

February 12, 2025

Travel Oregon
319 SW Washington St. Suite 700.
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Travel Oregon Grant Committee,

On behalf of the Parks & Trails Advisory Board, I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed project to reconstruct the paved paths within Meinig Memorial Park. As the oldest and largest park in Sandy, Meinig Park is a vital community and tourism hub, hosting iconic events such as Mountain Festival, Winterfest, movies in the park, and summer concerts. However, the current paved paths are not ADA compliant, and they are outdated and require significant improvements to ensure they meet the needs of all visitors.

The proposed project will address the park's aging infrastructure by reconstructing the trails to be ADA-compliant, allowing universal access to the park's central features, including the stage, gazebo, shelters, and playground. The relocation and reconstruction of these pathways will also ensure safety for visitors during both daytime and nighttime events, such as Winterfest, which has already become a major draw with its free holiday lights and activities, drawing over 17,000 visitors in the month of December.

This project will complement ongoing efforts to improve the park, such as improving the shelters, seating, and completing creek restoration. There is also a planned rebuild of the well known Fantasy Forest Playground. All together these upgrades to Meinig Park promise to be a major regional tourism attraction.

We also recognize the broader strategies in place to enhance tourism and economic development. The recent opening of Sandy's Cedar Park, Oregon's first combined skate park and pump track, has already seen impressive visitation. The pathway reconstruction in Meinig Park will help build upon this momentum by facilitating future park expansions and events. Additionally, through strategic partnerships and the use of geofencing data, the City is working to engage local businesses and encourage participation in Meinig Park's events, further benefiting our local economy.

This project, along with other planned developments over the next three years, will expand recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities. By enhancing Sandy's park and trail facilities, we are positioning the city as a regional destination that supports economic growth, tourism, and quality of life.

The Parks & Trails Advisory Board fully supports this critical project and encourages its approval, as it will provide lasting benefits for our community, visitors, and future generations.

Sincerely,

Don Robertson
Chair, Parks & Trails Advisory Board