

**CITY OF COTTAGE GROVE**  
**Ad Hoc Street Improvement & Funding Committee**  
Minutes of the Meeting  
November 2, 2023

Present in Chambers: Mayor Candace Solesbee, Councilors Greg Ervin, Mike Fleck, Dana Merryday, Chair Amber Bahler, Citizens Michael Laborde and Robert Reetz.

Present via GoTo  
Meeting:

Staff Present: Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart and City Recorder Mindy Roberts.

Media Present: None.

Guest Present: None.

Absent: Vice Chair Mike Praegitzer, Councilors Alex Dreher, Jon Stinnett, Chalice Savage, YAC Member Kassidy Poetzl, Citizens Garland Burbach, Jeff Conklin, Michel Praegitzev, Chris Holloman and Tiffanie Williams.

1. Welcome: Chair Amber Bahler opened the Committee meeting at 6:00 pm.
2. Approval of September 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Moved by Councilor Fleck and seconded by Citizen Robert Reetz. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

3. Presentation, Summary of Committee work to date, Chair Bahler.

Chair Amber Bahler solicited feedback on the presentation.

Councilor Fleck expressed concern about the employee payroll tax and the overall financial impact on individuals from the proposed options. He suggested not presenting funding recommendations until the community has provided feedback.

Citizen Robert Reetz expressed concern about the employee payroll tax.

Committee agreed to add two points to the *Problem Statement* page; the inability to assess fees on commercial trucks and electric vehicles using City roads.

Committee agreed to add information to the *Funding Options* page regarding the gas tax by indicating that the tax would capture Interstate 5 traffic and it would apply to all gas stations.

Committee agreed to add Funding Option 4a which would be a combination of option 3a and 3b with a lower payroll tax of .5%. It would also spread the cost over 15-20 years and create a backlog of designed road improvement plans, giving the ability to accomplish more projects, more quickly with a potential cost savings. In addition, having shovel-ready projects would enable the city to be more competitive for grants.

Citizen Chris Holloman joined the meeting at 6:50 pm

4. Continued Committee Discussion & Creation of Committee Recommendation(s).

Committee discussed the importance of legislative outreach, having design work complete so that work can begin in a timely manner, having a backlog of projects utilizing the current PCI information and accomplishing some level of improvement each year.

5. Public Outreach, Focus Groups & Town Hall Meeting

Committee agreed to move forward with public outreach to gather feedback.

Public Works and Development Director Faye Stewart offered to have Eric Mongan and Shauna Neigh create a 30-minute presentation for use at local groups, service clubs and organizations. He added that once created, he would send it to the committee for review.

Discussion was held about a variety of opportunities to engage with the public.

6. Next Meeting:

Committee discussed staying in contact via email by first sending the information to Recording Secretary, Tina MacDonald and then having her distribute the information to the committee to avoid a serial meeting amongst Council.

The next meeting will be in early January, with a possible town hall at the end of January.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.