

City of Redmond

Transportation Master Plan



**A Summary of Comments from
November 2, 2010 Stakeholder Workshop and
November 3, 2010 Livable Redmond Community Event
in Support of Updating Transportation Policies
and the Transportation Master Plan**

More than 200 comments on transportation came out of the Redmond Transportation Master Plan (TMP) Update stakeholder workshop on November 2 and the Livable Redmond community event on November 3 in 2010. Each comment was reviewed separately. Comments with similar concepts were grouped into themes. Comments with special issues were listed individually. This document is a summary of themes and special issues, and will inform the update of transportation policies and the TMP.

Summary

Comments from the November 2 stakeholder workshop and the November 3 Livable Redmond community event resonate with the Mayor's vision and priorities for the City of Redmond: "Creating Choices, Connecting Community," which includes the desire for a walkable community, growth, multimodal travel choices and multimodal transportation network, robust transit services, and regional transportation facilities.

Comments indicate themes consistent with Redmond's community priorities, "safety" and "infrastructure and growth." Safety was emphasized from the unique perspective of pedestrians and bicyclists. Specific aspects of "infrastructure and growth" include: sustainable funding to maintain and preserve the transportation system, positive contribution to the environment, improved efficiency and use of technology, and a transportation system that keeps pace with growth.

The community emphasized the importance of a plan and an action plan, i.e., planning for the future, transitioning from current or even previous thinking to the future, and implementing the plan. Additionally, two new themes for transportation were identified: assess the shifting cost of energy and its implications and the need to build awareness and partnership.

Lastly, specific issues such as wayfinding and design standards were raised.

Comment themes

1. Creating Choices, Connecting Community

- a. **Create a walkable city that is people scaled and has more urban space.** Pedestrian and bike facilities connect to destinations such as home, jobs, schools, businesses, and green places. A walkable community will have improved social connections, health, safety, and environment, and less congestion and reliance on petroleum.
- b. **Growth with density and mixed-use is desired¹.** The proper ratio between jobs and housing needs to be determined, which affects the proximity between homes and jobs. Living in proximity to workplace is desired. Transportation needs to keep pace with land use. The employment and economic base of the community such as Overlake are important parts of growth. Long-term changes in land use are important to evaluate.

¹ One specific comment is that Downtown and Overlake can have density to support transit.

- c. **Multimodal travel choices².** Think beyond cars and provide viable alternatives to cars. Travel choices for everyone are desired.
- d. **Multimodal transportation network³.** The transportation network is a holistic system. It provides connections among neighborhoods. Elements of the network include highway, pedestrian/bike connections among neighborhoods, bus, bike storage on buses, freight, and parking. When evaluating the network, specific comments include shortening travel time and providing freight mobility, evaluating complete cost and benefits, providing connections among different modes of travel, integrating different modes of travel during project design, and addressing areas underserved by multimodal transportation.
- e. **Robust transit services⁴.** Transit services need to attract more users, such as by offering greater connectivity. The community has wide access to transit. Transit corridors are needed to reach areas with dense land use. Density is not the only factor to consider when providing transit service. Transit service needs to reach markets that are underserved, including both residential areas and employment centers. Partnership between private and public entities is desired.
- f. **Regional transportation facilities are needed to address regional traffic needs.** Regional facilities, including SR 520 and Sound Transit light rail, connect Redmond to the region. SR 520 improvements and a potential corridor plan need to be flexible to accommodate future needs. SR 520 HOV lanes coordinate with park and rides to optimize the use of HOV lanes. SR 520 tolling will change travel patterns of the community. Take advantage of Sound Transit East Link light rail and support services. We need to pay attention when planning the light rail link and stations and the link connecting Overlake and Downtown. Redmond needs to coordinate with other agencies in the region such as Bellevue and King County. Two specific traffic issues for Redmond are: 1) Redmond is a net importer of commute trips; and 2) traffic from east King County uses Redmond as a transportation hub.

2. Safety for all modes of travel, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists

3. Infrastructure and growth

² Specific comments including transportation choices to jobs, midday choices in and out of employment centers, and choices between neighborhoods and retail centers.

³ Specific issues for multimodal network include the lack of pedestrian facility, conflicts between non-motorized and motorized traffic, the potentially huge amount of roads needed if building for cars is the priority, and accommodate drop offs (for freight?).

⁴ Specific transit issues brought up include rapid ride, street design to support transit, single seat rides versus transfers, transit services for schools as an alternative to school buses, and intra-city bus system.

- g. **Sustainable funding to maintain and preserve the transportation system.** The transportation system is cost effective to construct and maintain. A reliable mechanism is needed to off-set lower revenue from gasoline taxes due to increased use of electric cars and alternative travel modes. Innovative funding choices are needed, such as user fees.
- h. **Positive contributions to the environment including ways to preserve the environment and reduce negative impacts⁵.** Examples include the need to reduce stormwater with growth by natural means, green streets, and to reduce negative impacts of transportation such as travel volume, emission, and noise. One suggested way to reduce travel is to live and work in Redmond.
- i. **Improved efficiency and use of technology.** The efficiency of the transportation system needs to be maximized. The transportation system needs to accommodate technology such as traffic information and electric cars.

4. Importance of plan and action plan⁶

It is important to have long-range planning that reflects the vision and value of Redmond. The transition to sustainability (the future) from current or previous thinking needs to be addressed. In planning, creative thinking needs to be encouraged. Planning and design need to be oriented toward implementation. City code needs to accommodate implementation of plans.

5. Assessing the shifting cost of energy and its implications

6. Building awareness and partnership

The community will become more aware of transportation alternatives, particularly transit, through public outreach efforts. Transit can be a natural part of the lifestyle of a young population through education. Private and public partnerships can greatly benefit transit service.

Specific issues to be addressed

1. Wayfinding at bicycle/pedestrian scale
2. Vanpools
3. Look at emerging areas in addition to Downtown and Overlake
4. Design standards
5. Extend Willows Road north
6. Improve Redmond Way for biking

⁵ Specific comments on environment include how to develop in flood prone areas, less travel to transport food, and preservation of vegetation corridors.

⁶ It is likely that there will be more local travel in the future.

How comment themes help inform transportation policy update

Comment themes that are new to current transportation policies will be incorporated into transportation policy updates. They include:

- **create a people-scaled walkable city with more urban space**
- **sustainable funding to maintain and preserve the transportation system**
- **the importance of a plan and an action plan**
- **assess the shifting cost of energy and its implications**
- **build awareness and partnership**
- **improve efficiency and use of technology**

The following comment themes are consistent with current transportation policy concepts. However, the unique perspectives that emerged will help expand current transportation policies.

- **growth with density and mixed-use is desired**
- **safety for all modes of travel, especially for pedestrians and bicyclists**
- **regional transportation facilities are needed to address regional traffic needs**
- **positive contributions to the environment including ways to preserve the environment and reduce negative impacts**