



Transportation and Parks Policy Ideas

The following policy ideas related to transportation and parks have been developed during the Our Salem project. They reflect priorities from the community that advance the goals in the updated Salem Area Comprehensive Plan. The policy ideas will be incorporated into the future updates of the Salem Transportation System Plan (TSP) and the Salem Comprehensive Parks System Master Plan (CPSMP), both of which are components of the Salem Area Comprehensive Plan. The City plans to update the TSP and CPSMP after the completion of the Our Salem project.

Transportation Policy Ideas

Multimodal Policy Ideas

1. **Interconnected:** Improve the transportation network to integrate and interconnect facilities for pedestrians, bicycles, automobiles, transit, and freight into a safe, comprehensive system.
2. **Multiple modes:** Design and enhance the transportation system to support and promote the use of multiple modes of travel, and make investments to ensure that alternative modes, such as walking and biking, are viable and safe options for all.
3. **Pedestrian and bicycle networks:** Improve and expand pedestrian and bicycle facilities to provide complete networks that accommodate people of all ages and abilities.
4. **Street design:** Prioritize the provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities over additional capacity for motor vehicles in the design of streets where space and other constraints exist.
5. **Active transportation routes:** Develop pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly alternatives to arterial and high-volume collector streets to improve connectivity and serve local needs.
6. **Destinations:** Increase multimodal transportation options to and between parks, schools, employment centers, public facilities, and other destinations.
7. **Innovation:** Explore and plan for new and emerging transportation modes such as personal transporter vehicles, automated vehicles, and electric vehicles, including supporting public charging facilities.
8. **Transit:** Support and encourage transit providers to increase transit frequency and expand service to underserved areas, existing and new employment centers, and other activity centers.
9. **Transit centers:** Support the development of additional transit stations or hubs outside of downtown Salem to improve access to transit services, reduce the length of transit trips, and make taking transit more convenient.

10. **Regional access:** Support efforts to improve vehicle and transit connectivity to areas outside of the Salem Urban Area for the movement of goods and people.

Safety and Accessibility Policy Ideas

1. **Pedestrian safety:** Improve pedestrian safety throughout the Salem Urban Area, particularly to and near schools, parks, and transit stops, by building or improving infrastructure and providing separation from vehicular traffic where practical.
2. **Bicycle safety:** Improve bicycle safety throughout the Salem Urban Area by designing facilities for bicyclists of all abilities, including separated bike facilities on arterials and connecting bike routes on lower-volume, lower-speed streets.
3. **Accessibility:** Improve sidewalks and other transportation facilities to provide safe and convenient access for those with mobility devices or those who need accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
4. **Safety education:** Collaborate with local and regional partners to educate the traveling public on safety for all modes of travel.
5. **Traffic calming:** Slow traffic in residential neighborhoods and in areas with high pedestrian traffic through appropriate traffic calming measures such as narrower streets and speed humps.
6. **Rail crossing safety:** The City shall ensure that improvements to rail crossings are designed to maximize safety for all users.
7. **Hazardous materials:** Safe routing of hazardous materials within Salem shall be consistent with state and federal guidelines.
8. **Resiliency:** Improve and build transportation infrastructure in coordination with emergency responders to increase transportation resiliency, align with emergency plans, and reduce risks to people in the case of seismic events and other natural hazards.

Efficiency and Performance Policy Ideas

1. **Street connectivity:** Maximize street connectivity to reduce the lengths of trips and increase opportunities for people to walk and bike.
2. **Congestion:** Manage and improve the transportation system to relieve congestion and provide for the efficient movement of people, including across the Willamette River.
3. **Economy:** Design the transportation system to provide for the efficient, safe, and reliable movement of goods and services within and through the Salem Urban Area to support businesses and the economy.
4. **Transportation system management:** Prioritize management techniques and facility improvements that maximize the operational performance of the transportation system.

5. **Curbside management:** Seek to inventory, optimize, allocate, and manage curb space to maximize mobility and access for a wide variety of curb demands.
6. **Transportation system preservation:** Prioritize maintenance to protect investments that have been made to transportation infrastructure.
7. **Downtown:** Expand transportation options and multimodal connections to, through, and around downtown Salem to promote efficient travel by multiple modes of transportation.
8. **Interjurisdictional coordination:** Coordinate with state and regional agencies to plan transportation improvements to streets that cross jurisdictions or serve as regional corridors, including those located along and around the edges of the Salem Urban Area.
9. **Emerging performance measurements:** Explore the feasibility and applicability of emerging methods of measuring and evaluating transportation system performance and safety.
10. **Emerging user technology:** Support the use of emerging user technologies to improve the overall efficiency and safety of the transportation system. [Emerging user technologies include items such as personal transport vehicles, gig economy ride sharing services, smart cars, and transportation-related smartphone apps.]

Livability Policy Ideas:

1. **Impacts:** Distribute benefits and burdens of the transportation system equitably and mitigate or minimize any negative impacts transportation improvements may have on low-income populations, communities of color, and other underserved communities.
2. **Placemaking:** Promote placemaking in the design of the transportation system by incorporating streetscape amenities that support pedestrian use where appropriate and by coordinating with adjacent land uses.
3. **Public health:** Promote positive health outcomes by increasing opportunities for people to walk or bike to meet their daily needs and by reducing environmental impacts like pollution.
4. **Noise mitigation:** Consider noise mitigation measures in the design and redesign of arterial streets immediately adjacent to residential development.

Parking Policy Ideas:

1. **Context-sensitive standards:** Establish and maintain parking requirements for bicycles and vehicles that are context sensitive and that allow for reductions in appropriate locations such as areas with frequent transit service.
2. **Flexibility:** Minimize the amount of land solely dedicated to surface parking by lowering parking minimums and providing flexibility in how parking requirements are met.
3. **Neighborhoods:** Prohibit the development of new standalone surface parking lots in residential neighborhoods and encourage redevelopment of existing standalone surface parking lots.

4. **Sustainable design:** Encourage new or improved surface parking lots to incorporate sustainable design features such as permeable pavement, bioswales, and other green infrastructure such as shade trees.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Policy Ideas:

1. **Single-occupancy vehicles:** Decrease reliance on single-occupancy vehicles as the dominant means of travel by ensuring that other modes are viable and convenient travel options.
2. **Transportation demand management:** Identify and enhance transportation demand management programs and commuting options that reduce congestion.
3. **System efficiency:** Prioritize the implementation of transportation demand management measures, enhanced transit service, and the provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities to accommodate travel demand and relieve congestion in a travel corridor before widening roads.

Parks and Recreation Policy Ideas

Opportunity Policy Ideas:

1. **Network:** Expand and maintain a comprehensive network of parks and recreational facilities to serve the growing population in the Salem Urban Area.
2. **Equity:** Provide an equitable distribution of parks in the Salem Urban Area and prioritize park acquisition and development in underserved areas.
3. **Diversity:** Provide an array of different types of parks and recreational facilities to meet the needs of people of all ages and abilities, including co-locating intergenerational amenities in the same park.
4. **Innovation:** Pursue pocket parks and other innovative options as a new park types and expand the number of natural areas and linear parks to meet new and changing recreational needs in the community.
5. **Existing parks:** Maintain and reinvest in existing parks to ensure they are safe, high-quality facilities with up-to-date amenities, thereby extending their useful lives, improving operating efficiencies, and enhancing the quality of services.
6. **Prioritization metrics:** Use measurable criteria, including the age and condition of existing parks, park capacity and recreational value relative to surrounding population density, and walking, bicycling, and transit accessibility to prioritize future capital investments.
7. **Active recreation:** Expand active recreational opportunities such as programmed spaces in parks and indoor recreation facilities to promote public health, wellness, and play.
8. **Trails:** Expand the network of trails throughout the Salem Urban Area to connect open spaces, improve access, and provide recreational opportunities.

9. **Natural open space:** Preserve and increase access to natural open spaces to provide passive recreation opportunities and help protect the environment.
10. **River:** Promote the Willamette River as a recreational asset by expanding or enhancing Riverfront Park, Wallace Marine Park, and Minto-Brown Island Park and by facilitating a riverside trail and river access points.
11. **Land:** Coordinate with developers and property owners to find opportunities to acquire properties for future parks through land purchases, donations, incentives, or other ways.
12. **Park rangers:** Expand the Park Ranger Program to all parks to protect resources, foster awareness and stewardship, and provide public safety.

Connectivity and Access Policy Ideas:

1. **Park access:** Strive for all residents to have 10-20-30 minute access through a 10-minute walk to a neighborhood park, 20-minute bike ride to a community park, and 30-minute transit ride to an urban park or facility.
2. **Universal design:** Design parks and recreation facilities for universal access and multi-generational uses to encourage participation and inclusive play by residents of all abilities and ages.
3. **Pedestrian access:** Improve access to parks, open spaces, and recreational facilities by installing or improving pedestrian infrastructure such as pedestrian crossings and accommodations for people with disabilities.
4. **Active transportation:** Provide connections between networks of off-street trails and on-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities to increase active transportation and recreational opportunities.
5. **River access and trails** Enhance Salem’s system of river access points and riverside trails and strengthen active transportation connections between neighborhoods and the river.
6. **Transit access:** Promote transit access to recreational facilities by locating them in areas accessible by transit.
7. **Proximity to employment:** Encourage private industry to provide recreation opportunities and facilities for employees in employment areas.
8. **Development:** Encourage residential developments such as multifamily housing projects and subdivisions to incorporate dedicated open space to improve access for residents.
9. **Coordination:** Coordinate with businesses, property owners, institutions, and community organizations to increase public access to recreational facilities or open spaces that are not publicly owned.
10. **Equitable programing:** Encourage underserved populations to join programs and activities by offering needs-based assistance, translation services and transportation when possible.

Community and Culture Policy Ideas:

1. **Multipurpose parks:** Facilitate opportunities to use parks for multiple purposes that benefit the community, including educational space, flood mitigation, tree canopy, and community gardens.
2. **Programming:** Promote positive activity in parks by increasing recreational amenities, scheduled programming, pop-up and community events, festivals, interactive features, and space for shared activities.
3. **Visibility:** Increase community visibility and awareness of parks through signage, wayfinding, and other techniques.
4. **Safety:** Enhance the safety and enjoyability of parks by incorporating strategies of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, as well as signage and other features.
5. **Specialized recreational facilities:** Establish and manage specialized facilities within the park system that take advantage of land assets and that respond to diverse, basic, and emerging recreational needs.
6. **Culture:** Provide places in parks to celebrate the cultural heritage, diversity, and identity of surrounding neighborhoods, including opportunities for local art.
7. **Incorporation of art:** Coordinate with the Salem Public Art Commission during the pre-design and design phases for new and renovated parks for the incorporation of pop-up, temporary, and/or permanent art.
8. **Gathering space:** Provide community gathering spaces in covered areas in parks and other public spaces and facilities.

Climate Policy Ideas:

1. **Ecological preservation and restoration:** Incorporate the preservation and restoration of wetland, riparian, and upland wildlife habitats to safeguard sensitive environmental areas and wildlife corridors when designing and developing recreation opportunities.
2. **Eco-conscious management:** Integrate the development, operation, and maintenance of indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities to reduce energy, water, and chemical use, and support a wide variety of species.
3. **Natural resources:** Support the use of native or climate adaptive plant species in city parks.
4. **Trees:** When feasible, plant trees in parks to provide carbon sequestration, shade benefits, urban heat island relief, air quality benefits, and green space to support Climate Action Plan and Community Forestry Strategic Plan goals.

5. **Demonstration gardens:** Encourage the development of demonstration gardens to increase awareness of water conservation, stormwater management, Monarch butterfly-friendly, native pollinator, and energy conservation best practices.