

# City of Newberg

## River Street Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:30 PM

### 1. Call to Order

The River Street Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting was called to order on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 6:06 PM at the Newberg Public Safety Building, Denise Bacon Community Room, 401 E. Third Street, Newberg, OR.

### 2. Roll Call

Present: Councilor Turgesen, Councilor McBride, Ted Ebor, Jim Talt, Steven Brittell, Jacob Hiester, David Heddy.

Tardy: Mark Seger (arrived at 6:25 pm)

Absent: Bob Woodruff (traveling)

Also Present: Trevis Smith, Keller Associates; Percy Peralta Ramirez, Keller Associates (standing in for TJ); Alison Herrell, Oregon Department of Forestry; Brittany Oxford, Oregon Department of Forestry; City of Newberg Associate Planner Leanne Wagener; Will Worthey, Newberg City Manager

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### 4. Public Comment

Two members of the public addressed the committee: Lucas Morgan expressed support for exploring a repave-only option for River Street, citing lower immediate cost, reduced disruption, and additional time to deliberate long-term plans. A second speaker offered general remarks of gratitude for the community collaboration process surrounding the River Street project.

### 5. Discussion on Existing Business

#### 5.3. Presentation: Oregon Department of Forestry

This item was moved to the beginning of new business discussion as a courtesy to the out-of-town presenters, by motion of the committee.

Brittany Oxford, Community Assistance Forester, and Alison Herrell, Board Certified Master Arborist and Community Assistance Forester, both of the Oregon Department of Forestry Urban and Community Forestry Program, delivered a presentation based on their walkthrough of River Street from 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> Street earlier that afternoon.

The presenters concluded that the existing right-of-way trees are, on the whole, not viable candidates for preservation under any meaningful street improvement project. Key findings included: numerous trees planted beneath utilities and subject to significant utility pruning; the presence of emerald ash borer (already detected in Newberg), which will necessitate removal of all ash trees within approximately five years regardless of project scope; bronze birch borer affecting birch trees; trees in various stages of senescence; and, critically, that any improvement project sufficient to trigger ADA ramp upgrades at

intersections would sever the critical root zones of the planter-strip trees, leaving insufficient structural roots to keep them standing safely.

The presenters noted that trees on private property beyond the sidewalk edge should be evaluated individually by a registered consulting arborist, and recommended that construction fencing (specifically chain-link, not plastic) be required by specification to protect those root zones during construction. They further recommended replanting with a diverse species palette using approximately 3-inch caliper trees, supported by an establishment care program including watering and structural pruning for a minimum of four years. The committee was encouraged to utilize the existing city street tree list developed by City Arborist Leanne, and to consider repurposing removed wood (e.g., milling into benches) as a community gesture. The presenters offered continued availability for questions, to be funneled through city staff.

### 5.1. Presentation & Discussion: Proposed Option 4 (Talt Plan)

#### *a. See printed roll plot: Exhibit A\**

Travis Smith of Keller Associates presented a printed roll plot running from 3rd Street to 11th Street, illustrating the approximate footprint of the proposed typical section: two 12-foot travel lanes, two 5-foot bike lanes, curb and gutter, stormwater facilities, and sidewalk, with a construction buffer noted on each side. The team emphasized this is a pre-survey, conceptual-level product (less than 10% design) and that no line work should be considered definitive. A minor correction was noted: a previously distributed digital exhibit had incorrectly shown curb lines running through existing high-voltage power poles; this was corrected in the printed exhibit.

#### *b. Exhibit B: Possible Raised Intersections\**

The roll plot depicted a raised concrete intersection concept at 9<sup>th</sup> Street for committee consideration. Trevis Smith noted that 9<sup>th</sup> Street was selected to illustrate what such a feature might look like in plan view, while acknowledging that photographs of similar installations in McMinnville and Beaverton provided a better sense of the actual appearance. Discussion touched on the potential benefits of raised intersections for traffic calming, ADA compliance, reduced future maintenance costs relative to asphalt, and their possible utility in minimizing encroachment into adjacent yard areas at tight corners. The committee agreed that further information—including comparative costs and safety data—was needed before a decision could be made, and deferred that decision to the next meeting.

Committee member David Heddy raised concerns about the design of the protected bike lane, specifically regarding a 90-degree curb drop adjacent to the travel lane, arguing that a floating traffic separator at road grade would be safer for cyclists, particularly children. Other committee members and city staff noted that this design option had been evaluated at a prior meeting and determined to create conflicts with existing power pole radii and the goal of minimizing yard impacts. The discussion was noted for continued consideration by the engineering team.

### 5.2. Discussion: Design Commitment, Maximum Permanent Corridor

The committee discussed whether the city could commit to maintaining the project within the existing approximate 58-foot right-of-way corridor. Trevis Smith of Keller Associates stated that while the typical section itself can be designed to target that constraint, interactions with individual driveways, grades, and yard frontages cannot be guaranteed in advance of a topographic survey. Staff acknowledged the concern and offered two commitments: inclusion of corridor preservation as a primary objective in the Request for Proposals (RFP), and a personal commitment from city staff to minimize impacts to private frontages throughout the design process.

Motion by Committee Member Jim Talt that the committee recommend to the City Council that the city proceed to develop the existing design concept. Seconded by Councilor McBride. Vote: Councilor Turgesen – Aye; Councilor McBride – Aye; Ted Ebor – Aye; Jim Talt – Aye; Steven Brittell – Aye; Jacob Heister – Aye; David Heddy – Aye; Mark Seger – Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion that the city will endeavor, as a primary objective of the RFP, to maintain the 58-foot section whenever practical. Motion as suggested by Committee Member Jacob Heister; seconded by Committee Member Stephen Brittell. Vote: Councilor Turgesen – Aye; Councilor McBride – Aye; Ted Ebor – Aye; Jim Talt – Aye; Steven Brittell – Aye; Jacob Heister – Aye; David Heddy – Aye; Mark Seger – Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 5.4. Presentation & Discussion: Proposed Tree Rendering

##### *a. Exhibit A: Tree List Rendering\**

The committee briefly acknowledged the proposed tree rendering. In light of the detailed information received during the Oregon Department of Forestry presentation, the committee agreed that substantive discussion of the tree rendering should be deferred to the next meeting to allow time to incorporate the ODF's recommendations and gather additional feedback from City Associate Planner Leanne Wagener and the ODF presenters on the current draft tree plan.

#### 5.5. Discussion: Tree Plan V1 and Preliminary Tree List

##### *a. Exhibit A: Tree Plan*

Discussion was deferred to the next meeting. The committee agreed that the tree plan and raised intersection details would be the primary focus items for the August 18, 2026 meeting. Staff indicated that ODF and City Associate Planner feedback on the current tree plan draft would be solicited and distributed to committee members by approximately July 30, with member feedback requested by August 9 to allow for posting by August 11 in advance of the meeting.

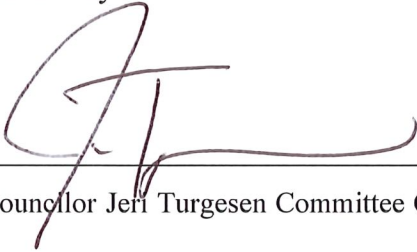
#### 6. Scheduling of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the River Street Ad-Hoc Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, August 18, 2026, with a targeted meeting window of 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Primary agenda items will be: (1) raised intersections — cost, safety data, and design implications; and (2) Tree Plan V1 with updated feedback incorporated. The committee's recommendation package is anticipated to be presented to City Council at its first meeting in September 2026 (September 8, 2026).

## 7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Attested by:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Turgesen", written over a horizontal line.

Councillor Jeri Turgesen Committee Chair River Street Ad-Hoc Committee

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Jennifer Delaney", written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Delaney, River Street Ad-Hoc Committee Staff Admin