



## AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** December 07, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Bend Downtown Campus Parking Analysis

### **BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Staff and project consultants will report to the Board on the initial findings of the recent downtown campus parking needs analysis.

Since 2019, staff has been working to prepare for future downtown campus parking needs, due to growth and the expected expansion of the Deschutes County Courthouse. In January of 2022, the Board directed staff to secure engineering services to further develop a concept to add parking capacity through a redevelopment of Worrell Park. The scope of that RFP included an analysis of current parking usage and capacity.

### **A New Analysis of Downtown Parking Needs**

HHPR, Inc. a civil engineering firm, has completed a preliminary analysis of parking capacity and usage as illustrated in the accompanying presentation. The purpose of the study was to assess current parking demand and consider future campus needs. The study focused on eight buildings on the County's downtown campus, which are occupied by a variety of departments and offices. The effort centered on two primary questions: Is there current capacity to support the planned courthouse expansion and what opportunities exist to improve parking efficiency?

The County previously conducted a downtown campus parking study in 2019, and found that at that time, the County's downtown campus was 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 and expanded options for virtual participation in public hearings and meetings.

The team's current analysis included three primary methods of information gathering:

- Literature and Staff Surveys: review of prior campus parking studies and outreach

- to staff regarding current trends and needs
- Parking Inventories: understanding the current County parking system and available parking supply
- Drone Surveys: assess current parking demands on a typical midweek day

The preliminary findings indicate that there are several opportunities to better utilize our existing campus parking inventory. By exploring and implementing the strategies noted below, the project team believes that sufficient parking capacity exists to support the courthouse expansion and existing near term requirements of the remainder of the campus. Based on this analysis it does not appear that redevelopment of Worrell Park is needed.

Focus areas identified by the project team for further analysis include:

- Campus parking policy and signage review—ensure messaging is clear and intuitive
- Ensure accessible routes and wayfinding are provided for staff and visitors
- Parking management and enforcement—ensure parking is prioritized for campus users
- Explore Transportation Demand Management options and strategies to increase walking, biking, and transit use and reduce single-occupant vehicle trips and parking demand.
- Assess future growth needs and parking allocation priorities. Identify and plan for mid-term options to increase capacity.

With Board direction to further investigate the areas listed above, the project team will proceed with the development of specific, actionable recommendations to be presented for the Board's review at a future meeting.

**ATTENDANCE:**

*Henry Alaman, Otak CPM*

*Nicolas Speros, HHPR*

*Joe Bessman, Transight Consulting*

*Lee Randall, Facilities Director*