

## **The Oregonian**

# **Portland police release video that captures some of Lane Martin's movements before police fatally shot him**

*By Maxine Bernstein  
February 6, 2020*

Portland police on Thursday released portions of video footage that investigators obtained showing some of Lane Christopher Martin's actions and movement before he was fatally shot by an officer when cornered in an apartment complex on July 30.

The video images from private security cameras do not capture either the police firing of less-lethal, sponge-tipped rounds at Martin or the fatal shooting of Martin, and some of the footage doesn't include audio.

A Multnomah County grand jury found no criminal wrongdoing by Officer Gary Doran, who fired the fatal shots, killing Martin near a stairwell of the Ash Street Courtyard Apartments in Southeast Portland. Martin's family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the city and police, alleging police used excessive force against Martin and failed to de-escalate the encounter.

Doran, a 12-year bureau member, told a grand jury that he fired when he believed Martin was about to pull out a knife from his pants pocket when confronted by police in the courtyard of the apartment complex, though Doran never saw a blade when he started shooting.

Doran fired his 9mm handgun 11 times. Martin was hit nine times and died at the scene after wounds perforated both his lungs and heart, according to an autopsy report.

A black folding knife attached to keys was found under Martin's body after he was shot, according to police.

Police first responded around 4:22 p.m. on a report of a man breaking into a car and the fatal shots were fired 18 minutes later, at 4:40 p.m., after police tracked Martin's movements over a nine-block area, according to the bureau.

"The video is a compilation of private security footage that captured some, but not all, of the interaction," the bureau's release said.

The video released, for example, doesn't capture when a security guard first spotted Martin trying to break into a Jeep in the lot of an old Safeway store near the 200 block of Northeast 122nd Avenue.

When the guard approached, he saw Martin with a hatchet and a knife, according to police reports.

Martin was seen swinging the hatchet as he walked to a nearby bus stop and then south along Southeast 122nd Avenue when police arrived. Two officers fired less-lethal sponge-tipped rounds at Martin, striking him in the legs. Martin dropped the hatchet and continued along Southeast 122nd Avenue.

Police provided this information on the video footage released:

It begins near Northeast 122nd Avenue and Northeast Davis Street and Martin is dressed in dark clothing, walking southbound on the sidewalk. Martin approaches a dark-colored SUV that is facing eastbound while armed with a hatchet-like weapon. He continues southbound with

multiple officers following at a distance. About the one-minute mark, a different camera angle is pictured, looking eastbound from the westbound Max platform, at East Burnside Street and 122nd Avenue. Martin comes from the north, or left side of the screen.

At the two minute, 36 second mark, a different camera angle looks northbound at the intersection of Southeast 122nd Avenue and Ash Street. In between this video segment and the prior one, two officers' firing of two 40mm foam-tipped less-lethal rounds, striking Martin in the lower legs, wasn't caught on camera.

Martin is next seen running southbound on 122nd Avenue, then west on Southeast Ash Street.

The next video segment, at about 3 minutes, 16 seconds, officers confront Martin at the apartment complex but there's no audio recording complex and the shooting isn't seen.

"The angle of the camera was not in a position to fully capture the incident," the bureau said in its release.

The day after Martin was killed, Martin's mother learned of her son's death, what would have been Martin's 32nd birthday. Martin was involved in a work-study program at Portland State University and was studying art there, and doing maintenance work. The month before the shooting, Martin had been placed on a mental health hold at Unity Center for Behavioral Health, and was suffering from paranoia and delusions, his mother said.

Toxicology tests showed 1.2 milligrams of methamphetamine and .12 milligrams of amphetamine in Martin's blood.. The amounts suggested Martin may have been under a meth-induced psychosis, an officer told grand jurors.

## **Portland police urge City Council to maintain specialized team targeting gun violence**

*By Maxine Bernstein*

*February 6, 2020*

Portland police made their pitch Thursday to maintain their Gun Violence Reduction Team in the next budget, saying it's needed to zero in on the "serial trigger-pullers" responsible for shootings across the city.

"If there wasn't a specialized unit that was focused on responding to all of these shootings, we know the amount of shootings and injuries and deaths would increase in the city of Portland," Assistant Chief Andy Shearer told City Council members at a work session.

Last year, police received reports on 426 shootings, with 110 people hit by bullets. Of those wounded, 88 survived and 22 died, not including five people killed by police.

This year, as of Monday, police have received reports of 61 shootings, compared to 36 at this time last year. These include shots fired, assaults, accidental shootings, suicides and evidence of gunfire with no damage or injuries.

So far this year, there's been a reported shooting every 13 hours, and a person hit by gunfire about every two days, Shearer said.

While police supervisors said they're not seeking additional money for the specialized police team, Shearer urged the city to boost funding for outreach workers and social services to support victims of shootings and young people at-risk of getting pulled into violence.

“The other people who are at risk, who have not committed a crime yet, should be diverted to wraparound services,” he said.

The Police Bureau’s requested budget for fiscal 2020-2021 starting July 1 includes \$6 million for the team in an overall budget request of \$248 million. The total represents a 3 percent increase from the current budget, according to bureau reports.

In October 2018, the bureau revamped its Gang Enforcement Team and started the Gun Violence Reduction Team, which is sent to every shooting call in the city. Four officers on the team also are trained to analyze bullet shell casings recovered from scenes, entering their images into a national database.

It’s modeled after an Oakland police practice of working to identify people or groups at highest risk of being involved in a shooting, coordinating with outreach workers to offer them help and arresting those who are committing the shootings.

The city’s Office of Youth Violence Prevention now provides about \$800,000 a year in grants to outside agencies for support and outreach services. The U.S. Attorney’s Office in Oregon also is looking for additional funding for such community-based services through the multi-agency Project Safe Neighborhoods program.

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty said she still wants to see demographic data about the people stopped by the Gun Violence Reduction Team’s five sergeants, 21 officers and 10 detectives.

She questioned why the bureau has a unit dedicated to about 100 people who are shot in a city of nearly 600,000 people.

Shearer responded that the shootings are no longer concentrated in one part of the city but occurring on both sides of the Willamette River and spread out geographically in every section of the city, affecting hundreds of people a year.

An innocent woman was shot last weekend in the drive-through of a Taco Bell in the Lloyd District in Northeast Portland and bullets have penetrated homes that aren’t intended targets, he said.

The trauma doesn’t just affect those wounded but their friends and families, Shearer said. If police aren’t able to intervene and identify a shooter immediately, the violence often leads to retaliatory shootings, he said.

In one case alone – the 2013 gang-related killing of 30-year-old Durieul Joseph Harris outside the Fontaine Bleau nightclub on Northeast Broadway -- police have identified 114 shootings, including homicides, that sprang from resulting “bad blood” between feuding gangs over the original shooting, police said.

Shearer referred to “distinct groups involved” in many of the city’s shootings, avoiding use of the word “gang” before the council members.

Hardesty asked him to “unpack that so we know exactly who we’re talking about.”

Shearer said the average age of a person affected by a homicide in Portland, either the victim or suspect, is 35. The average age of a victim or a suspect involved in a shooting that results in an injury but not death is 31.

While blacks make up about 6 percent of the city’s population, 51 percent of shootings that cause an injury involve black men as either the victim or suspect, he said.

The vast majority of those affected by shootings have had prior arrests, according to police.

“There is no group more directly and disproportionately impacted by gun violence in Portland than African American men,” Shearer told commissioners.

Part of the problem, Hardesty said, is the lack of resources and support for men getting out of prison after serving mandatory minimum sentences. They often can’t find jobs or housing, she said.

Hardesty said it’s not enough that two outreach workers respond to the city’s trauma hospital to talk to victims of shootings and their families as part of a program called “Healing Hurt People.”

The city is paying \$185,000 to the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform to conduct a cost study of violence in Portland.

In an email to the City Council, David Muhammad, the institute’s executive director, voiced support for the city’s Gun Violence Reduction Team and wrote that “the enormous disparity in rates of gun violence victimization for black males in Portland is alarming,”

“Although Portland’s gun violence rate is low compared to other big cities, far too many, mostly young black men, are being killed on the city’s streets,” he wrote. “Despite understandable concerns that specialized police units can produce over policing in communities of color, well organized and focused law enforcement efforts can actually result in less emphasis on enforcement of low-level offenses and better focus on protecting human life.”

Multnomah County District Attorney Rod Underhill and Oregon’s U.S. Attorney Billy J. Williams also wrote to the council in support of the Police Bureau’s specialized team that responds to shootings in the city. While there’s been a recent spike in shootings, Underhill and Williams wrote that they believe the number of shooters is small and the Gun Violence Reduction Team’s experience and knowledge of those involved is necessary to try to interrupt the violence.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **Portland gas tax renewal referred to May primary election ballot**

*By Jim Redden*

*February 07, 2020*

#### **City Council will consider an additional tax on heavy vehicles next week to help fund street repairs and safety improvements**

Portland voters will be asked to renew the city's 10-cent-per-gallon gas tax that funds street repairs and improvements at the May 19 primary election.

The City Council unanimously referred renewing the "Fixing Our Streets" program to the ballot on Thursday, Feb. 6.

"It's well worth the dime we pay at the pump," said Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who oversees the Portland Bureau of Transportation and sponsored the referral.

According to the resolution approved by the council, "the City is behind in addressing the maintenance needs of much of its aging infrastructure. Portland's 4,854 lane miles of paved streets show continuing decline, with 52% of the city's busiest streets in poor or very poor condition, the most expensive categories to repair."

The council also took testimony on a related heavy vehicle use tax and moved that measure to next week's agenda.

The four-year gas tax was first approved by voters at the May 2016 primary election. It has already raised more than \$64 million for such projects. The Portland Bureau of Transportation has prepared a \$74.5 million list of additional projects that it presented to the council before the referral vote.

Transportation officials also want to raise \$11 million from owners and operators of heavy vehicles. A work group has discussed several options and settled on a tax on businesses in Portland that own and operate heavy vehicles. During the hearing, however, business owners disagreed with PBOT about how much the proposed tax would cost them. The council will address the differences at next week's meeting.

Metro is working to refer a \$4.22 billion regional transportation funding measure to the Nov. 3 general election.

During the hearing, PBOT said the Fixing Our Streets program has already paved or improved 40 miles of road, constructed 300 new ramps to meet Americans with Disabilities Act standards, updated 58 intersections for safety and built 53 Safe Routes to School projects that serve a combined 31 elementary schools, eight middle schools and 10 high schools in Portland. It also has provided significant funding for major streetscape projects such as the Halsey-Weidler Streetscape Project in the Gateway neighborhood and the Foster Streetscape Project in Southeast Portland.

Proposed projects on the new list includes \$25 million dedicated to paving, \$5 million for new traffic signals, \$4.5 million for sidewalks, \$4.5 million for street lighting and millions more for better and safer access to schools, transit and community services. Spending from the program would continue to be overseen by the Fixing Our Streets Oversight Committee, which represents multiple communities with a stake in Portland's streets and roads.

You can learn more and find the list of proposed projects [here](#).

## Portland police: Shootings averaging every 13 hours

*By Jim Redden*

*February 06, 2020*

### **City Council told gun violence is spiking in 2020 during a Thursday morning work session**

The best response to reduce gun violence in Portland — including a recent spike in shootings — was discussed by the City Council on Thursday, Feb. 6.

Since the beginning of 2020, there has been a shooting every 13 hours, on average, with a person shot every two days, Assistant Police Chief Andrew Shearer told the council during a morning work session.

Shearer also said the rate of this year's shootings was a dramatic increase over the last quarter of 2019, which actually saw a decrease in shootings compared the same period the year before.

The morning work session took place just a few hours after a person was shot in East Portland. The name of the victim was not immediately released and no suspect information was immediately released, either. Police said the victim's injuries were minor and treated at the scene.

The work session included a presentation about two city programs intended to reduce shootings and other violence, the Portland Police Bureau's Gun Violence Reduction Team by Assistant Police Chief and the Office of Youth Violence Prevention.

Mayor Ted Wheeler began the session by saying that ensuring public safety is a complex issue, with some members of the community not trusting the police because they have not been well served by them in the past. He said the city's efforts were evolving, noting that the former police Gang Enforcement Team was restructured as the GVRT in October 2018 to respond to all shootings, not just those involving known or suspected gang members.

"There is a reasonable distrust of the city in this work and I want to acknowledge that," Wheeler said. "We are committed to leading is to a better place."

During the discussion, Wheeler and the other council members agreed that more resources are needed to respond to all those impacted by violence in the city, including family members of victims who need counseling and other support services. Some of those services are currently funded through the Office of Youth Violence Prevention, which was created in 2006.

"Gun violence impacts families directly," said Director Nike Green.

Shearer told the council that only a couple hundred people are responsible for most of the gun violence in Portland. He said shootings disproportionately affect young African American males the most. According to police statistics, although African Americans make up 6% of Portland's population, they account for 38% of homicide victims and 51% of those injured in shootings. Most of the victims were men in their 20s and 30s, Shearer said.

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty speculated that many if not most of those responsible for the shootings had been released from prison and were unable to find jobs or housing. She described them as "angry" victims of mass incarceration policies created in Salem.

Hardesty also asked whether the bureau needed to create a program to respond to just the couple people suspected of causing the most violence. Shearer said their actions harm far more people, giving examples of victims of stray bullets that include a teenager paralyzed in a shooting and an immigrant family that fell to the floor when bullets pierced their apartment.

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly said some of the solutions must also come from the Oregon Legislature, including gun storage requirements, a ban on assault rifles and large capacity magazines, and laws to disarm those commit domestic violence.

The session ended without the council members proposing any specific new programs or funding increases to be included in the next city budget.

A previously-scheduled discussion about requiring police to wear body cameras was postponed.

## **Person shot hours before Gun Violence Reduction Team work session**

*By Jim Redden  
February 06, 2020*

### **City Council is scheduled to discuss the GVRT on Thursday as shootings increase in Portland**

A person was shot in East Portland early Thursday, just hours before the City Council was scheduled to hold a work session on the Portland Police Bureau's Gun Violence Reduction Team.

The name of the victim was not immediately released and no suspect information was immediately released, either. Police said the victim's injuries were minor and treated at the scene.

According to police, at 2:34 a.m. on Feb. 6, East Precinct officers responded to the 13000 block of Southeast Cora Street on a report of a shooting. Officers arrived on scene and located evidence of gunfire. Officers also located a victim that had been injured during the shooting.

Officers with the GVRT responded to assist with the investigation.

The shooting happened about seven hours before the council was scheduled to hold a 9:30 a.m. work session on the GVRT.

According to the police, shootings have increased in Portland this year compared to 2019. The Gun Violence Reduction Team, known as GVRT, responded to 47 shootings by Jan. 27 compared to 28 by the same time during the previous January.

Despite its mission to reduce shootings, the GVRT is controversial. It began as the Gang Enforcement Team with a focus on reducing gang shootings. At that time, GET officers stopped and questioned African Americans at a disproportionately high rate, according to several audits.

Even though its mission has been expanded to include all shootings, Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty has repeatedly called for the GVRT to be abolished.

Police officials are expected to explain the current activities of the GVRT and to present statistics about recent shootings and gun seizures at Thursday's work session. The council will begin working on next year's budget in coming weeks.

A scheduled discussion of body worn cameras by police was delayed.

## **Willamette Week**

### **Mayor Ted Wheeler Hires the Late Commissioner Nick Fish's Chief of Staff**

*By Nigel Jaquiss  
February 6, 2020*

#### **The incumbent strengthens his team as he moves into a election year.**

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler today announced the hiring of Sonia Schmanski, who served as the chief of staff to the late Commissioner Nick Fish, who died of cancer Jan. 2.

After Fish's death, Wheeler took control of Fish's bureaus, so Schmanski effectively already works for him. She'll now become one of two deputies to Wheeler's Chief of Staff Kristin Dennis, joining Jamal Fox in that position.

Schmanski worked for Fish for nearly a dozen years and will add depth to a staff that has undergone significant turnover and will be without Dennis in the spring when she goes out on maternity leave.

"Mayor Wheeler's office is leading important conversations about big issues that will shape our community's future, and I look forward to supporting them and the rest of the City Council as we tackle this work together," Schmanski said in a statement.

## **The Portland Mercury**

### **Videos Depicts Moments Leading up to Fatal Police Shooting**

*By Alex Zielinski  
February 6, 2020*

A compilation of security video footage released by the Portland Police Bureau Thursday offers the public a glimpse at the last moments of 31-year-old Lane Martin's life.

Martin was killed on July 30, 2019 after being shot nine times by Officer Gary Doran outside an East Portland apartment complex. Martin was experiencing a mental health crisis at the time of his death, a reaction allegedly spurred by an untreated mental illness and methamphetamine use.

Doran was one of the 23 police officers dispatched to a NE 122nd parking lot after hearing reports of a man carrying two knives, claiming he was a federal officer, and trying to break into a vehicle. After confronting Martin at the parking lot, police followed him down various busy sidewalks, through a MAX station, and eventually to the courtyard of an apartment complex.

The newly released videos—a cobbling together of different security cameras in the area—show snippets of that chase. None of the four videos, however, capture the two separate instances when officers shot Martin with lethal and foam-tipped "less lethal" bullets.

The first clip shows Martin walking down a sidewalk away from the parking lot and stopping to talk to the driver of a black SUV. According to police interviews with the driver of that car, Richard Miller, Martin had appeared at the driver's side window "speaking in gibberish" and pounding an identification card against the closed window. Miller said Martin appeared to be carrying a hatchet.

The video shows Martin eventually leaving the SUV as police officers appear on the sidewalk behind him. Martin seems to be holding something in his left hand as he walks briskly away from the officers.

The next clip shows Martin crossing a MAX platform at SE 122nd and Ash, and appearing to gesture toward the growing number of officers and police vehicles responding to the scene. The video doesn't capture what happens directly after this moment, when two officers shoot Martin in the legs with so-called "less lethal" foam-tipped bullets.

The third clip shows Martin running down SE Ash—after being shot in the legs—as police sprint after him. The fourth clip comes from a camera at the apartment complex where police



eventually cornered Martin. The camera angle, however, doesn't include the courtyard where Martin is shot. Instead, the video only shows armed officers running into the apartment complex, their backs to the camera.

What happens next isn't captured on video footage: Officers order Martin to get on the ground, but he instead steps toward the officers while grabbing for something in his waistband. Doran believed it was a knife. According to his grand jury testimony, Doran then shot at Martin until he "saw a response." Martin died at the scene.

In October, a grand jury declined to bring charges against Doran after determining he had acted in self-defense. The PPB is still in the process of conducting its internal review of the incident.

That same day, lawyers representing Martin's family filed a lawsuit against the City of Portland, accusing the city's police officers of discriminating against Martin having a mental illness. On January 21, Federal Judge Michael Simon denied the city's request to dismiss part of the lawsuit's complaints. City attorneys are required to submit their full response to the lawsuit by February 11. If that case goes to trial, it's expected these videos will be included as evidence.

## **Portland City Council Sends Gas Tax Renewal to May Ballot**

*By Blair Stenvick  
February 7, 2020*

A gas tax first approved by Portlanders in 2016 is heading back to the ballot this May.

On Thursday, Portland City Council heard an annual progress report for Fixing Our Streets, a program that funds road repair and transportation safety projects through a 10-cent-per-gallon gas tax narrowly passed by Portland voters in May of 2016. The council also unanimously voted to put a renewal of that tax before voters in May 2020.

"I urge all voters to cast your ballots this May in support of renewing this gas tax," said City Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who oversees the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), before casting her "yes" vote. "It's well worth the dimes we pay at the pump, and it will provide us with the tools we need to advance safety, equity, and sustainability in Portland's transportation system."

When passed in 2016, the gas tax established the city's first fund dedicated solely to improving roads and safety conditions—a welcome revenue source, after years of budget cuts and a dearth of dedicated funding left the city with \$2 billion in sorely needed street repairs, according to PBOT. It also outpaced revenue expectations, bringing in \$76 million rather than the predicted \$64 million over a four-year period.

A city audit released last May found that while PBOT was lagging behind its promised schedule, the projects were aligning with the goals of the program, and were mostly being completed within budget.

A new report from PBOT documents projects completed using the gas tax money so far: 370 "base repair" projects, or heavy-duty street rebuilds; 300 new wheelchair-accessible ramps; 58 safer intersections; 40 miles of new or fixed-up road pavement; and 53 Safe Routes to School projects, which establish safe walking routes for kids going to their neighborhood schools.

While making the case for renewing the tax, PBOT Director Chris Warner placed an emphasis on Vision Zero, a PBOT incentive to reduce the number of traffic-related deaths down to zero. Last year saw 49 traffic deaths in Portland, the highest number since 1997. Warner displayed a slide at the council meeting showing the names of the 131 people who died from Portland traffic collisions in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

“PBOT is committed to Vision Zero,” Warner said. “Funding for Fixing Our Streets is essential in funding critical safety improvements. It is also known to save lives.”

PBOT staffers also detailed their plans for the next four years of Fixing Our Streets, should the gas tax be renewed. The funding will be split into three nearly-equal parts: One-part road paving and base repairs; one-part safety projects like sidewalks, new crosswalks, and lighting; and one-part “Community Transportation Services”—PBOT’s name for a never-ending list of small projects like pothole fills, speed bump additions, and improvements on existing crosswalks.

Last time the gas tax went on the ballot, it faced opposition from the Oregon Fuels Association, and passed by only four percentage points. It's unclear what opposition the gas tax will face this election.

There’s a good chance Portland voters will also be asked to approve a Metro homeless services funding measure on the May ballot—as well as a Metro transportation measure in November.

In addition to referring the gas tax to the ballot, the City Council is also expected to soon renew a heavy-vehicle-use tax for businesses, which should raise another \$11 million for Fixing Our Streets over four years. That tax won’t need to be approved by voters, but several public commenters at Thursday’s meeting expressed frustration with it. A representative from the Oregon Trucking Association called it a “double tax” for the trucking industry, because truckers are already taxed under a statewide 2017 transportation funding package.

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty refuted that argument, saying “We’re all in this together—people are paying it, so why wouldn’t the trucking industry be paying it?”

## **Commissioner Fish's Longtime Chief of Staff Heads to Mayor's Office**

*By Alex Zielinski  
February 6, 2020*

Sonia Schmanski, Commissioner Nick Fish's longtime chief of staff, has accepted a job as a deputy chief of staff for Mayor Ted Wheeler.

The role places Schmanski in Wheeler's "executive team"—which is made up of fellow Deputy Chief Jamal Fox and Chief of Staff Kristin Dennis. The job will begin on March 2.

Schmanski worked in Fish's since the late commissioner was elected in 2008, beginning as an office temp and rising through the ranks to chief of staff in 2015. Since Fish's January 2 death, Schmanski has continued to lead his staff in carrying out Fish's unfinished policy work. Schmanski plans on splitting her time working in Fish's former office and Wheeler's office until a new commissioner is elected to fill Fish's seat. (Schmanski also says she won't be moving her office's pet fish to her new office until that point.)

Schmanski will be leading Wheeler's policy team and assist in his office's communications work. She tells the Mercury that she's particularly excited to enter "conversations already underway

among council about who we want to be as a city over the next couple generations.” Schmanski says this new position will help her perpetuate the values emulated by her former boss.

"Nick had a fundamental belief in the inherent value of a well-functioning council, and in my time here I have loved, and been so gratified, working with other offices to build things together and then celebrate them together," she said. "I'm really, really excited by the opportunity to do that out of the Mayor's office."

## OPB

# Portland City Council Approves Sending Gas Tax Renewal To May 2020 Ballot

*By Rebecca Ellis*

*February 7, 2020*

A gas tax will be back on Portland's ballot this spring.

City leaders agreed Thursday to refer another temporary 10-cents-per-gallon tax to voters for the May 2020 election. The ballot measure should look very similar to the one Portlanders narrowly approved four years ago.

The money from the 2016 tax was earmarked to repair pothole-strewn streets and make them safer. That tax expires at the end of this year.

But officials for the city's transportation bureau say they still need the money flowing in to take care of a long shopping list of street repairs and improvements.

The city may also renew a tax on heavy vehicles, which when first passed, was seen as a companion to the 2016 gas tax. Portland city councilors are expected to vote on that measure next week.

"We constantly struggle to find adequate funding for basic maintenance and safety," said Chris Warner, the director of the Portland Bureau of Transportation. "The local gas tax and heavy vehicle use tax has been essential to funding some of the core maintenance and safety needs we have."

And so the Bureau's asking for four more years. This time, the pot of money – which the Bureau estimates will ultimately total about \$74 million – will go to a new slate of improvement projects. Like last time, these would include new street paving, sidewalks and signals.

There has been some concern about how the Bureau handled the tax. A city audit of the tax, published last May, found the majority of the projects promised to begin in 2019 had yet to break ground.

The Bureau says things have sped up since.

"You can see the finish line," said Bureau of Transportation spokeswoman Hannah Schafer, noting construction crews will have broken ground on all projects by the year's end.

Some of the more notable city projects fueled by gas tax money include makeovers of SE Foster Road, NE Halsey and NE Weidler streets and long-awaited improvements to a section of SW Capitol Highway. But it's also been used for smaller improvements: smoothing roads, installing

bike lanes and adding crosswalks. If you live in Portland, Schafer said, you've probably encountered a project funded by the tax.

It's not a surprise that the bureau feels it needs more money for improvements. The City Club of Portland estimated back in 2015 that the city would need a minimum of \$205 million per year for the next decade to catch up on necessary street maintenance.

Still, some predict the gas tax could become an election issue for Commissioner Chloe Eudaly, who oversees the transportation bureau and is running for re-election.

"She's going to be asked to answer whether or not transportation [in] the city has improved the last few years and whether or not voters should continue to pay that tax," said pollster John Horvick recently during an interview on Eudaly's re-election bid. "And that's something that I think is reasonable for voters to make a judgment on."

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty said the council had gotten a notable amount of letters from Portlanders wanting to know why the council appeared to be making a temporary tax permanent.

Warner responded that, while this tax, if voters approved it, was not permanent and would only last four years, it was possible that they would need to ask for more funds in the future.

Whether they got those funds, though, he noted, would depend on voters.

"I can tell you this 10-cents will not solve our maintenance backlog needs. It's not going to solve our safety needs," said Warner. "Maybe we'll get a whole lot of new money from the federal government. Until then we have to work with the tools we have."