



# CITY OF SALEM

585 Liberty St SE  
Salem, OR 97301

## Staff Report

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**TO:** Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Bond Oversight Steering Committee

**SUBJECT:**

Summary of recent activity and progress on 2022 voter-approved Safety and Livability Bond measure.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

Result Area(s): Safe, Reliable and Efficient Infrastructure; Strong and Diverse Economy; Welcoming and Livable Community.

**SUMMARY:**

In 2023, the City established an oversight committee to guide spending, timing, and prioritization of projects to be funded with the voter-approved Safety and Livability Bond measure. Also in 2023, the first of three bond sales occurred, design work began on several bond-funded projects, and fire trucks and equipment were purchased. City Council received updates from the Bond Oversight Steering Committee in April, August, and December of 2023, and in March 2024.

**ISSUE:**

Receive a progress report on the 2022 Salem Safety and Livability Bond measure.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Information only.

**FACTS AND FINDINGS:**

Voters approved "Salem's safety and livability measure <<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/2022-community-infrastructure-bond>>" in November 2022, setting in motion a ten-year plan for \$300 million in infrastructure investment in Salem. As part of the community conversation about the measure, voters were assured the City would establish a committee to provide oversight

and accountability about spending proposed in the measure.

The [Salem's Bond Oversight Committee](https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/boards-commissions/other-advisory-groups/bond-oversight-steering-committee) met for the first time on February 24, 2023. The Oversight Committee includes Mayor Chris Hoy, Councilors Stapleton and Varney, community members Bob Cortright and Mike Herron. Councilor Nishioka serves as an alternate. Altogether in 2023, the Committee met nine times to receive updates and consider criteria to prioritize future projects to construct missing sidewalks, repair sidewalks, improve pedestrian crossings, and mixed use paths and trail projects. In 2024, the Oversight Committee's work continues on a monthly meeting basis.

Since the last update, the following activity has been accomplished on the 2022 Safety and Livability Bond:

- **McGilchrist Complete Street.** The first phase of work continues with realignment of the intersection of 22nd Street SE at McGilchrist Street SE, stormwater facility improvement, and a replacement crossing over the east fork of Pringle Creek. The second and third phases of construction are anticipated for 2025 through 2027. All right-of-way acquisition has occurred for Phase 2 work, with bidding anticipated in fall for construction next year. Work planned for Phase 3, including the railroad crossing, is on schedule. More information about the [McGilchrist Complete Street project](https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/safety-and-livability-bond/mcgilchrist-complete-street-project) is available on the City's website.
- **Commercial and Liberty Street SE pavement rehabilitation.** This pavement rehabilitation work - on [Commercial Street SE from Fabry Road SE to the Interstate 5 ramps](https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/safety-and-livability-bond/commercial-street-se-pavement-rehabilitation) - is planned for construction this year. Pavement work on Liberty Street SE began the week of June 10, 2024 and will result in:
  - New paved and striped surfaces for Liberty Street SE, from Mill Street SE to Trade Street SE.
  - ADA compliant curb ramps at Mill Street SE and Trade Street SE.
  - Enhanced designated bicycle stopping area (bike box), with tubular markers to separate from vehicle traffic at Trade St.
  - New sidewalk on west side of Liberty Street SE.
- **Minto-Brown Island Park parking lot paving**  [<https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/safety-and-livability-bond/minto-brown-island-park-parking-lot-paving>](https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/safety-and-livability-bond/minto-brown-island-park-parking-lot-paving)
  - Paving and stormwater drainage improvements are underway at Parking Lot 2, which serves the dog park area, and Parking Lot 3, which provides parking for the river access area. Work expected to be wrapped up in both parking lots by Fall 2024.
- **Design Underway.** We are staging other projects for construction beginning spring 2024 and beyond. Design of the following construction projects is underway:
  - **Mill and Pringle Creek Bridges** to strengthen bridges to meet new Federal Highway Administration and ODOT load rating requirements.
  - **Commercial Street** (from South of 12<sup>th</sup> Street Cut-Off SE to Boone Road SE),

**Silverton Road, and Doaks Ferry Road pavement resurfacing** of the roadway and replacing non-compliant Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) curb ramps. Construction is anticipated for these projects in 2025 and 2026.

- **Marine Drive NW.** This project will extend Marine Drive from Harritt Drive NW to 5th Avenue NW and include a new multi-use pedestrian path connected to Wallace Marine Park. The new street will include two travel lanes, a sidewalk on the westerly side, a 12' multi-use path on the easterly side, stormwater treatment facilities, and streetlights. An initial phase of the project will be constructed this year at Harritt Drive NW to coincide with the Applegate Veterans Housing project. Construction of the remaining portion of the project is planned to begin in 2027.
- **Davis Road S** improvements from Liberty Road S to Skyline Road S are planned near the end of the 10-year bond program. However, an early phase of the project has begun design to construct a new traffic signal at the intersection of Davis and Liberty with construction planned for 2025.
- **Replacing multi-use athletic courts** at Highland, Hoover, River Road, Morningside and Sumpter parks
- **Playground Structures** at Morningside, Livingston, and Riverfront Parks.
- **Geer Park** dog park, shelter and sports fields.
- **Civic Center Seismic Retrofit.** In January 2024, City Council approved design-build as the contracting method for this work. The design-build team of Howard S. Wright Construction, Hacker Architects, CBTTwo Architects, and KPFF structural engineers will design and construct the project. The team has begun investigating options for achieving the seismic stability of the building and how other project goals - articulated in the [Civic Center master plan](#) <https://salem.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6444436&GUID=763B6034-9AD8-4CC1-> - can be achieved. Assuming nine months to complete design, construction may begin as early as spring 2025.
- **Local Contracting Update.** The Steering Committee receives regular updates on the local vendor participation in the bond projects. As of May 2024, 71% of bids by amount awarded have been awarded to local vendors from Marion and Polk Counties. Staff will continue to conduct outreach in advance of each construction season with the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, Latino Business Alliance, and the Salem Capital Connection.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City plans to issue two more bond sales within the next ten years to support Salem's safety and livability measure <https://www.cityofsalem.net/government/shaping-salem-s-future/2022-community-infrastructure-bond>, passed by voters in November 2022. In addition to fire trucks and equipment, the bond includes investments in Salem's streets, sidewalks, parks, two new fire stations to improve responses times, affordable housing, purchase of sites for affordable housing and branch libraries, cybersecurity for City operations, and Civic Center seismic improvements. Because payments for existing bonds are decreasing in the future, the City committed to keeping Salem's bonded tax levy rate at or below the 2022 rate of approximately \$1.20/\$1,000 of assessed value.

Courtney Knox Busch  
Chief Strategy Officer

Attachments: