



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** October 12, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Downtown Campus Parking Update

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Staff will provide the Board with an update on the ongoing analysis of downtown campus parking needs.

Since 2018, staff has been working to prepare for future downtown campus parking needs, due to growth and the (at that time) expected expansion of the Deschutes County Courthouse.

The courthouse expansion, which is now underway, will result in a 38,000-40,000 square foot addition to the existing courthouse, which was constructed in 1977. This addition may require the County to create more parking spaces due to City of Bend Development Code Parking requirements.

**A New Analysis of Downtown Parking Needs**

Currently, the Facilities Department is working with HPR, Inc. a civil engineering firm, to complete an updated analysis of current downtown campus parking usage. After the analysis is complete, HPR will provide an estimate of any additional capacity that may be needed and assist with designing options to help the County meet City of Bend parking requirements.

If the analysis conducted by HPR determines that additional parking spaces are needed, one option that will likely be presented to the Board is the option to prepare a Transportation Demand Management (TPDM) Plan for the City of Bend's review. A Transportation and Parking Demand Management (TPDM) plan includes a wide range of strategies intended to increase walking, biking, and transit use and reduce single-occupant vehicle trips and parking demand. If approved, it may allow the County to meet City parking code requirements without adding as many parking spaces as would otherwise be required. This potential path forward may mean that re-development of Worrell Park, a concept that been under consideration as a potential solution to meeting downtown

campus parking needs, may not be necessary, or that the potential impacts for a partial park re-development may be smaller than originally anticipated.

### **Updated Survey Focus Areas**

The County previously conducted a downtown campus parking study in 2019, and found that at that time, the 654 spaces on the County's downtown campus were consistently almost at full capacity during the work week. Since the original study was completed, the County has experienced many pandemic-related shifts that appear to be impacting parking use on the downtown campus. These changes include more employees who appear to be working remote or hybrid schedules and new, customers conducting more business online with County departments given their convenient experiences over the past two and half years, and expanded options for virtual public participation in public hearings and meetings.

The updated downtown campus parking study includes new focus areas that were not included in the 2019 study, including new questions that will help staff gather data about employee schedules, remote work utilization and TPDM measures that are being utilized by staff, and demand for customer parking. The study is focused on eight buildings on the County's downtown campus, which are occupied by a variety of departments and offices.

Staff expects to have a preliminary report from the parking study available later this fall and will return to the Board to share information and options for future consideration.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

*Lee Randall, Facilities Director*