



## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 17, 2023

**TO:** Deschutes County Planning Commission

**FROM:** Peter Russell, Senior Transportation Planner

**RE:** Project Update: August 24, 2023 Draft 2020-2040 Transportation System Plan (TSP)  
(Files 247-23-000507-PA/508-TA)

The Road Department, with the assistance of the Community Development Department (CDD), has prepared an update of the 2010-2030 Deschutes County Transportation System Plan (TSP). The new TSP will cover the years 2020-2040. The TSP focuses on County arterials and collectors as well as bicycles, pedestrians, transit, and other modes. The work session provided an overview of the updated TSP and the process to create it. The Planning Commission (PC) held a public hearing on August 10, 2023, on the draft 2020-2040 TSP. The PC closed the oral record and left the written record open until 4 p.m., August 24, 2023. The PC has set October 12, 2023, for deliberations. The PC will ultimately make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (Board) and the Board will hold its own work session and public hearing.

### I. BACKGROUND

The County selected Kittelson & Associates Inc. (KAI) as the consultant for the 2020-2040 TSP. The County and KAI prepared the draft of the 2020-2040 TSP based on technical analysis, public comments, and internal staff review. During the plan development process, KAI and County staff from the Road Department and Planning Division have coordinated with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and staff from other local jurisdictions. KAI and County staff reviewed a proposal from the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) on future road improvements and connectors. Additionally, KAI and the County held an on-line presentation from April 27 to May 14, including an online public meeting on May 4, to solicit public comment. The on-line presentation included technical memos on plans and policy reviews, goals and objectives, and needs analyses of existing and future conditions.

The background materials were posted at the following link:  
[Deschutes County TSP Update \(kaiproject.com\)](https://kaiproject.com)

## II. COMMENTS AT THE AUGUST 10, 2023 HEARING

There were four main topics of public testimony: the Sisters-Black Butte Ranch (BBR) multiuse path specifically, general comments on all potential multiuse paths or trails in the rural county; artwork in the Tumalo roundabout at US 20/Cook-OB Riley intersection; and a future interchange on U.S. 97 south of Redmond. Those who presented orally did so on the last three topics; Sisters-BBR multiuse path was the subject of numerous written comments entered into the record. The written comments in the public record appear here: <https://www.deschutescounty.gov/cd/page/transportation-system-plan-update-2020-2040-247-23-000507-pa-508-ta>

The Sisters-BBR multiuse path has generated numerous e-mails and phone calls, some prior to the initiation of the TSP public process and some during the Comprehensive Plan process. Regarding the subject land use before the PC, the bulk of the submitted written comments have been in opposition. Recurring themes from those opposed include concerns about the public using private paths in BBR; adverse effects to the forest; potential trespassing; criminal activity; attracting transients; disruption to wildlife; and safety. There were no written comments in support of Sisters-BBR. (Staff notes the multiuse path would lie on Deschutes National Forest (DNF), which has its own regulations and environmental review process.)

The TSP at Table 5.6 (Bicycle Route Community Connections) describes and prioritizes connections between various cities, unincorporated communities, and destination resorts. Table 5.7 (Bicycle Route Recreation Connections) provides similar information about these corridors. Neither table lists design specific aspects such as precise routes, widths, surface type, etc., as those variables would be determined prior to actual construction. No specific alignments are identified or mapped, except for the Bend-Lava Butte Trail, which appears as S-3 on Figure 5-4 (ODOT Facility Changes). The TSP tables were prepared based on input from the Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). Dave Thompson, the chair of BPAC testified in support of the TSP and future development of multiuse paths. Theodore Schoenborn, Envision Bend board member, submitted a letter on behalf of the organization in support of future multi-use paths and cited the Deschutes River bike/ped footbridge in Southwest Bend. Opponent Randy Windlinx testified citing concerns of adverse effects on timber operations, mule deer populations, attracting homeless encampments and the resulting potential of wildfires. Planning Commissioner Matt Cyrus requested the written record remain open until August 24 at 4 p.m. so he could review the materials related to the effects of trails upon mule deer that were submitted as part of the Goal 5 Mule Deer Winter Range text amendment (247-23-000144-TA).

ODOT is constructing a two-lane roundabout and Lauren Cramer requested the PC and/or the TSP contain a financial contribution to a future art installment in the roundabout. (Staff notes ODOT has deferred to the County what artwork may be proposed for the site. The County in turn has been contacted by several interested parties. The County has said once the community agrees on the artwork, the County will submit the necessary ODOT permit for the artwork's installation and liability.)

John Roberts, Deputy City Manager of Redmond, gave both oral and written testimony, requesting the County not adopt the TSP until after October 17, 2023. The City of Redmond is holding a previously scheduled joint meeting with the Board of County Commissioners on that date. The City intends to talk about transportation issues, especially the possibility of a future interchange on U.S. 97 south of Redmond and extending 19<sup>th</sup> Street to access that interchange from the east. The City is also updating its TSP in terms of employment numbers for land zoned for large lot industrial on the south edge of Redmond.

### **III. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM AUGUST 11 TO AUGUST 24, 2023**

Comments received as of the writing of this memo are included in the publicly-available project website: <https://www.deschutescounty.gov/cd/page/transportation-system-plan-update-2020-2040-247-23-000507-pa-508-ta>. Any comments received after the memo is submitted for PC packet, staff will bring forward at the August 24 continued public hearing. All comments received in opposition to the Sisters-BBR multiuse path cited reasons already identified above.

### **IV. NEXT STEPS**

The PC closed the oral record on August 10, but held the written record open until August 24. The PC has several options at the conclusion of the staff presentation and review of written public comments. The PC may:

- Hold the written record open until October 12, 2023, the date set for deliberations, or a future date to be determined
- Close the written record and deliberate on October 12, 2023

At the close of deliberations, the PC will make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). The recommendation can range from approval without modification to approval with modifications to denial of the application.

Once the PC process concludes, staff will schedule a work session and a public hearing with the BOCC.

### **V. CONCLUSION**

KAI or staff is prepared to answer any questions.