

# Meeting Summary for SCNA February Board Meeting

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## Quick recap

The Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association board meeting focused primarily on transportation issues, particularly the Reed Market roundabout project and upcoming community engagement opportunities. Todd reported on new roundabout diagrams being published online and shared plans to meet with Ryan Oster to discuss alternative designs before the City Council considers funding. The board discussed attending an open house about the NSSP project on March 24th at Blakely Park, with Lisa and Todd planning to present the board's alternative perspective. The group also addressed plans for a joint survey with other neighborhood districts to gather community input on traffic solutions, and Robbie provided updates on various land use matters including the Timber Yards development and Coulter Grove Park planning. The conversation ended with discussions about the upcoming summer picnic and plans for community outreach through email blasts about upcoming events.

## Next steps

- Todd: Schedule and attend a sit-down meeting with Ryan Oster to discuss roundabout and Reed Market center lane alternatives before the roundtable/roundtable track progresses.
- Todd and Lisa: Attend the March 24th NSSP open house at Blakely Park and present the board's alternative perspective to neighbors; coordinate with Robbie regarding signage.
- Todd and Lowell: Draft and send out an email blast before the newsletter, notifying neighbors of upcoming open houses (NSSP, Coulter Grove Park) and inviting volunteers for the summer event committee.
- Robbie and Todd: Reach out to the other two neighborhood districts (Century West and Southwest Bend) to coordinate on a joint survey and roundtable, including a sit-down discussion about survey content and goals.
- Robbie: Share the Southeast Bend roundtable presentation and questions with the board.
- Caitlin: Help draft a letter to Old Mill (with input from Todd and others) requesting collaboration with the city and Bend Parks and Rec on parking solutions, emphasizing risk management.
- Robbie: Attend both Coulter Grove Park open houses (April 8 and 12) and hand out postcards to engage neighbors.
- Robbie: Send out an email to the board and prior event committee members inviting them to a kickoff meeting for the summer event committee; include call for volunteers in the upcoming email blast.
- Lowell: Check with insurance provider to confirm coverage details and cost for the summer block party (picnic/barbecue), ensuring naming and activities are within policy.

- Todd: Work with Robbie on sponsor outreach for the summer picnic.
- Caitlin: Inquire with the kitchen/spice store in the Old Mill about potential sponsorship of Southern Crossing aprons for the event.
- Lowell: Update the website calendar to ensure all open house events display their locations clearly without requiring a click.
- Robbie: Collect responses from interested block party event committee volunteers via direct contact (email/text).

## **Summary**

### **Transportation Projects Progress Update**

Todd reported progress on transportation projects, including new roundabout diagrams now available online and shared with key stakeholders including City Council and neighborhood representatives. He discussed plans to meet with Ryan to address two major issues from last October regarding the two-lane through roundabout decision, and mentioned an upcoming open house at Blakely Park on March 24th hosted by Christian Williams. The board discussed whether to present their counter-idea at the open house, though Todd noted it might be poorly attended due to spring break.

### **Community Outreach Planning**

The group discussed plans for community outreach and upcoming meetings. Lisa suggested involving neighbors in the board's work and proposed sending a "save-the-date" email blast before the newsletter to inform people about upcoming events like the NSSP open house and Coulter Grove Park open houses. Todd reported on a City Council meeting where he advocated for a Southwest Bend roundtable, though he learned it likely won't happen soon as the city wants to establish a template based on their Southeast Bend experience. The group also discussed the need for a meeting with Ryan regarding the NSSP crosswalk proposal, as Todd suspects the city will seek funding from City Council in April.

### **Road Project Community Discussion**

The group discussed the NSSP Reed Market Road crossing at Chamberlain project that appears to be moving forward despite previous community objections. Todd explained that the project is identical to one rejected by City Council last July, he plans to present the neighborhood association's alternative design proposal at the upcoming March 24th open house to show there are better solutions available. Lisa supported attending the open house to ensure the neighborhood's perspective is represented, noting that not showing up could create a perception of acceptance.

They also discussed conducting a follow-up survey, with Lowell suggesting a joint survey with other neighborhood associations before a roundtable meeting. The group noted that while Century West appears receptive to a joint discussion including the NSSP project on Century Drive, SCNA would likely need to initiate and lead the survey effort themselves.

### **Roundabout Corridor Survey Planning**

Todd and Robbie discussed plans for a new survey focused on the Reed Market roundabout, with a goal of gathering community input on different design options. They agreed to collaborate with other neighborhood districts in developing the survey rather than seeking city involvement upfront, due to previous difficulties in getting responses from city officials. The survey will include questions about specific roundabout designs, crosswalk features, and alternative transportation paths, with the aim of gathering support for a two-lane option despite the city council's previous rejection of this design. Todd suggested using a press release strategy similar to the previous year's survey to increase participation and media coverage.

The group discussed developing a survey in collaboration with other neighborhood districts, with Robbie and Lowell supporting this approach. They also addressed parking concerns related to Wood River Village, where Todd suggested writing a letter to the Old Mill to encourage cooperation with the City and Bend Parks and Rec. Lisa shared her negative experiences with the Old Mill regarding fire mitigation and maintenance issues, though the group agreed to discuss the parking situation further offline rather than pursuing immediate action with the Old Mill.

### **Bend Parking Collaboration Planning**

The group discussed parking challenges in Bend, focusing on collaboration between the city, Bend Parks and Rec, and Old Mill. Todd proposed that these parties work together to address parking issues, potentially including building a structure or using city parking lots for seasonal needs. Caitlin shared her experience using risk management tactics to address parking concerns in Wood River Village, offering to help draft a letter on the topic.

### **Development Projects and Planning Updates**

Robbie provided an update on the Timber Yards project, noting that the Planning Commission had voted to send the reduced plan to City Council for approval.

Robbie reported on two development projects: a building project that has been modified to comply with code requirements and is moving forward, and the Sunny Breeze project, a 42-lot single-family home development that is progressing despite community concerns about fire safety and traffic mitigation. Robbie also discussed ongoing efforts regarding juniper tree protection standards in the

city code, noting that while the development community has requested changes, City Council is considering different standards specifically for industrial areas. Finally, Robbie mentioned that Bend Parks and Rec is conducting a new study for a pedestrian bridge crossing the river, with Southern Crossing being invited to participate in the stakeholder advisory group and upcoming open house.

### **Planning Commission Update**

Robbie reported that the Planning Commission will hold a round table with the NDs on June 22nd. The original topic was going to be complete neighborhoods and commercial areas conversion to affordable housing. However, the state enacted legislation allowing developers to use up to 20% of commercial property for affordable housing, with mitigation requirements if exceeding this limit. Robbie agreed to share the presentation and documentation from the SE Neighborhoods roundtable with the City with Lowell and Todd.

### **Treasurer and IT Report**

Lowell noted that the fiscal year was nearly ending with only \$300 remaining unspent, emphasizing the need to identify any remaining expenditures by mid-June to meet reimbursement deadlines by June 30th.

The team discussed the transition to a new newsletter service and approved prior meeting minutes with corrections. They planned to attend the Coulter Grove Park open house events on April 8 and 12, with the group deciding to focus their outreach efforts at the park event on April 12th from 11am to 1pm. Todd and Lowell agreed to collaborate on sending an email blast about these upcoming events and the Nssp open house before April 24th.

### **Summer Block Party Planning**

The team discussed plans for an upcoming summer block party, with Robbie taking the lead on organizing the event. Todd confirmed they have secured the trailer for July 11th but is still awaiting confirmation from the city regarding the park reservation at Blakely Park. Robbie mentioned he would send out an email to the board and prior event committee members to invite them to an in-person kickoff meeting for the event committee, likely scheduled for 3 weeks from now. Todd offered to help with sponsor outreach, particularly reaching out to MidOregon Credit Union.

The board decided to call the summer event a "picnic" to avoid additional insurance costs. Lowell will check insurance requirements, while the group considered getting branded aprons with "Southern Crossing Neighborhood Association" for board members.

The next board meeting was scheduled for April 16th at 5 PM, and a newsletter deadline was set for April 8th. Lisa pointed out that the Transportation Open House event listing needed more detailed information, which Lowell agreed to update.

*AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.*