

Meeting Summary for SCNA July Board Meeting

July 16, 2026 05:30 PM Pacific Time

Quick recap

The meeting focused on planning for an upcoming neighborhood roundtable meeting scheduled for September 30th, where Southern Crossing will participate alongside other neighborhood districts. Todd led the discussion about creating a joint survey to gather community input on various topics, including transportation, infrastructure, and quality of life issues. The group reviewed and refined potential survey questions, discussing whether to include demographic data (which was deemed illegal), how to structure questions about transportation modes, and which issues to prioritize. They also addressed challenges with Century West's participation due to leadership issues, discussed the potential for survey branching to reduce length while gathering specific information from interested respondents, and considered including local businesses in the survey process. The conversation ended with planning for a pre-roundtable General Meeting with food and drink to encourage member attendance at the longer city meeting.

Next steps

Caitlin

- Consider reaching out to businesses in the Old Mill District to encourage their participation in the survey.

Todd

- Send the Zoom link for the meeting with the city (with René Mitchell) to the whole board.
- Talk to René Mitchell at the meeting tomorrow about the status of Century West's participation and their board transition.
- Write to the chairs of the Southeast Bend roundtable to request a copy of their survey for reference.
- Work with Southwest Bend to set up a meeting to discuss and co-create the survey.
- Ask the city (at tomorrow's meeting) about their role in the survey process (e.g., approval, review).
- Ask the city (at tomorrow's meeting) about the process for locking in a location for the roundtable.
- Ask the city (at tomorrow's meeting) if they will be providing food for the roundtable event.
- Send a summary of the discussion from tomorrow's meeting with the city to the board.
- Send information to Kyle about coverage for the district chair meeting on the 26th.
- Finalize the list of survey questions, incorporating feedback from the board and considering branching logic.
- Push Southwest Bend to move quickly on the survey timeline.

Summary

Neighborhood Districts Planning Meeting

The meeting focused on planning for an upcoming two-hour city meeting involving neighborhood districts, including Southern Crossing and Southwest Bend. Todd explained the general structure of the meeting, which will include introductions, a presentation by the mayor and City, a roundtable discussion, and a breakout session with poster topics. The group discussed a joint survey that will be conducted across neighborhood districts, with a key meeting scheduled for the next day with René Mitchell, the Communications Director, to discuss survey questions and coordination with the city. There were concerns about Century West's participation, as their board chair appears unresponsive, though two new volunteers have emerged who may take over the role.

Southwest Bend Neighborhood Survey Planning

Todd led the discussion about creating a survey for the Southwest Bend neighborhood, taking responsibility for driving the process forward after successfully convincing the neighborhood to participate at the next roundtable. The team discussed survey structure options including conditional branching to reduce questionnaire length, with Todd proposing to complete the survey by August to allow time for city collaboration. The group also considered including the broader business community in the survey, though Susan noted some businesses might not be fully aware of current neighborhood issues. The team discussed including local businesses in their survey, with Todd sharing insights from last year's efforts where businesses were willing to participate privately but hesitant to do so publicly due to concerns about offending old mill ownership. The group agreed to collect residential location information while explicitly avoiding demographic data collection due to legal concerns about fair housing regulations. The discussion concluded with reviewing priority survey topics, focusing on congestion, wildfire concerns, and biking infrastructure as key areas to address.

Pedestrian and Bike Path Planning

The group discussed the relationship between pedestrian and bike paths, with Todd expressing concern that the City Council is implementing multi-use paths without consulting residents about their preferences. Kyle questioned whether these paths were mutually exclusive, but the discussion revealed they do impact each other, particularly when considering limited funding and safety concerns. The conversation then shifted to whether housing affordability should be addressed at the neighborhood district level, with Lowell and others agreeing that affordable housing is primarily a higher-level government responsibility.

Transportation Category Restructuring Discussion

The group discussed combining various transportation topics into broader categories. They decided to merge trails with walking and biking infrastructure, eliminate parks as a separate topic, and create a combined category for alternative transportation options including biking, walking, and public transit.

The team identified that public transit in their area is underdeveloped, particularly noting the lack of bus routes on Reed Market Road, and agreed this should be addressed alongside other transportation infrastructure. They concluded by deciding to split vehicle infrastructure from alternative transportation methods and discussed potentially making the transportation category "more spicy" with a better title.

Survey Topic Updates Discussion

The team discussed including parking as a survey topic, with Todd deciding to keep it in for now while consulting with Southwest Bend and the City. They agreed to make the parking question more specific to the Old Mill District, noting its growing popularity as a second downtown area. The group also decided to combine emergency response and policing categories under wildfire emergency response, with Caitlin sharing a personal experience about emergency vehicle access challenges in her neighborhood.

Infrastructure Survey Question Discussion

The group discussed whether to include infrastructure maintenance questions in their survey, with Kyle emphasizing the importance of maintaining existing infrastructure while Caitlin and others noted that the city has been actively repairing roads. The team then focused on growth-related infrastructure concerns, particularly regarding new developments not adequately considering road infrastructure needs. They agreed to frame a survey question around whether the city should pause new building until infrastructure catches up rather than continuing development while infrastructure remains inadequate.

Neighborhood Survey Question Decisions

The group discussed several topics for their neighborhood survey, including communications with the city and environmental preservation. They decided to remove the question about city communications from the survey after determining it would likely receive uniform positive responses. The team also debated whether to include questions about transportation and traffic congestion, ultimately deciding to strike those items from the survey as they determined neighborhood associations may not be well-positioned to address broader traffic issues.

Transportation and Infrastructure Survey Planning

The group discussed several transportation and infrastructure concerns, including cut-through traffic issues in neighborhoods like Woodriver Village and Deschutes Crossing. They agreed to include questions about biking and walking habits in their survey, with Todd suggesting specific percentage-based options to gather accurate data on transportation modes. The team also decided to add wildfire concerns and noise pollution, including river activities, as survey topics under infrastructure.

Reed Market Noise Concerns

The group discussed noise concerns on Reed Market, with Kyle raising issues about truck braking systems and speed-related noise violations, while Caitlin expressed skepticism about the effectiveness of addressing these problems. The discussion included debate about including noise-related questions in an upcoming survey, with Kyle arguing that highlighting these issues could increase awareness and potentially lead to better enforcement.

Board Meeting Planning Discussion

The board discussed holding a short General Meeting before the September 30th roundtable. Todd suggested they set up in a separate room 30 minutes before the main event to serve food and drinks to encourage attendance. They discussed potentially holding the general meeting at Bend Parks and Rec headquarters, though the location remains unclear. The group approved prior meeting minutes without discussion and agreed to postpone the budget discussion to August pending new budget numbers from the city. Todd will send a Zoom link for tomorrow's 2:30 meeting with the city and will follow up with Kyle regarding district chair meeting coverage on the 26th.

AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.