

**From:** [Bill Dixon](#)  
**To:** [CityRecorder](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]Agenda Item 3.2a. 25-507 on the January 12 City Council Agenda  
**Date:** Thursday, January 8, 2026 5:54:16 PM

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My name is Bill Dixon. I am a resident of Ward 7 and a member of the city Budget Committee. I write in support of Agenda Item 3.2a. 25-507, a resolution requiring the city to consider the long-term cost to operate and maintain new infrastructure before it's built.

Salem struggles to maintain the vital infrastructure it already has. For example, staff report that virtually all roadway maintenance money is spent to fix obvious failures, not to do preventive maintenance. Also, staff report that the city has fallen \$2.8 billion behind in its work to replace aging and failing steel water pipes.

As staff notes, new capital projects that replace or repair existing infrastructure can actually reduce ongoing costs, while projects that add new infrastructure often require new ongoing spending as well. This resolution will allow city staff, the Budget Committee and the City Council to weigh the net impact of all new capital projects on the city's ability to pay for their future upkeep.

Approving this resolution will be a step in the direction of more sustainable operating budgets, and I urge the Council's approval of it.

*Bill Dixon, 608 Salem Heights Ave. S., Salem 97302*

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