

Committee floats 4th option for bikes, peds along River Road

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

Members of the Keizer Traffic Safety, Bikeways and Pedestrian Committee found all of the recently-proposed enhancements to bike and pedestrian traffic on River Road lacking at its meeting Thursday, March 14.

“My main concern is that all three of the options have operational or safety problems. If not for motor vehicles, then cyclists and pedestrians. The one that got the highest marks conflicts with current accepted design policy,” said Pat Fisher, a committee member.

As part of efforts to rethink development along Keizer’s major commercial corridors, consultants to the city unveiled three options for improving multimodal traffic. One option would involve removing the turn lane from the center of River Road and using the recouped



The Keizer Traffic Safety Committee put forth a new option for redesigning non-vehicle traffic flow on River Road North. The proposal would mean narrower lanes and a multiuse sidewalk for both bikes and pedestrians on each side of the street.

KEIZERTIMES
Candace Johnson

space to install sidewalks and buffered bike lanes. Another option is narrowing lanes and installing a multiuse sidewalk on one side of the street. The final option put forth by consultants is narrowing lanes and installing unbuffered bike lanes.

Members of the traffic safety committee preferred another solution during talks at the meeting. The group

put forth a recommendation to the city to install multiuse sidewalks on both sides of the road. That means bikes and pedestrians would be traveling on the same sidewalk, but have plenty of maneuverability. Ideally, cyclists would travel in a “lane” nearest to the street with pedestrians taking an inside lane.

The idea would mitigate

the primary flaw in having only one multiuse sidewalk proposed by consultants: bikes traveling both ways on one side of the street.

“Cyclists going both ways would be introducing another safety hazard because drivers are not used to looking both ways for cyclists,” Fisher said. “It also doesn’t fit the context with so many driveways.”

The number of entrances

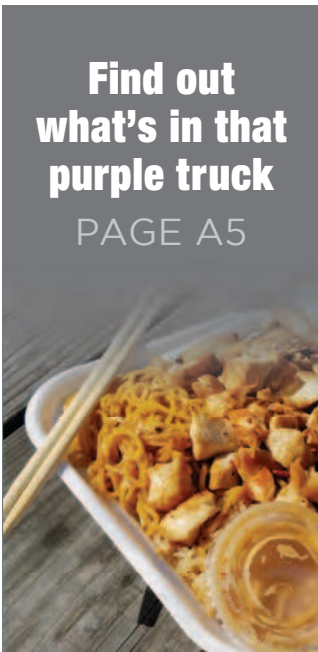
to businesses and other properties along River Road creates hurdles for any new solution, but it’s a problem the city inherited.

“[Marion] County developed River Road substandard and we are stuck with it. To do it right, we would need to purchase right-of-way and there’s no money,” said Hersch

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Boys lead off with 5-0 win
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McNary senior is defining service
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READY FOR DUTY

Submitted

John Hartzell got a personal tour of the Keizer Police Department recently. In addition to meeting numerous officers, he got to try out some of the department hardware like a riot shield and the department’s heavy-duty door knocker.

Parks board seeks boost to matching grant fund

By ERIC A. HOWALD
Of the Keizertimes

A conversation about instituting a parks improvement fund aimed at assisting youth projects turned into a plan to ask for a \$5,000 increase to a matching grant program administered by the Keizer Parks Advisory Board at a meeting Tuesday, March 12.

Inspired by some of the past projects completed with a matching grant fund, Board Member Matt Lawyer brought forth an idea to create a similar program directed at youth with a few changes.

“[The fund would] enable and encourage youth to participate in the volunteer experience by paying for maintenance projects or in-

stallation of benches and tables while working with a sponsor from the city council or parks board,” said Lawyer.

The idea was also inspired by a conversation with City Councilor Dan Kohler. One recent Keizer Eagle Scout, and a liaison to the Keizer Parks Board, was looking for a service project and ended up taking his time and talent to Salem because the neighbor to the south would offer funding up front instead of reimbursement.

Lawyer suggested beginning with a \$2,000 annual allowance for the program. However, whereas adults and other groups must pay for improvements out-of-pocket and

“You still want to encourage a matching effort.”

— Robert Johnson
Keizer parks supervisor

Clark lauds city’s efforts at Chamber lunch



Mayor Cathy Clark delivers the annual State of the City address at a Keizer Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday, March 12.

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Eric A. Howald

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From livability and development to what’s being done to assist some of Keizer’s most vulnerable residents, Mayor Cathy Clark is feeling good about the future of the city.

“We are on a good course to our future. We are known for showing up, speaking up, getting involved and getting it done,” said Clark in her annual State of the City address during a Keizer Chamber of Commerce luncheon Tuesday, March 12. “By coming together to create it, we will have something to celebrate every day.”

Clark covered a lot of territory in the speech while trying to hit on all the high notes that show the work being done.

In regard to livability issues, Clark said the groundwork is being laid to decide how the city should approach its expected growth, either

through higher density development or expansion of the Keizer Urban Growth Boundary.

The lack of available developable spaces is turning the screws on Keizer’s renters. Keizer was recently tabbed as one of numerous rent-burdened cities in the state.

“At the end of the day, our [growth] will be unique because our situation is unique,” she said in a nod to the city’s shared UGB with Salem. “I’m looking forward to hearing what options are available to get [housing] demand and supply into better balance.”

She’s also looking forward to some sort of resolution for west Keizer residents taking fire from a recreational shooting range. The city is currently an intervenor in a lawsuit seeking a permanent injunction and legislative fixes are on the docket in the 2019 Oregon Legislative session.

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