

# Portland Bicycle Advisory Committee

*Working to Make Bicycling a Part of Daily Life in Portland*

1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 800  
Portland OR 97204

July 20, 2017

Commissioner Dan Saltzman  
Portland City Council  
1221 SW 4th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97204



Dear Commissioner Saltzman,

On behalf of the City of Portland's Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), we are writing to inform you of our support for the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) Transportation System Development Charge (TSDC) Update, including the TSDC methodology, project list and rate schedule.

As a modal committee appointed by the City Council, the BAC is dedicated to the safety and comfort of people who bike on all roadways, and we are charged with advising the City of Portland and its partners on matters related to bicycling. We consist of a wide cross-section of Portlanders who come from every area of the City as well as a broad spectrum of interests and professional backgrounds. The BAC had the opportunity to review the proposed TSDC changes, including a presentation by PBOT staff on May 9, 2017.

The proposed updated TSDC methodology for assessing charges to new development on a per-person-trip rather than per-vehicle-trip basis reflects Portland's multimodal transportation network and growing use of active transportation. The BAC supports a multimodal approach to transportation policy that includes bicycle trips and acknowledges the contribution that bicycling makes to the City's transportation infrastructure.

The BAC also endorses the TSDC project list, developed through a robust process drawing from the City's previous transportation planning efforts, public outreach, and strong considerations for prioritizing equity and safety. TSDC list projects will provide new transportation capacity that supports transportation demand generated by new development. Since 2000, more new commute trips in the City have been supported by bicycling than any other mode of transportation, based on US Census Bureau Journey to Work data. The TSDC project list reflects this demand for new bicycle infrastructure to support trips to and from new developments in the City. By making it possible to build out projects in the updated project list, the BAC finds that the updated TSDC program aligns with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Transportation System Plan goals of prioritizing a multimodal transportation system.

The BAC supports adjustment of TSDC rates to better align with rates assessed by other jurisdictions in the Portland Metro region, at 50% of the eligible list. Generating approximately \$200 million over the next 10 years will help the City build out multimodal infrastructure in areas like East Portland where existing infrastructure is struggling to support increased demand, where increasing user safety continues to be pressing concern.

We look forward to speaking in support of the TSDC Update when the proposal comes before City Council. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of Portland's Bicycle Advisory Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rithy Khut'.

Rithy Khut, Chair  
Bicycle Advisory Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elliot Akwai-Scott'.

Elliot Akwai-Scott, Vice-Chair  
Bicycle Advisory Committee

Cc:

Leah Treat, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Roger Geller, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation  
Anne Hill, City of Portland Bureau of Transportation