

# Open House #2 Summary

Date: Monday, November 06, 2023

Project: Cottage Grove Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan

To: Eric Mongan, City of Cottage Grove; David Helton, ODOT

From: Rory Renfro, HDR

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Subject: **Cottage Grove Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan Open House #2 Public Comments Summary**

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## Overview

The City of Cottage Grove and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) hosted an open house for the Cottage Grove Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan on November 1, 2023 from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at the Cottage Grove Armory. The purpose of the open house was to present material from Memos #3 & #4 to members of the public and solicit public input on the recommended project and programmatic enhancements. A total of 23 attendees signed in on the provided sign-in sheet.

The project team developed informational displays and stations as summarized below.

- **Project Background & Overview:** Outlined the project timeline, vision, and Plan goals and objectives (introduced in Open House #1).
- **Recommended Improvements:** Presented an overview of the recommended improvement types and maps of the recommended walkway and bikeway networks.
- **Highway 99 Focus Area:** Presented a map and design concepts for the segment of Highway 99 between Harrison Avenue and Gibbs Avenue.
- **Recommended Project Prioritization:** Presented the project prioritization criteria (introduced in Open House #1) and maps showing the recommended walkway and bikeway networks project prioritization.
- **Citywide Initiatives and Programs:** Outlined recommendations applicable at the broader citywide scale, including infrastructure and programmatic tools.

## Community Comments

Members of the public could provide feedback in a variety of ways at the open house. During the open house, the project team recorded feedback from conversations with members of the public on flip charts and collected additional comments through written forms. In addition, community members had the opportunity to provide comments online on the City's project website.

The following section outlines feedback received during the open house, noting both overall themes and location-specific feedback.

## Community Feedback Themes

- A small group of attendees discussed conflicts between different modes of travel and felt there was a need for **education about how to share the road**.
- Several participants expressed a preference for **protected bike lanes**.
- A small group discussed the recommended improvement types for bicycle facilities and expressed **concerns about the “enhanced shared roadway”**.
- **E-bikes** were mentioned as an emerging issue due to their **high speed** and potential conflicts with pedestrians. One attendee questioned whether e-bikes should be classified as bicycles or motor vehicles.
- Several participants discussed the need for **bike parking**. One person expressed concerns about theft, particularly of e-bikes, and would like to see enclosed and lockable bike storage at “destination points.” Another attendee encouraged the provision of bike racks around downtown and at parks.
- The need for **camera enforcement at crossings** – particularly along Highway 99 – was expressed by some community members.
- One comment discussed a **mobility hub** to facilitate the active transportation **interface with LTD Line 98**.
- One person stated that the Cottage Grove’s **population number** is not accurately reflected on street signage and encouraged ODOT to allow the City’s Public Works to periodically update the numbers.
- One community member provided online feedback requesting **greater accessibility**, especially downtown, to ease navigating in a wheelchair. The comment also included a reminder to keep sidewalks clear from vegetation.
- One online comment focused on **adequate street lighting** as a primary issue for people walking in Cottage Grove.

## Location-Specific Feedback

- Multiple attendees requested the inclusion of the **planned/proposed multi-use path along both sides of the Coast Fork** near Lincoln Middle School.
- One attendee highlighted the need to make **crossing improvements** at the intersection of **Main Street and River Road**. Concerns include poor visibility, especially for motorists on River Road.
- One comment stated that the proposed improvements **on 6<sup>th</sup> Street between Filmore Avenue and Johnson Avenue** (identified by the commenter as a “missing link”) should be prioritized as “**shorter term**”, as opposed to “longer term” (as currently depicted on the bikeway network prioritization map).
- Two attendees commented on **crossing Main Street near Bohemia Park** and felt there was a need for enhancements.
- One participant requested **better crossings at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 99**.
- Two written comments supported “**Concept D**” for the **Highway 99 Focus Area** – one commentor cited potential pushback from business owners, while another attendee felt it

would be a good compromise. Another written comment expressed **support for “Concept C,”** while two comments expressed a preference for separated bike lanes as shown in **Concepts B or C.** Other attendees expressed **support for Concept A** during a conversation.

- One comment requested a **multi-use path paralleling I-5** between the Row River Trail (near the Gateway Shopping Center) and the Cottage Grove Connector (near I-5 at exit 174).
- One comment expressed the need for **strict speed enforcement on Highway 99 south of Main Street.** The commenter stated that people driving often exceed the speed limit, and that speed limits and muffler noise regulations are ignored.