

From: [Brian Hines](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Cc: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Blog post testimony in support of protected bike lanes
Date: Sunday, June 26, 2022 11:27:09 AM

Please consider the blog post link below to be testimony in support of having the Salem Bike Vision proposal for a network of protected bike lanes to be included in the \$300 million bond measure slated for the November election. I noted that this is to be discussed at the June 27 city council meeting.

The end of the blog post has 37 additional reasons people gave for wanting protected bike lanes after signing the petition I started in support of this effort. Previous reasons already have been shared with city officials.

Here's a link to the blog post, along with how I introduced it on Facebook.

A public opinion survey by the City of Salem about the upcoming \$300 million community improvement bond measure wrongly told respondents that the projects in the measure already had been decided on. That biased a question about having \$10 million for protected bike lanes being part of the bond measure.

Hopefully the City Council will do the right thing at its June 27 meeting and make sure protected bike lanes are in the measure, since public comments show this Salem Bike Vision proposal is the most popular part of the bond measure. In this blog post I also share additional reasons people gave for signing a petition I started in support of protected bike lanes.

<https://hinessight.blogs.com/salempoliticalsnark/2022/06/more-evidence-that-city-of-salem-staff-hate-protected-bike-lanes.html>

— Brian

Brian Hines
Salem, Oregon USA
brianhines1@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/OregonBrian>
<https://www.facebook.com/StrangeUpSalem>
<https://www.facebook.com/SalemPoliticalSnark>
<https://www.facebook.com/SalemCanDoBetter>
<https://twitter.com/oregonbrian>
www.hinesblog.com (blog)
www.churchofthechurchless.com (other blog)
www.salempoliticalsnark.com (other other blog)
www.brianhines.com (web site)
<https://brianhines.journoportfolio.com> (selection of my writings)

From: [Christine & Jon](#)
To: ["J Stemberidge"](#); [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#); [Chuck Bennett](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Tom Andersen](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Gretchen Bennett](#); [Kristin Retherford](#)
Subject: RE: \$10 million bond allocation testimony for June 27,2022 Council Meeting
Date: Saturday, June 25, 2022 8:36:18 AM

I also support Joana and Jim's request urging our city council to invest in immediate housing solutions for our homeless neighbors.

Christine Ertl

From: J Stemberidge [mailto:stembrij@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, June 25, 2022 8:20 AM
To: cityrecorder@cityofsalem.net; city council; Chuck Bennett; Virginia Stapleton; Chris Hoy; Tom Andersen; tphillips@cityofsalem.net; jgonzalez@cityofsalem.net; Vanessa Nordyke; Micki Varney; SalemHunamRightsCommission; Kristin Retherford
Subject: \$10 million bond allocation testimony for June 27,2022 Council Meeting

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Thank you for this opportunity for the public to comment, prior to your vote on how to spend the \$10 Million bond.

As we all know, our city is suffering from the inability to house all of our residents.

As we all know, when we have a growing number of women, men, youth, and families living unsheltered on our streets or in cars, it is a humanitarian catastrophe for each one of those residents.

What is not so clear to every resident, is that the entire City of Salem suffers when our most vulnerable neighbors are living on the streets. Why do we say this? Our community cohesion suffers, our comfort in utilizing our beautiful historic downtown suffers, and our businesses suffer when people are uncomfortable coming downtown to shop or eat or watch a movie or utilize our parks.

There are multiple competing requests for how to spend the \$10 million bond allocation.

What we are asking of you is to elevate the needs of those who are most vulnerable to the top of the list. Why do we ask this? Because the issue of homelessness is also the top concern of all Salem residents!

Our local expert on reducing the problem of homelessness, Mr. Jimmy Jones (Executive Director of the MWVCAA), has told us that providing high density hotels with wrap around services is the most efficient way to shelter our unsheltered residents.

We are urging you to do what our local esteemed expert tells us is the most appropriate way to vastly reduce our homelessness problem.

We are urging you to earmark a sufficient portion of the \$10 million bond to either purchase a hotel, or build a large hotel in the downtown core on currently vacant land, or renovate/repurpose one of the currently vacant/abandoned shells of buildings in the downtown core.

This \$10 million bond allocation is an opportunity to dramatically reduce the problem of homelessness.

Homelessness is the top concern of everyone who lives in Salem; those housed and those unhoused alike.

This is your opportunity to respond in a meaningful way to demonstrate your leadership in solving this tragedy before our eyes.

Thank you for your public service.

Sincerely,

Joan and Jim Stembridge

Salem residents for 44 years

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From: noreply@cityofsalem.net on behalf of snyder2858@comcast.net
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Submission
Date: Monday, June 27, 2022 11:19:20 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.bin](#)

Your Name	Carol Snyder
Your Email	snyder2858@comcast.net
Your Phone	503-364-8674
Street	1342 Fir St. S
City	Salem
State	OR
Zip	97302
Message	To the Salem City Council - As you consider the CIP part of the Budget tonight, please remember to fund the Restoration of the Eco-Earth Globe in Riverfront Park. The \$300,000 pledge to this project from Salem Parks Foundation is dependent upon the \$112,000 commitment from the City.. Thank you for your dedication to making Salem a welcoming and liveable community! Carol Snyder, President, Salem Parks Foundation

This email was generated by the dynamic web forms contact us form on 6/27/2022.



NORTH SANTIAM PAVING CO.

SITE DEVELOPMENT AND
ROADWAY CONTRACTORS

41203 Kingston-Lyons Drive SE - PO Box 516 Stayton, OR 97383 - Office: 503.769.3436 - Fax: 503.769.7358 - CCB #53247

June 27, 2022

City of Salem City Council
555 Liberty St SE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support of Community Improvement Bond (Agenda Item 5.b.)

Dear Councilors:

North Santiam Paving Co. has been working with the City of Salem for over 40 years and many of our employees are Salem residents. I am writing to express our strong support of the Community Improvement Bond under consideration today.

This funding will not only help maintain the current system and build new infrastructure, but it will also ensure there continues to be good paying construction jobs in Salem for years to come. I hope that you will take this opportunity to make investments that will help prepare the city for the future.

Sincerely,

Dylan Bochsler
North Santiam Paving Co.

From: [Jeffrey Archibald](#)
To: [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#); [LesA Archibald](#)
Subject: Davis Road & Liberty Road Improvement
Date: Monday, June 27, 2022 8:57:04 AM

I support Salem City Councilor Vanessa Nordyke's motion to add Davis Road to the list of infrastructure bond improvement projects. This area leading to this area is very walkable and i feel safe on the sidewalks. but once you get to liberty and around Crossler Middle School, Davis it is impassable, This is a no brainer. The protecting the safety of these kids, 'from the west walkers' to CMS is the main issue. But controlling the automobile traffic for those 'from the east walkers' as they cross Liberty is needed also. Slowing and controlling traffic and the runoff abatement into Waln Creek will be a bonus. We are long overdue in constructing curbs, sidewalks, and other roadway improvements necessary to complete the missing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Davis and Liberty Roads. We urge City Council to pass this motion.

Thanks,
Jeffrey Archibald5@hotmail.com
LesA Archibald LesA@msn.com
5496 Mallard ST SE
Salem, OR 97306-1887

From: [J Stembridge](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#); [Chuck Bennett](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Tom Andersen](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Gretchen Bennett](#); [Kristin Retherford](#)
Subject: \$10 million bond allocation testimony for June 27,2022 Council Meeting
Date: Saturday, June 25, 2022 8:29:33 AM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

Thank you for this opportunity for the public to comment, prior to your vote on how to spend the \$10 Million bond.

As we all know, our city is suffering from the inability to house all of our residents.

As we all know, when we have a growing number of women, men, youth, and families living unsheltered on our streets or in cars, it is a humanitarian catastrophe for each one of those residents.

What is not so clear to every resident, is that the entire City of Salem suffers when our most vulnerable neighbors are living on the streets. Why do we say this? Our community cohesion suffers, our comfort in utilizing our beautiful historic downtown suffers, and our businesses suffer when people are uncomfortable coming downtown to shop or eat or watch a movie or utilize our parks.

There are multiple competing requests for how to spend the \$10 million bond allocation.

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We are urging you to do what our local esteemed expert tells us is the most appropriate way to vastly reduce our homelessness problem.

We are urging you to earmark a sufficient portion of the \$10 million bond to either purchase a hotel, or build a large hotel in the downtown core on currently vacant land, or renovate/repurpose one of the currently vacant/abandoned shells of buildings in the downtown core.

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Homelessness is the top concern of everyone who lives in Salem; those housed and those unhoused alike.

This is your opportunity to respond in a meaningful way to demonstrate your leadership in solving this tragedy before our eyes.

Thank you for your public service.
Sincerely,

Joan and Jim Stembridge
Salem residents for 44 years

From: [Katie ODell](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); citycouncil@cityofdalm.net
Subject: Pedestrian safety on Davis rd s
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 1:11:04 PM

To whom it may concern,

As a household living in the Crossler neighborhood and directly affected by traffic concerns, pedestrian safety, pet safety I support Salem City Councilor Vanessa Nordyke's motion to add Davis Road to the list of infrastructure bond improvement projects. We are long overdue in constructing curbs, sidewalks, and other roadway improvements necessary to complete the missing pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Davis and Liberty Roads. We urge City Council to pass this motion. As more single family and multi family housing is popping up the increase in vehicle and foot traffic has increased substantially. We also need to address the need for more street lights for late night & early morning visibility. This will help decrease road incidents and possibly help deter crime. As a major thruway for cars headed onto Liberty rd or Skyline as well as Middle school and baseball traffic it is important to consider the narrow roads and lack of proper sidewalks and bike lanes. Davis has become a narrow road with cars parking on either side that makes an obstacle course for vehicle, bike and foot traffic. Thank you for your consideration.

Katie O'Dell

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Lynelle Wilcox](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#); [citycouncil](#); [Chuck Bennett](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Tom Andersen](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Jackie Leung](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Micki Varney](#); [Gretchen Bennett](#); [Kristin Retherford](#)
Cc: [Courtney Knox Busch](#)
Subject: Public comment for City Council meeting 6/27, item 5b
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 6:23:44 AM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing again to request inclusion of \$10 million in the bond allocation, specifically for purchase of a hotel like the Arches Inn, to be used for Permanent Supportive Housing or transitional housing, for people experiencing homelessness. Jimmy Jones has shared that high density hotels are the fastest, most efficient way to shelter many people at a time, yet we have nothing allocated in the bond measure to do that.

The proposed bond allocation does include \$7.5 million for two new libraries, with affordable housing above the libraries, and the bond includes \$10 million for Affordable Housing Opportunity Funds, yet I've learned that those funds are for developers to create affordable housing. More affordable housing is necessary, and yet developers (understandably!) have a hard time building apartments that are affordable to people living on fixed income of \$841/month SSI. The affordable they build for seems to be middle-class affordable, if that. We need all levels of affordable, yet the word "affordable" loses meaning and relevance as we re-define affordable to be out of so many people's reach.

As it is, homelessness affects almost everyone, and housed and unhoused people all say that solving or at least reducing homelessness is a high priority. The status quo is already at a level of being a humanitarian crisis, and we're on track for homelessness to increase significantly.

Whether people have empathy or hate, or anything in between, towards people who are experiencing homelessness, homelessness is affecting everyone, and homelessness is often listed as the TOP concern of community leaders and community members. We have an amazing bond opportunity to invest in various infrastructure projects, with NO corresponding tax increase. **How can we have such a humanitarian crisis that citizens and leaders all cite as a top priority, yet have a bond that does not reflect and triage reducing homelessness as one of the bond priorities?**

Value of investing in infrastructure: As we look at the value of investing in various infrastructures now, in order to preserve existing assets, invest in some new assets, and save money in the long run, those same principles apply to managing and solving homelessness. Housing people is the only way to solve homelessness and multiple studies show that it costs three times less to house someone than to leave people unsheltered. When people are housed, there are significant reductions in police interactions, health issues, visits to the ER, court dates, jail time, ambulance trips, and all the associated costs in payroll, administration, and infrastructure to pay for those events. Just as investing in fire trucks, roads, sidewalks, etc. saves money in the long run, investing in housing people does the same. I've pasted some Housing First article links below for your reference.

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**Bond survey report:** I'm aware of the bond survey, and I've read the survey reports. I was one of the people surveyed by phone. The experience was very ambivalent for me. I have a lot of respect for people who do the work of surveying people, since that work enables citizens to have an input opportunity, and that work enables leaders to make more informed decisions. I

realize we all have different reading and cognitive levels, yet the survey did not flow well for me because the person who surveyed me consistently pronounced “Salem” as “solemn”, even after I nicely let her know the correct pronunciation of our city’s name, and she repeatedly stumbled over words like “renovate”, “pedestrian”, and “infrastructure”.

Yet going beyond the challenge of that, I understand and agree with the concept that the survey can’t be a process for completely reinventing the wheel. Yet with the questions mostly framed as whether we’d be much more positive, somewhat more positive, neither positive or negative, somewhat more negative, or much more negative for categories of improvements, there isn’t a path for you, as our leaders, to know of specific concerns. To me, the exclusion of any open-ended question leaves you with inadequate data for more informed decision-making that may increase the chance of the bond passing.

It’s also hard to correlate some data - the survey report includes the data that voters most often mention homelessness or poverty as the most important issue they’d like Salem to address - with that topic reflecting 60% of the voters, and the report reflects that concerns about homelessness have climbed steadily since 2016. Yet the survey doesn’t specifically include options for reducing homelessness, so the survey doesn’t enable a path for people to weigh in more towards reducing or solving homelessness, even though homelessness and poverty are the top priority for 60% of the voters surveyed. If homelessness and poverty are top concerns of both citizens and leaders, but the survey questions focus on the proposed allocations that don’t actually reduce or solve homelessness, the input can only reflect more or less support of the already proposed allocation options.

The survey does ask about level of support for the \$8 million for land for future libraries and affordable housing, but does not ask about the \$10 million of Affordable Housing Opportunity Funds. Even if the survey included that \$10 million proposed allocation, responses would not connect to reducing homelessness, unless the survey also indicated whether proposed affordable housing reflects a rent range that actually can reduce homelessness. Lacking that, the survey reflects that 60% of surveyed voters believe homelessness is the most important issue for Salem to address, with no path in the survey for responses to reflect the priority of reducing homelessness.

**Triage:** As we triage priorities, multiple infrastructure projects reflect different aspects of safety, livability, and addressing climate change. Yet with 60% of surveyed voters indicating homelessness and poverty as the most important issue, I would hope that survey data weighs heavily towards triaging basic human needs and human lives as a very high priority, with the bond allocation reflecting an option to reduce homelessness.

**Homelessness likely to grow:** Homelessness is already at a level of being a humanitarian crisis. Data reflects a huge lack of affordable housing, and a need for and lack of Permanent Supported Housing. With eviction moratoriums ending at some point, and with an aging population, and rising rents, homelessness is likely to increase significantly. Excerpts of a Streetroots article are below.

*"In February, U.S. Census estimates found 36.8% of the population in Oregon said they were behind on their rent or mortgage and were likely to face losing their home to eviction or foreclosure within the next two months. Census estimates also show among aging adults, this number is even higher: Nearly 40% of all Oregonians age 65 and older reported they were at least somewhat likely to face eviction or foreclosure.*

*Housing authorities and advocates predict a huge increase in the number of aging adults who can't afford housing and are on a trajectory to end up homeless, displaced or facing unstable housing. Alison McIntosh, policy and communications director at Neighborhood Partnerships, said there has been a rise in the need for services among aging populations. "All across Oregon, we are seeing people struggle to afford their rent," McIntosh said. "The cost of rent is going up much faster than either wages or Social Security, or retirement benefits; and I think particularly for folks on fixed incomes, it has become increasingly unsustainable."*

*Simple math: Even after a 5.9% bump in January, SSI income for an individual maxes out at \$841 a month. The federal measure of livability that finds rent should absorb no more than 30% of a person's income. By that standard, a person whose sole source of income is SSI can afford to spend roughly \$252 on monthly rent.....*

*"It's not unusual for me to talk to folks who live in regulated affordable housing and hear that they are paying 50, 60, 70% of their income towards their rent, which leaves too little money left over for other things," McIntosh said. "They struggle to buy food or medicine, pay their utility bill, let alone, you know, buy their grandchildren a birthday present."*

*(Full article is at: <https://www.streetroots.org/news/2022/03/16/experts-fear-crisis-aged-homelessness?fbclid=IwAR0tfedzvGIINTIH1M4-FU8T0KVqF4NKXwOPg3ysOh78mvmjPpitVM4oeTc>)*

**Request:** In Maslow's hierarchy of needs, physiological needs are the most basic human needs that enable a person to survive: shelter, water, food, warmth, rest, and health. The discomfort of seeing people living outside with or without visible trash reflects a luxury. As we decide how to invest \$300 million in our community to provide for fire safety and bike lanes, safer and prettier roads and sidewalks, affordable housing that may not be widely affordable, and the luxury of prettier parks, statistics reflect that more people will become homeless, many of them likely to join the current individuals who are living and dying on our streets, sidewalks, and parks. A bond that enables significant investments at no added cost to taxpayers is a unique opportunity, and that opportunity should include saving lives of fellow human beings by meeting a basic human need of shelter. **Please triage human lives highly by investing \$10 million for acquisition of places where people experiencing homelessness might live.**

A Margaret Mead quote says that "Helping someone else through difficulty is where civilization starts." Your work and decisions have reflected more and more support of people who are vulnerable and I am so grateful for that. And we need to do better still.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynelle Wilcox  
1785 Norway Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

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Housing First articles:

- <https://endhomelessness.org/resource/housing-first/>
- <http://endhomelessness.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/housing-first-fact-sheet.pdf>
- <https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/ending-homelessness/proven-solutions/>
- https://www.vox.com/2014/5/30/5764096/homeless-shelter-housing-help-solutions?fbclid=IwAR1sWrlOgQuIlgXy3H46GnsDnJOda_jluuWoXlpdEg3ag_nar1H-X9Wq3NRs

- <https://phys.org/news/2017-03-housing-homeless-cheaper-society.html>
- <https://www.businessinsider.com/santa-clara-homelessness-study-2015-5>
- <https://www.citylab.com/equity/2015/05/the-case-for-giving-homes-to-the-homeless/392696/>
- https://www.huffpost.com/entry/housing-first-homeless-charlotte_n_5022628
- <https://thinkprogress.org/leaving-homeless-person-on-the-streets-31-065-giving-them-housing-10-051-3107834a8632/>
- <https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2012/mar/12/shaun-donovan/hud-secretary-says-homeless-person-costs-taxpayers/>
- https://www.huffpost.com/entry/homelessness-finland-housing-first_n_5c503844e4b0f43e410ad8b6
- <https://www.npr.org/2015/12/10/459100751/utah-reduced-chronic-homelessness-by-91-percent-heres-how>
- <https://www.texastribune.org/2019/07/02/why-homelessness-going-down-houston-dallas/>

From: [Mike Powers](#)
To: [citycouncil](#)
Subject: Support for 55 miles of protected bike lanes in the Salem bond proposal
Date: Sunday, June 26, 2022 5:53:56 PM

Good Evening City Councilors:

My name is Michael Powers and I live in South Salem.

First, I would like to thank you and the members of the Infrastructure Bond Engagement Steering Committee for your work to develop options to address the many needs in Salem through the \$300 million bond measure.

Addressing homelessness, fire & emergency preparedness, earthquake safety improvements, and others are all vital needs of our city. I urge you to also include protected bike lanes in Salem as a vital long-term investment. The best cities in the nation and the world have safe and accessible bike systems. And we know that bike safety is one of the, if not the biggest, reasons why more individuals and families do not ride their bikes, especially in Salem.

In January 2014, I was riding my bike north on Commercial Street, just north of Vista Avenue, to go to work. I was riding in a marked bike lane. I was wearing a fluorescent yellow jacket. I had two blinking white lights in the front, two blinking red lights in the back. My helmet was fluorescent yellow. You could see me from space. Nonetheless, a large Ford F-350 turned right in front of me to access a parking lot. It was wet. My brakes were loud but weak in the morning drizzle. The truck partially ran me over and dragged me a short distance from the marked but unprotected bike lane and into the parking lot. Though I had tire marks on my hands, a broken bike frame, and severe bruising, tests at the hospital showed that I had no serious injury. I was extremely lucky. Many would consider that an understatement.

Decades ago marked bike lanes were considered adequate. That is just not the case today. And other roads in Salem, such as Liberty Avenue South which has two elementary schools and multiple neighborhoods along it, has no bike lanes on much of it. I have demonstrated that a marked bike lane is flat out dangerous. Try riding in the street to get to school. Salem's bike system is less than adequate. It is unsafe.

Among the critical long-term investments you will make in our City, I urge you to include 55 miles of protected bike lanes. You will save lives, and invite individuals and families to use their bicycles and e-bikes to get around town, go to work, go to school, and even have a little fun, with much less chance of getting injured or killed.

Thank you for time. If you have any other questions, please let me know.

Michael Powers
345 Summit View Ave. SE
Salem, OR 97306
(503) 507-6021

6.26.22

Greetings Councilors,

I have been tasked with writing a letter advocating for Davis Road improvements for this council. I live in Salem. City staff answer my questions and concerns when I call for assistance and I depend on the advocacy of my elected officials and kindness of neighbors at each neighborhood association meeting I attend. My background is varied as someone with over 12 years experience on Sunnyslope's neighborhood association, a current Wright neighborhood board member, and a longtime Salem resident. As a parent of a middle schooler and resident now tasked with writing this letter, I will provide this perspective.

When my heart rests on patience and values, the real question before you tonight is who will ensure equitable access to the public spaces in Salem? It sends a powerful message when Secor neighborhood park is only safely accessible by car by half the residents on Davis Road. What does it mean when the collector road to Crossler Middle School has sidewalk gaps, no shoulder, and a ditch on a road with no marked crossings? Who is excluded from living this way? Does it reflect Salem's values? We engineer division in a community with each sidewalk gap and unfinished shoulder on a road. We are a welcoming community, but when system development charges are not put towards building public spaces and infrastructure for meeting and mingling with neighbors, it is no wonder neighbors feel alone, even when surrounded by other people.

Being able to get where you are going safely is about access. It is the responsibility of the city to make sure residents are able to do so equitably. As members of the budget committee, who laid a priority based budget to protect what the community values, I am providing this perspective for the neighbors in Sunnyslope, students at Crossler and Abiqua, and for everyone who wants a more transparent inclusive process for infrastructure safety improvements.

I would remind my representatives not to be tricked into making false choices. Residents have provided this advocacy for the last decade at neighbor association meetings to the police officers reporting, school district representatives, land use staff, planners, developers, neighbors, and political officials. As a community, we have hosted park audits, walk to school counts, asked for traffic reader/speed reader reports, filed reports, asked for traffic counts, asked for officers to do paperwork in the area on downtime to deter speeding, requested lower speed limits on Liberty, requested crossings on Skyline, and worked with developers to minimize traffic concerns and ensure pedestrian access.

Trust is what keeps us safe in communities where we live, it extends grace to each other, it is something that was placed in all of you tonight. Trust connects people to places beyond generations. Laws change, people die, the land remains. The priorities and investments made today are the values and trust that stretch between today and tomorrow. I am again asking for investment in access and safety for residents in Salem including improvements on Davis Road.

Thank you,
~Sally Cook