

**City Council Goal Input Form
Community Organizations**



CITY OF BEND

Organization Name: Boyd Acres Neighborhood Assoc.

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www.boydacesneighborhood.com

Organization's Mission: to disseminate accurate information, encourage useful dialogue and develop engaged citizens in support of the livability in our community and to the benefit of all residents in Boyd Acres Neighborhood and the City of Bend.

Organization's Goals:

To provide an open process by which all BANA residents may participate in our affairs;
to maintain open communications among the members, City of Bend, Deschutes County, State of Oregon and other organizations;
to protect, enhance and maintain a sense of community of BANA without suppressing the rights of individuals to express divergent views;
to facilitate the exchange of information among neighborhoods;
to be organized for educational, social and charitable purposes.

What is the biggest problem your organization believes the city should address?

We have identified three issues.

A. **Transportation** continues to be an issue of great interest for residents and businesses of Boyd Acres Neighborhood and the entire city. As there are ongoing planning efforts by the City, County and State, we concur that the Council continue to monitor these plans and assure there is a long range outlook.

BANA residents have these basic needs:

- * improved connectivity in streets within the neighborhood
- * public transit serving the neighborhood
- * a complete sidewalk and bike path network
- * install stops signs on neighborhood streets at intersections and to slow traffic
- * school zone and crosswalk signs at new schools on Brinson

Although the population in the Tri County area is dispersed, trends indicate there will be sufficient population to support a light rail system in 25-40 years. Planning and right of way acquisition for such a system should be incorporated in city, state and county plans now to assure adequate route availability. In the meantime, a

bus rapid transit system connecting the major cities would address some of the congestion issues and build a clientele for mass transit.

B. Emergency preparedness The City should update the emergency preparedness plan and conduct an exercise. Wild fire, volcanic eruption, earthquake and rail derailment are real possibilities that could occur in Central Oregon.

While the Deschutes County Sheriff's staff has spearheaded a three county effort to engage citizens in response to a disaster with its Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) network, there is more to be accomplished. Every resident needs to know what to do and where to go in the event of an evacuation. We urge the City of Bend to make this a priority in 2019. There are many lessons to be learned from our California and Washington neighbors and actions we need to take right now.

C. Affordable housing The presence of homeless camps in Juniper Ridge and the growing population of Bethlehem Inn indicate that anyone can experience a period of bad luck and find him or herself without a home. The City should continue to implement the affordable housing plan and create short term shelters where people can reorder their lives to gain employment and self-sufficiency. Bend cannot be a truly livable city if residents are living in tents in the forest or in their cars.

If we solved this problem, what would the outcome look like? Paint a vision.

With regard to the vision of a mobile city, we would see a Bend where there are options for moving around the community depending upon one's ability and needs.

A complete transportation system will allow:

- the hale and hearty to bike or walk
- citywide bus service and well-maintained roads will ensure connectivity
- shuttle services for the elderly and those who are non-ambulatory
- small upgrades such as audible signals at the cross walks would contribute to the goal of livability
- school zones will be entered into GPS data base to alert drivers

Boyd Acres residents will have bus service across the neighborhood to connect service and retail centers for our ever expanding population. The East side NAs would have a trail network connecting trails along the canals and other

greenways. This could be created via a partnership among agencies including Bend Parks and Recreation and COID. It might be funded in part with a “Walk America” or other grant opportunities.

The system would designate a long line freight truck route that provides a safe means for those vehicles to avoid city traffic. This would free up city streets for smaller trucks and personal vehicles traveling within the city limits.

B. We envision a city where every person and/or family has a 10 day supply of food and water at a minimum, as well as a go kit with essentials including medicines. Each person will be familiar with evacuation routes and locations of emergency shelters for humans and animals. Homeowners will be educated about creating defensible space around their homes.

Emergency shelters will be designated and supplied with first aid kits and other basics. If indeed Central Oregon is designated as the area for Oregonians fleeing a tsunami, shelters and support services for those persons should be designated. Local residents need to be recruited to volunteer for staffing in such a situation. This could be an aspect of the COAD network.

C. As for the homeless issue, communities as varied as Utah and Finland have adopted a *Housing First* policy that shelters the homeless and allows them to work and have access to basic services for combating drug use and mental illness. In most cases governments have found this approach saved money for dealing with this segment of the public. We envision a similar system in Bend with short term housing, some permanent housing and services to help the individuals become self-sufficient.

If you know of suggested plans or objectives to achieve this change, please describe.

The Council is well aware of the plethora of planning efforts in our community. Any resident can and should avail themselves of the opportunity to participate in these very informative and important committees and workshops so as to share in the process of compromise and decision making.

We believe there should be a tri-county conference where the counties and cities shall compare their plans and discuss intercity connectivity.

Describe practical steps to measure progress toward the goal.

Ridership increases on public transit

Decrease in congestion

Decrease in traffic accidents

Traffic volumes on major thoroughfares

Completion of sidewalk and trail networks

Emergency drills and exercises

Homeless counts decrease

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