His Invitation-Only State of the City Address

*By Rachel Monahan
May 1, 2019*

Protester from Extinction Rebellion PDX asked him about the issue of Zenith Energy, the site of two consecutive weeks of garden-party protests to block the tracks of the oils trains.

After Mayor Ted Wheeler's state of the city address April 29, the head of the Portland Business Alliance, a representative of the Trail Blazers basketball franchise, an African-American veteran and school students asked him mild-mannered questions.

The event, including the questions from the audience, was without dramatic tension or any announcements of new policy initiatives. That's unusual for such a marquee speech, which Portland mayors often use to debut ambitious agendas. Wheeler's speech, by contrast, drew press attention for sticking to broad declarations of principles.

But the question-and-answer session did take one unexpected turn.

Jan Zuckerman, 61, an activist for Extinction Rebellion PDX, asked the mayor what he was going to do about the Zenith Energy oil terminal, which has been the site of two consecutive weeks of protests in Northwest Portland.

Zuckerman, who attended the speech as an adviser to students, has been arrested twice by Portland Police after activists planted gardens on the train tracks as a direct action against oil trains carrying Alberta tar sands oil.

Jan Zuckerman questions the mayor. (WW staff) Jan Zuckerman questions the mayor. (WW staff)

"Now we have an increase in tar sands oil coming through our city, our proud city, our green city," she said to the mayor. "You talked a lot about courage and that it takes courage to do what you're doing. And I'm asking you, What courageous steps will you be taking to address this so that we can feel safe and so that we can address the very real catastrophic climate change that we are facing right now?"

Wheeler did not have a suggestion for how to block oil expansion at the site.

"Philosophically, we are alignment," the mayor said. "I do not want the city of Portland to be an export colony for fossil fuels. That is not a good economic equation for this city, and it's not in comport with our values around climate action."

But he admonished protesters to "follow the law" and cited, as his work on the issue, meetings with "regional partners" and the relevant city bureaus to check on the permits that have been requested by the company to update the Zenith facilities. And said his office is meeting with environmental groups and labor unions.

"Whatever I do, it will have to be legal and justifiable from a legal perspective, so that's the approach I'm taking," said Wheeler.

Deal on Portland's Withdrawal from the Joint Terrorism Task Force Gives Police Some Leeway to Work With Feds

By Rachel Monahan

May 1, 2019

Mayor Ted Wheeler and City Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty have reached a deal on policies related to the JTTF.

In February, Portland City Council voted to withdraw the city's police force from the Joint Terrorism Task Force, a partnership run by the FBI to coordinate various law-enforcement agencies' efforts to fight terrorism and extremists.

The vote at City Hall was 3-2—a narrow decision.

Now Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty, who championed the withdrawal as a campaign issue, and Mayor Ted Wheeler, who serves as police commissioner, are returning to City Council with the details of what the city's stance toward the JTTF will look like going forward.

In some ways, Portland's involvement with the Task Force will indeed decrease.

When Portland was in the JTTF, the security-clearance requirements created a dynamic where the police working with the JTTF did not have to answer to the chief for their work with the FBI. Now the chief or her deputy will be the required liaison to the JTTF.

Also when Portland was officially in the JTTF, two Portland police officers were assigned to work with the JTTF and could do that work at any time without specific approval from the chief. Now approval is required.

But a key advocate for police reform says the new JTTF policy resolution, which has been filed (and is available here to read it in full), may expand the kind of work the JTTF can undertake in Portland.

The resolution states the police chief can "temporarily assign PPB officers to work with the Portland FBI JTTF to assist in the investigation of any individual suspected cases of terrorism and/or threats to life, including hate crimes, in or having a direct nexus to the City of Portland where there is reasonable suspicion of criminal activity."

Because it includes "threats to life" and "hate crimes," Dan Handelman of the watchdog group Portland Copwatch says the resolution "appears to broaden the mission" of the JTTF from how it was understood when Portland pulled out. That gives police more leeway to temporarily partner with the feds, he warns.

"The community wanted it to be much narrower," he says.

Hardesty says in a statement she's pleased with the deal.

"When communities tell us their fears of being targeted because of their race or immigration status, we have to act," says Hardesty in a statement. "After weeks of negotiation I'm proud to say we've reached a resolution that addresses many of the concerns that prompted the call for withdraw from the task force in the first place."

The final policy ended up being a compromise between the mayor's office and Hardesty's office, in part because Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who voted to withdraw, has insisted on a consensus.

In an April 2 email obtained by WW, she "replied all" on an email from Hardesty's policy director Derek Bradley, including Hardesty herself as well as staff in the mayor's and other council offices, insisting on a resolution that the mayor would support.

"It's important to me that the Mayor supports the Resolution," Fritz emailed. "Please keep us informed as to the response from the Mayor's office."

Since Fritz's vote was decisive on removing Portland from the JTTF, her support would presumably be required again on this second part of the JTTF resolution.

Her chief of staff, Tim Crail, went public with his concerns over the need to attempt consensus at City Hall, in the midst of these negotiations, in a Portland Mercury story last week.

"That's not how City Hall works best. You need to hear all the commissioners' voices and do everything you can to accommodate concerns that others raise," Crail told The Mercury. "Sometimes you can't, and you pass policies with three or four votes. But you certainly try to get to five."

Hardesty didn't comment for that story, but a staffer tweeted afterward that they'd continue to look for three votes, if not five.

Afternoon Anti-ICE May Day Protest Unfolds Peacefully In Portland

*By Katie Shepherd
May 1, 2019*

Despite the presence of far-right agitators, the leftist organizers did not take the bait.

A protest opposing federal immigration enforcement policies unfolded peacefully in downtown Portland near the southwest waterfront May 1.

Although May Day protests typically focus on labor-related critiques, Occupy ICE PDX organized an early rally targeting the U.S. Customs and Immigration Enforcement agency.

Chants of "No KKK, no fascist USA, no cops," "ICE out of Portland," and "protect children" rang out from the crowd that gathered in Elizabeth Caruthers Park. The group then marched to the federal building where local ICE officials work in Portland.

Portland Police gave warnings that protesters needed to stay out of the street or face arrest. Protesters ignored the request, but largely moved out of the street when they reached the federal building.

Although dozens of Portland police monitored the event, the officers responded to protesters with restraint. Officers allowed the crowd to rally and march largely unimpeded, though they warned the group not to block traffic several times.

Far-right agitator Joey Gibson and several of his Patriot Prayer supporters showed up to badger the black-clad and sometimes masked protesters. A few people argued politics with the right-wingers.

There was no fighting but there were some theatrics. A person in the crowd played audio of a crying child who had been taken into custody at the border and separated from her father. Protesters also displayed a large wooden crib with a large baby doll.

As the protesters resumed marching around 3 pm, police again warned that they needed to stay on sidewalks. That order again went ignored.

Still, the protest wound down without major incident. Around 3:30, protesters left to join another May Day rally in Holladay Park in Northeast Portland.

Portland Bureau of Transportation Ditches Scooter Complaint Process, Requires Companies to Maintain 24/7 Customer Service

*By Elise Herron
May 1, 2019*

The shift is an attempt to “improve response time and put more responsibility onto the companies.”

Portland Bureau of Transportation is redirecting complaints during the scooter pilot 2.0—which launched last weekend.

This year, rather than file complaints online via PBOT's website, Portlanders with grievances will have to call companies directly.

John Brady, a spokesman for the agency, says the shift is an attempt to "improve response time and put more responsibility onto the companies."

As a stipulation of this year's trial program, local scooter operators are required to maintain a 24/7 customer service line and to respond to complaints in a set time frame.

Brady says that because PBOT officials do not work on weekends or after evening business hours, redirecting complaints to individual companies should lead to faster response times.

"PBOT will be auditing companies' response time to complaints, and all companies are required to report to PBOT on a monthly basis," Brady says. "As part of our evaluation of this second pilot, we will consider how well companies did in responding to customer concerns."

Mayor Ted Wheeler Announces His Budget, With New Approaches to Helping Homeless People

By Rachel Monahan

May 1, 2019

City budget looks unlikely to cause a fight.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler announced his budget proposals for this year's projected \$577.3 million general fund budget, highlighting a few key changes in the way the city is responding to housing and homelessness, among other budget requests.

The city projects it will have \$18.4 million in new one-time money and \$2.4 million in new ongoing funding, which the mayor and City Council will focus on.

Here are some key things to note in a budget where most of the budget is devoted to ongoing programs that the city will continue.

1. Unlike last year, when the mayor raised the rate of the business license tax, he did not propose a new source of revenue, even though he plans for continued spending on homelessness. He said the focus this year should be on Salem's increase in statewide taxes.

"There is a \$2 billion tax hike that is on the table in the legislature," says Wheeler. "I would say that should be everybody's top priority at this particular moment, because that funds the schools. Secondarily, I just raised business taxes last year."

(As a side note, Wheeler said the city is lobbying against a provision in the Legislature's education bill that would make it impossible for localities to pass a tax on groceries and a business excise tax, and which could shrink the ambitions for a 2020 Metro transportation measure, among other plans.)

2. There is not likely to be a big fight about the budget. Last year there was the potential for significant disagreements over budget priorities, notably over police staffing. This year, other commissioners's offices indicated they don't see deal-breakers. There will be bargaining over smaller allocations, but there's no indication there will be a fight over big-ticket items.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly's chief of staff, Marshall Runkel, said: "After not digging in in detail, it looks like the budget is close."

Commissioner Nick Fish's chief of staff, Sonia Schmanski, said: "I feel very appreciative that they found so much money for parks this year."

3. The Parks Department won't be closing any community centers this coming fiscal year, but the budget proposal includes cutting 55 workers, and big changes are expected in the following year's budget to address ongoing budget shortfalls.

The budget includes the funding that the parks bureau requested for a year of transition. But the Columbia Pool is still likely to close next year. And the Laurelhurst and Hillside community centers will likely have outside programs, starting in a year. Similarly, the Multnomah Arts Center and the Community Music Center need overhauls before they will be financially secure.

4. In funding housing this year, the Joint Office of Homeless Services will get \$32 million, roughly the same amount money as last year. But the city budget signals possible new ways the city is looking to address homelessness.

— For the first time, there's \$500,000 in the budget for addiction-treatment services to pair with housing. In the past, the mayor has argued that services are a county role to fulfill, so this proposal represents a significant shift. "Traditionally that is the purview of Multnomah County," he said. "I think it is unrealistic to assume that Multnomah County can do all of that alone with the resources they have. Supportive housing is a very high priority for this administration." It's not yet clear how the Portland Housing Bureau will secure those services—whether they'll work with the county or find their own contractor.

— At Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty's request, the mayor's budget includes \$182,727 for a Mental Health and Nurse Triage Program, for a consultant to develop a program to direct lower-intensity 911 calls to a nurse, who could book appointments at a clinic instead of sending an ambulance. It's expected to take two years of work before such a program would begin.

— Also at the urging of Hardesty and the homeless newspaper Street Roots, the mayor has included \$500,000 in his budget for "street response"—ways to interact with people sleeping outside without law-enforcement involvement. Hardesty's and the mayor's offices have already embarked on the work, but the allocation will help coordinate the approach to the issue.

— There is also \$877,870 in the budget for a portable toilets, with funding for staffing at those toilets.

5. Other notable items that stand out in the proposal:

—Albina Vision, the effort to rebuild Lower Albina and the Rose Quarter, could receive \$75,000.

— A feasibility study of a water taxi service on the Willamette River, called the Frog Ferry, could receive \$200,000.

— The mayor is moving forward with a 311 call line with a \$662,103 proposal and with further requests expected during the year

— And there's \$9.4 million (the largest onetime expenditure in the proposed budget) for updating the "Integrated Tax System" technology to collect city taxes.

The Portland Mercury

Here's How Mayor Wheeler Wants To Spend City Dollars This Year

*By Alex Zielinski
May 1, 2019*

Mayor Ted Wheeler has released his proposed city budget for fiscal year 2019-2020, which begins on July 1. Fun! While Wheeler's budget—informed by the initial requests of bureau directors, feedback from city budget analysts, and public comment—is not set in stone, it's considered the first draft of the final city budget that will be approved by city council on June 12. (Don't worry, you'll get a chance to comment on it before then.)

According to the most recent revenue projection by the City Budget Office, Portland's general fund for the coming fiscal year will hit around \$577.3 million—with the vast majority going toward non-negotiable ongoing programs and employee costs. That leaves the city council with

\$18.4 million in one-time funds and \$2.4 million in ongoing funds to split among the city's numerous bureaus.

Here are some of the more interesting areas where Wheeler believes those dollars should be spent (for a full run down, [click here](#)):

Parks and Community Centers

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) is currently facing a \$7 million budget gap, based on the department's relatively static revenue not matching its growing parks and community center programs. The unreliable revenue system, which largely relies on class and rental fees, is a long-simmering problem that the bureau only discovered this year. PP&R chose to address this major gap with sweeping jobs cuts and threats to shutter beloved public facilities—including Hillside, Fulton, and Sellwood community centers.

Wheeler's proposed budget includes funds to cover the summer programming at Sellwood and Hillside community centers, suggesting they won't continue to operate in the fall. The budget also allows the Columbia Pool and the Community Music Center to stay open for at least one more year, and grants Multnomah Arts Center enough funding to remain open for two more years. It's unclear, however, how the city plans to keep any of these facilities running past their short-term budgets.

In a Wednesday interview, Mayor Ted Wheeler said these funds, "Give us the space we need over the next 12 to 18 months to explore new operating models. And that's to be determined what that will look like."

Wheeler said he heard a number of compelling ideas from the public about how to create a more reliable revenue stream for PP&R, but that the decision will ultimately be up to Parks Commissioner Nick Fish and PP&R Director Adena Long to make.

"I would support taking a long hard look at a fundamentally different revenue stream," Wheeler said, suggesting the creation of a parks district that independently taxes the public.

The mayor's budget also eliminates 55 full-time PP&R jobs.

Transportation

The crown jewel of this section: Wheeler wants to hand \$200,000 in one-time funding over to a water taxi nonprofit called Frog Ferry. According to the budget, the ferry would offer an "alternative transportation option to ease the traffic burden on freeways and roads."

The Frog Ferry is expected to shuttle people from Vancouver to Lake Oswego, and any spots along the way. This is probably the least expected addition to Wheeler's lofty budget draft.

He's also proposed a few more traditional transportation projects: \$500,000 to replace street lamps around Portland, \$2.3 million to replace the Cornell Tunnel, \$1.5 million to create more ADA-approved sidewalks, and \$1.5 million to fund the city program that removes run-down and abandoned RVs.

Emergency Response

Wheeler has approved the full \$182,727 for a new 911 response program within the Bureau of Emergency Communications (BOEC) meant to connect people calling to report low-level physical and behavioral health issues with a nurse, instead of a police officer. Dubbed the "Nurse Triage Program," the funded plan has the potential to lessen the workload of Portland Fire & Rescue workers and officers with the Portland Police Bureau—while improving the health and

safety of people calling 911 for medical help. The funds will go toward a two-year pilot version of the program.

Wheeler also tacked on an unexpected \$500,000 to fund “future needs associated with a Portland Street Response initiative.” This wasn’t mentioned in BOEC’s initial budget ask, but it’s assumed the funds will be reserved for future collaboration between the city and the Street Roots-penned Portland Street Response. Wheeler said he doesn’t know where those dollars would go—yet.

Portland Fire & Rescue initially axed one Rapid Response Vehicle (an SUV for staff to drive to non-fire emergencies instead of a massive fire truck) from its budget proposal to try and save money. Wheeler restored funds for that vehicle.

Another larger piece of Wheeler’s proposal: Tasking the Office of Management and Finance (OMF) with creating a multi-bureau team to figure out how to improve the city’s emergency response programs. The goal is to cut down emergency response times, make sure the appropriate person is responding to a 911 call, and generally improve how Portland’s emergency-centric bureaus work together.

Wheeler said that means answering a number of questions, like: “Who’s providing what services now? How are those services being provided and who’s paying for it? What are the gaps in our delivery system and who would be most appropriate to fill those gaps? What resources would be needed to fill those gaps?”

The team will be led by representatives from Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty’s office and Wheeler’s office.

Wheeler called Hardesty’s leadership in this program “critically important to its success.”

This seemingly gargantuan task is expected to be completed by November 2019. According to Kristin Dennis, Wheeler’s chief of staff, this budget proposal (which doesn’t have a price tag) is meant to combat the silo effect between bureaus created by Portland’s commission form of government.

Housing and Homelessness

Wheeler said his top priority in this year’s budget is addressing housing and homelessness. That looks like fully funding the city’s contribution to the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS), with \$32 million in ongoing funding and \$6.9 million in one-time dollars.

Wheeler’s JOHS budget specifically earmarks \$250,000 for two pending new homeless facilities: One 120-bed shelter on SE Foster meant for women, couples, people with disabilities, and veterans, and the so-called “Navigation Center” along NW Naito that’ll offer short-term shelter and services meant to help “chronically homeless” adults. He’s also introduced \$500,000 to create a drug and alcohol treatment program for recently-houseless people living in supportive housing. Health programming traditionally falls into the county’s jurisdiction, but Wheeler said it’s time the city step in.

“I think it is unrealistic to assume that Multnomah County can do all of that alone with the resources they have,” he said.

Another new addition: Using \$877,870 to pay for three mobile bathrooms and three mobile showers that will be shuttled around the city to serve homeless communities. According to Wheeler, the city will also hire houseless Portlanders to operate the pilot “Hygiene Street Response Program.”

The Rental Services Office under Wheeler's plan will receive one-time funding (\$1.4 million) to continue its current services and a new \$150,000 to fund a pilot program offering mediation services to disputing tenants and landlords.

Portland's Top Brass Warn Protestors Ahead of May Day Demonstrations

*By Blair Stenvick
May 1, 2019*

"I, as well as the city, will always support your right to free speech," Mayor Ted Wheeler says in a video released Tuesday by the Portland Police Bureau (PPB). "We just ask that you do it peacefully and legally."

That's the overarching message of the video, which is a three-minute rotation of talking heads, backed by an acoustic track that can best be described as "we found this for free on a fair use website." Perhaps the most noteworthy thing about the video—in which Wheeler, Police Chief Danielle Outlaw, and other officials implore Portlanders to protest in a respectful, law-abiding manor—is its release date: April 30, one day before May Day.

May Day, formally known as International Workers' Day is a big day for protests, both in Portland and around the world. And this year is no different: Occupy ICE PDX, the group that organized a long-term demonstration outside the Portland Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) building last year, is planning a march from SW Waterfront's Elizabeth Caruthers Park to the ICE building at 1 pm this afternoon. They will be protesting the Trump Administration's border family separation policy.

High school students in the area are planning a walk out in solidarity with Occupy ICE PDX, and a Portland May Day coalition will hold a "festival of resistance," meant to build unity among different oppressed groups, from 4 to 6 pm in Holladay Park. According to PPB, demonstrations are planned for downtown Portland as well. None of the planned protests have acquired permits from the city or federal government to hold a protest, meaning they'll be deterred from marching in the streets.

In that context, PPB's video can be viewed as a plea from the city for protestors to stay peaceful—and a warning of what will happen if they don't. Outlaw asks that people not bring weapons "or things that can be used as weapons" to protests, and reminds people that they need to follow PPB's dispersal orders—and that "if you remain, you will be subject to arrest."

Also appearing on the video is Gabriel Russell, a local regional director for the Federal Protective Service, a federal law enforcement agency. Russell's directions about protesting on federal property seems to be a targeted warning to those planning to protest at the ICE building today.

"While visiting the federal space, all federal laws apply, including bringing prohibited items such as weapons and narcotics," Russell says. "In addition, you'll be subject to arrest if you are blocking doors or driveways, fighting, or threatening or insulting federal employees."

The video is certainly a new approach to Portland's erratic history of protest policing. If all goes as planned, today's protest will likely be the first substantial demonstration of 2019 (aside from the small, hateful Patriot Prayer meeting outside a union hall in January), and only the second after Wheeler's proposed protest rules failed to pass a city council vote in November.

It's also the first Portland protest to follow a court ruling that upheld PPB's ability to use violent force against non-violent protesters during demonstrations.

It's unclear what tactics we'll see the PPB use today to keep protesters safe while allowing them to flex their free speech rights. But the video makes one thing clear, once you look past the soft-focus greenery background and lulling soundtrack: The city is expecting today's protests to get violent. And it intends to take action when they do.

Hundreds Protest Family Separation Outside Portland ICE Building

By Blair Stenvick

May 1, 2019

About two hundred people gathered in Portland's South Waterfront area Wednesday afternoon to protest Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Trump Administration's family border separation policy. The demonstration was heavily monitored by city and federal law enforcement, and attracted a handful of counter-demonstrators from the far-right Vancouver, Washington group Patriot Prayer.

The protest began with an hour-long rally at Elizabeth Caruthers Park, near Oregon Health & Science University's (OHSU) South Waterfront campus. Demonstrators then marched the short distance to an ICE facility on SW Macadam. The protest was organized by Occupy ICE PDX, the same group that organized a long-term demonstration outside the ICE building last year. Demonstrators scheduled the rally to coincide with May Day, or International Workers' Day.

"If you're against ICE, get your ass over here!" yelled one masked organizer at the demonstration's kick-off.

About 10 different people spoke during the hour-long rally at Elizabeth Caruthers Park. They ranged from a 12-year-old middle school student to clergy members to Occupy ICE PDX organizers.

Patriot Prayer members—including leader Joey Gibson—arrived shortly after the event's kickoff. While Patriot Prayer and leftists organizers have clashed at previous protests, today's rally was largely non-confrontational. (Gibson did have a brief dispute with a protestor who attempted to take off his hat, but it simmered down before anyone got physically violent).

That Patriot Prayer group includes Joey Gibson. Gibson just got into a brief verbal dispute with an Occupy ICE organizer; Occupy ICE continues to tell attendees to ignore Patriot Prayer.

During the march to the ICE building, Portland Police Bureau (PPB) officers repeatedly warned protestors that they were blocking traffic, and anyone who remained in the street would be subject to arrest. They made no arrests.

The warnings continued after protestors arrived at the facility, where dozens of PPB, ICE, and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officers were stationed.

One demonstrator stood near the police line and played audio of children crying. They said the audio came from immigrant children who had been separated from their families at the border and detained.

At about 3 pm, protestors did another lap around the South Waterfront area—again being warned by police to get out of the street—and stopped again at the ICE building. Most protestors left around 3:30 to join another May Day rally in Holladay Park.

PPB had not reported any violence or arrests as of 4 pm.

OPB

Audit: Portland's Recreational Cannabis Tax Revenue Goes Mostly To Police, Transportation

By Meerah Powell

May 2, 2019

When Portland voters approved a 3% tax on recreational cannabis sales in 2016, they expected the funds would benefit marijuana business owners and individuals who were negatively affected when cannabis was illegal.

A report from the Portland City Auditor reveals that's not the case. Instead, most of the collected taxes have gone toward shortages in the city's general fund and specifically to police and transportation programs.

Although the uses are technically allowed under the ballot measure, cannabis business owners and community members have not been involved in budget decisions and the city has not reported on how it has used those tax revenues, according to the audit.

The ballot measure stated that the marijuana tax revenue should go toward three categories: drug and alcohol education and treatment programs, public safety investments aimed at protecting the community from unsafe drivers and support for neighborhood small businesses — especially those owned by women and people of color.

Proponents of the tax called the categories “intentionally broad,” the report said, “with no defined allocations, to meet changing community needs and future priorities.”

Tax revenue of \$3.6 million in the 2018 fiscal year and \$4.6 million in 2019 primarily went toward public safety. Small business/prohibition effects received only 16% of the revenue and drug and alcohol programs received 5%.

In the public safety category, tax revenue funded traffic safety enforcement personnel, officer training related to driving under the influence and other safety enhancement activities such as those related to Vision Zero — the Portland Bureau of Transportation program seeking to eliminate fatal traffic incidents.

For small businesses, Portland City Council allotted \$1.2 million toward grant programs in the past two fiscal years.

“The grants for the first year have been awarded to fund development of minority-owned cannabis businesses, workforce development and criminal records expungement,” the report states. The award is still in process for the second year.

The report also calls that grant system “unclear.”

As for the drug and alcohol treatment category, the council allotted \$410,000 to the Portland Police Bureau's Service Coordination Team in the 2017-18 fiscal year. That team assists repeat drug and alcohol offenders in finding access to treatment and housing services.

The report also states that the Portland Police Bureau could not provide any data on marijuana-related safety concerns, “such as traffic stops for driving under the influence of cannabis.”

While the allocation falls within the three categories stated in the ballot measure, the City Auditor’s report calls for more transparency and accountability from the city in its spending of the tax revenue.

“Voting on recreational cannabis tax allocations as part of the overall city budget, with no separate opportunity for comment or description of how the funds will be used, leaves community members with no way to influence the allocation decision,” the report states.

The marijuana tax revenue is only expected to increase. The City Budget Office forecasts a \$4.7 million tax revenue in the current fiscal year.

Parks Cuts And A Water Taxi: What You Should Know About Portland's Proposed Budget

*By Amelia Templeton
May 1, 2019*

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler released his proposed 2019-20 budget Wednesday. The city economist is projecting the Portland’s general fund will have \$577.3 million, up slightly over last year’s revenue. Much of that will be eaten up by the city’s ongoing program and personnel expenses, leaving the mayor with just \$2.4 million in ongoing general fund dollars to divvy up for new programs, and \$18.4 million in new one-time funds for the 2019-2020 budget.

Here are the top line items getting funded and what’s getting cut next year:

1. The mayor’s budget includes anticipated deep cuts to Portland Parks and Recreation. Wheeler said he has a new funding model for the parks in mind.

Personnel costs at Portland Parks and Recreation have been rising for the past several years. The cost of salaries, health benefits, labor agreements and public employee pensions (PERS) has increased significantly.

At the same time, the bureau has been reluctant to increase fees for its community centers and classes, which might risk driving away users. For the past several years, the bureau has stayed afloat with hiring freezes and other measures, even as the gap between its revenue and costs widened.

That’s led to a \$6.3 million deficit in a roughly \$94 million operating budget for Portland Parks and Recreation.

To balance its budget, Portland Parks and Recreation has proposed closing or shifting management of a number of community centers and pools and laying off 56 full time employees next year. The facilities slated for closure include the Columbia Pool and the Sellwood Community Center. Parks will try to rent out the Laurelhurst Dance Studio, Hillside Community Center and Fulton Community Center to partners that will maintain community programming there. It will also reduce hours and programs at a number of other community centers citywide.

The mayor’s budget provides \$2.5 million in one-time funds to help Portland Parks and Recreation wind down programs and manage the cuts. That funding will allow the Columbia Pool to remain open for another year, and will ensure that 2019 summer classes remain funded, so families that have already registered won’t have to change their plans.

Wheeler said it will be hard to free up general fund dollars to invest in the parks system, given how much the city now spends annually on homeless services and public safety.

“Parks are probably the most beloved thing about this city,” Wheeler said. “I think we have to at least take the hard look at questions of a park district and other models that might allow us to maintain the parks assets that we have for future generations.”

That’s a model that Seattle recently adopted to protect its parks funding.

There’s a silver lining in an otherwise grim parks budget. Wheeler has proposed more than \$600,000 in ongoing funding to maintain parks built this year, avoiding a scenario where new parks, many in less wealthy East Portland, would be at an immediate disadvantage and might not have the grass cut or the lights kept on.

2. A proposal to help the homeless championed by the newspaper and homeless aid organization Street Roots and Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty is getting funded.

Wheeler has proposed setting aside \$500,000 in reserve and to establish a workgroup to improve coordination between the city’s first responders and to develop a Rapid Street Response program.

Earlier this year, Street Roots laid out a blueprint for a team of mobile responders who could assist to homeless people and people with mental illness, conducting outreach and welfare checks as an alternative to dispatching police officers.

Hardesty, who oversees three emergency response bureaus, has been a key advocate of the Rapid Street Response and has been meeting with stakeholders to discuss it.

But the mayor’s budget note directs the city’s chief administrative officer, Tom Rinehart, to lead the effort to develop the Street Response program and to present recommendations to Council no later than Nov. 15, 2019. Rinehart has long been one of Wheeler’s key strategists.

“I’m grateful for the mayor’s leadership in funding the Portland Street Response program,” Hardesty said. “This program is a compassionate response to a crisis our city cannot afford to ignore, and I look forward to working with his office as well as our county and community partners to develop a plan we can implement in the near future.”

Wheeler said he does not intend for the program to become a part of the police bureau. He hasn’t settled on which bureau he believes should lead the effort, but it will likely be under Hardesty’s purview in the future.

“Her active partnership and leadership in this is going to be critical to its success,” Wheeler said.

Separately, the budget includes \$182,727 for the Bureau of Emergency Communications, which Hardesty oversees. That money would be used to hire consultants to do scoping and feasibility of a nurse triage program and the Portland Street Response proposal.

Hardesty’s staff is seeking to embed nurses in the 911 call center who can respond to low-severity medical 911 calls as part of a broader overhaul of the center’s protocols for triaging calls.

Nurses would be able to conduct a patient assessment and schedule appointments, which Hardesty’s staff said could reduce the need to dispatch ambulances and fire trucks to minor medical calls and could potentially reduce emergency room visits.

3. The city’s funding for homeless services will remain flat this year, and funding levels could fall in the future.

The mayor's budget allocates \$32.1 million to the Joint Office of Homeless Services, while Multnomah County is contributing \$26.5 million. Those dollars fund the city's system of emergency shelters, rent assistance and rapid rehousing programs.

But a considerable amount of the city's funding for the homeless services office — \$6.9 million — is one-time funding, meaning it might not be available again next year.

"We committed to at least backstopping the services at the current service level. That was the best we could do, given the resources we have available," Wheeler said. "We are heavily exposed to an economic decline."

Wheeler said he didn't think proposing a new local tax to shore up funding for homeless services made sense, given the potential \$2 billion tax hike the state legislature is considering to fund schools. "That should be everybody's priority," he said.

The budget includes several new investments in homeless services that are small but significant.

The mayor is setting aside \$323,000 in ongoing dollars from the city's Recreational Cannabis Fund to provide drug and alcohol addiction treatment services connected to affordable housing.

In the past, Multnomah County has funded addiction treatment programs, as the branch of local government that handles social services and health.

But the City Council is increasingly discussing permanent supportive housing as a strategy to solve chronic homelessness — and it has committed to provide at least 300 units of permanent supportive housing as part of the \$258 million bond voters passed in 2018.

The budget also includes \$250,000 in ongoing funding for a new shelter in southeast Portland and for the Navigation Center developed by Homer Williams and Tim Boyle at the edge of the Pearl District. That shelter will be referral only, and focused on serving chronically homeless adults.

A pilot program that will provide three mobile bathrooms and three mobile showers deployed across the city will also be funded, for one year, with \$877,870, with much of the funding dedicated to hiring station attendants.

4. There's a water taxi in it.

The budget funds a smattering of other projects, ranging from the dull but essential — a \$9.4 million chunk to help replace the city's obsolete tax collection system — to the just plain essential — roughly \$7 million for critical infrastructure like traffic signals, wheelchair ramps, and a failing tunnel — to the downright curious.

The Frog Ferry Passenger Water Taxi, a proposed aquatic taxi line that would run from Vancouver to Lake Oswego, is slated to get \$200,000 to help fund a feasibility study.

The ferry is the brainchild of Susan Bladholm, a co-founder of Cycle Oregon, and is partnering with a smattering of local public agencies, from the Port of Vancouver to Travel Portland.

Demonstrators Participate In May Day Rallies Throughout Portland

By Meerah Powell

May 1, 2019

Multiple May Day demonstrations took place Wednesday throughout Portland as part of statewide events. All events had a focus on immigrants' rights.

The group OccupyICEPDX hosted an event at Elizabeth Caruthers Park called #BlockTheWallPDX, calling for the abolition of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

They marched to the ICE facility in southwest Portland where Homeland Security officers blocked access to the building.

More than 100 demonstrators gathered at the event, including a small group of students from various high schools and middle schools, who participated in a walkout.

"I believe ICE is tearing apart families and deporting people who have made very important contributions to our society," said Rod Such, one of the speakers at the event and a member of Occupation Free Portland. "It's an agency that's carrying out our awful, chauvinistic, racist immigration policy and it should be abolished."

Such specifically called out G4S, a security firm that works with ICE and also has contracts with TriMet and with the city of Portland.

"We are urging everyone to contact the Portland City Council and say this contract should not be renewed," he said. "As a sanctuary city, we have no business contracting with a company that works with ICE."

Speakers also addressed workers' rights, anti-racism and anti-fascism. People focused mostly on solidarity and community.

"Today is about the power of the workers and the power of the people and the people are here, and we have that power in this gathering right now," said Lilith Sinclair, another demonstrator.

The rally met slight conflict from members of Patriot Prayer, the Vancouver-based group that attracts white supremacists and has engaged in violence.