

BIKE,

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interview about their experiences.

The results were somewhat mixed. Keizer outperformed other cities in some categories but lagged behind in some key areas.

While only 20 percent of the average city's high speed roads have bike facilities, 45 percent of Keizer's do. Keizer's bicycle-friendly laws and ordinances were rated "excellent," far above the standard community with a BFC designation. Keizer was also deemed to have good Bike Month and Bike-to-Work events.

Other assessments were less kind to Keizer. While the BFC program suggests 9 percent of the city's transportation budget be spent on cycling, Keizer clocked in at 1 percent. Bicycle education programs were also found to be needing improvement. Keizer also generally scored on the low end of cycling encouragement, enforcement and evaluation and planning.

A constrained budget limits what the city can do to achieve a higher designation, the report city officials got back from

LAB suggests some actions to be taken. Here are a few:

- Adopting a complete streets policy requiring all new road or repaving projects to include bicycle striping.
- Making bicycle safety a routine part of education for students of all ages.
- Increasing staff time spent on improving conditions for those who bike or walk.

Sangster said that the biggest impact could likely be seen with more education, but making it a priority on the local level is something that happens school-by-school.

"The schools just don't have the budget for it here, unlike Portland where it is an actual program in place," he said. In times when more funding was available, the Salem-Keizer School District would host Safety Town camps during summer months that guided students toward best practices, but the camps fell victim to budget cuts.

"Bringing things like that back will require a budget and volunteers," said Sangster who was one of the Safety Town instructors.

On the whole, he's been pleased with Keizer's acceptance of pro-cycling policy and inclusion.

"The roundabout was a

great example of that. We felt like we were part of that discussion from the start," Sangster said.

He also commended the city for adopting a planning policy requiring bike parking within 50 feet of entrances.

If he had one wish, it would be for more enforcement of bike laws. He cited adult riders disobeying traffic control devices or traveling the wrong way as two areas of concern.

The other area where Sangster saw opportunity was in encouraging local businesses to apply for a "Bicycle Friendly" designation through Travel Oregon.

While food destinations are the logical starting point, Sangster said bikers on long rides make use of everything from banks to hotels.

"I really think it's just a matter of connecting with the Chamber of Commerce and helping them promote it to members," Sangster said.

Another added benefit to the BFC designation is that Keizer can use it as a feather in its cap when applying for transportation and other grants to improve local amenities.

Keizer will have to reapply to the program annually to maintain its honorable mention designation.



OSP Capt. Tim Fox talks with Ben Martinez, a Chemeketa Community College student studying to be an EMT. KEIZERTIMES/Eric A. Howald

OUTREACH,

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talk about the opportunities I might have had rather than free bus passes. I had a job at Albertsons and I paid for my bus pass every month," Cuevas said. "That wasn't the type of help I needed."

Cuevas earned his diploma and joined the U.S. Marine Corps before finally making his way into law enforcement. Becoming an OSP trooper does not require a college degree, and Cuevas said his background paved the way to success in the job. He could read and write well in English and being bilingual earns him a 5 percent bonus in his check each payday.

"My ability to speak Spanish has prevented people from going to jail," Cuevas said.

The lesson he encouraged attendees to take away from the night applied to even those looking for careers outside of law enforcement.

"You have to be your own advocate. You have to be proactive," he said.

Trooper Tiffany Linn outlined the process for becoming a state trooper, which can be lengthy, but may lead to a wide range of opportunities.

"The process takes about 32 to 35 weeks, but that includes a rigorous background check that takes time," she said.

In addition to becoming a trooper patrolling the highways and just about any other area in the state, assignments are available in forensics, SWAT, criminal, explosives, K-9, lottery enforcement, tribal gaming and dispatch, Linn said. For more information about what it takes to become an OSP trooper, visit www.osptrooper.com.

The number of opportunities is also growing, said Eriks Gabliks, director of the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, which trains and certifies most public safety employees throughout the state.

"In the next two or three years, we expect to be hiring at least 1,000 officers and maybe as many as 2,000," Gabliks said.

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COW: Meetings moving to third Tuesday

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In other business:

Commissioners voted to remove a commission charge for pieces sold during exhibitions at the Keizer Civic Center. Brown reported that the charge was given as a reason for some show coordinators to balk at exhibiting their work.

Additionally, the 20 percent commission charge, which was instituted two years ago as a way to create funds for the commission to use on future projects had resulted in less than \$50 in revenue.

Commissioners voted to move their meetings to the third Tuesday of every month.

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