

From: [Laurie Dougherty](#)
To: [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: Comment on City Council Agenda Item 5.c 21-52 Our Salem Vision
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:06:31 PM

February 22, 2021

Re: City Council Agenda Item 5.c 21-52 Our Salem Vision

Mayor Bennett and Councilors, Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

My name is Laurie Dougherty. I live In Ward 1 and am a member of climate justice organization 350 Salem OR. We appreciate the work that has gone into the vision for Our Salem. I want to stress the importance and urgency of aligning Our Salem with the Council's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals specified in the Salem Climate Action Plan.

Transportation is our biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions as well as a source of other pollutants. How we manage growth and shape development will impact our ability to reduce those emissions. Focusing new development along transit corridors makes sense, however, these corridors are carry a lot of traffic and need close attention to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, especially children and the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Along with benefit for the climate, when we can walk or bike to schools, stores, parks, and bus stops, our air will be cleaner and our neighborhoods will be healthier, safer, and more conducive to community-building interactions.

Our Salem must ensure equity in growth and development so that residents who have been traditionally underserved and underrepresented will have their concerns heard and addressed and will share the benefits of more livable neighborhoods without fear of displacement.

Thank you.

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Laurie Dougherty [Like a Cat With Nine Lives](#)

"To change everything we need everyone!" [People's Climate Movement](#)

"Lasting peace and social justice require sustainable and equitable use of resources." [Bikes Not Bombs](#)

From: [Hollie Oakes-Miller](#)
To: [Chuck Bennett](#); [Steve Powers](#); [Virginia Stapleton](#); [Trevor Phillips](#); [Tom Andersen](#); [Jackie Leung](#); [Jose Gonzalez](#); [Chris Hoy](#); [Vanessa Nordyke](#); [Jim Lewis](#); [citycouncil](#); [CityRecorder](#)
Subject: 2/22/21 Salem City Council Meeting Public Comments
Date: Monday, February 22, 2021 4:22:18 PM

City Leaders,

With respect to agenda item 5.c., Our Salem Vision, our committee is very disappointed in the lack of specific and measurable goals, other than for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is extremely difficult to know if the goals of the Vision as drafted goes far enough to meet the huge climate, environmental, and natural hazard challenges we face now and will face in the coming decades, because the majority of the goals are so vague.

Below are just a few examples of the lack of vision we see in the Our Salem Vision being presented at the City Council meeting tonight:

- The Land Use and Urbanization and Housing sections are particularly vague, to the point where it's hard to critique. We are in climate and housing crises that are only going to continue to escalate. To address the former we need to stop expanding outward and work to fill in everywhere we can. To address the latter, we need a Vision that includes specific numbers of each type of housing, with more multifamily units being built than single-family units. We should be building up, not out.
- As we noted above, the Natural Resources and Natural Hazard section is the only one to have a specific and measurable goal, "reduce Salem's greenhouse gas emissions to 50 percent of the citywide emissions for the baseline year of 2016 by 2035 and be carbon neutral by 2050." We would like to see equally robust goals for how we are going to increase the urban canopy, which is critical to meeting our climate challenges, and how we are going to prepare for natural disasters such as earthquakes, landslides, floods and other hazardous weather events. Recent history has shown that Salem is wholly unprepared for any type of disaster.
- While we appreciate that the Vision is for a "carbon neutral city" with "safe mobility choices" the Transportation section alone makes it really unclear how either of those could be achieved. The Vision has no plan to reduce vehicle miles travel, nor is it even mentioned even though it is critical to reducing emissions. Page 9 has a figure that shows that 63,860 commute into Salem and 34,682 commute out of Salem for work, yet we don't see a plan or goals to address that anywhere in the draft. There is a goal to increase accessible bikeways, which is great, but it should also make it clear that for them to actually be safe, there needs to be more separation between bike lanes and traffic than a mere line of paint, and that should be explicitly stated in the goals. One of the biggest transportation safety issues in Salem is the number of people per year who are injured or killed by vehicles on our city streets. Lowering speed limits city-wide should be a goal if we want to significantly reduce the number of deaths and the severity of injuries received. We would also like to see clear plans for how the city will work with Cherriots to expand public transportation and clear language that the city will not be expanding single-passenger vehicle infrastructure, such as building more roads or widening existing roads. We will never meet any of our emissions targets if we don't transition away from single-passenger vehicles and toward expanded fully electrified public transit.

We need a Vision for Salem that is bold and lays out specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely goals for Comprehensive Plan Update. The days where planning can be vague and slow are over, we are headed into uncharted climate territory and last year's firestorm and this year's ice storm have

laid bare that Salem is completely unprepared for what is to come.

Gary Miller & Hollie Oakes-Miller
Ecosocialist Committee Co-Chairs
Salem DSA