PBOT
PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION
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Central City in Motion Working Group

Meeting #19

5-6 p.m., March 31, 2026

Agenda

5 p.m.	Welcome / Introductions
5:10	Public Comment
5:15	Project Updates
5:25	Project Discussion: • SE 7th & Sandy Green Plaza
5:50	Closing Roundtable

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Central City in Motion Working Group

Meeting #19 Notes

5-6 p.m., March 31, 2026

This meeting was held virtually over Teams.

Committee Members Present:	Susan Lindsay, Nick Nick Puczkowskyj, Madi Carlson, Emily Guise, Adam Zucker, Peter Finley Fry, Meikelo Cabbage
PBOT Staff Present:	Gabe Graff, Matt Kelly
Also Present:	Luke Norman (TriMet), Malena Marvin (Depave), Ted Labbe (Depave)

Welcome & Introductions

Staff and Working Group Members introduced themselves.

Public Comment

None

Project Updates

- SW 4th Avenue Project is substantially complete
- NW Johnson and Kearney streets are being extended as part of the Broadway Corridor project; currently curbs are being poured
- Second phase of SW Alder Project will be under construction in the next 2-4 weeks
- Engagement on the SE 11th and 12th avenues project is ramping up this spring

Discussion: SE 7th & Sandy Green Plaza

- Malena Marvin leads discussion and notes this is Depave's first project in the public right-of-way.
- Partnership project with PBOT and the community
- Depave has more recently begun focusing on climate resilience and anti-racism and bringing those things together, in addition to the original focus on stormwater.
- Depave projects solve lots of problems at once: stormwater, carbon, shade, isolation, injustice, nature play
- This project is a good example because so many problems and solutions come together at 7th & Sandy.
- This area of Portland doesn't have parks, so this is also providing a kind of park in an area where they are lacking.
- Malena describes past activities at the site which include seasonal activations and pilot/experimental projects.

- Project does not have full funding through construction. Depave could potentially use this plaza project as a way to partner with PBOT to pursue joint funding to fully fund the CCIM project on 7th south of this location.
- Adam Zucker provides more information on the history of the project and earlier stormwater work on SE Sandy.
- Susan Lindsay: Is any part of this project already funded?
- Adam: Depave has done a lot of legwork on getting grants.
- Ted Labbe: We have a substantial Metro Nature In Neighborhoods capital grant. That's funding the design, and there should be a little left over for construction after that. And we've secured two federal awards to support work at the Portland Indigenous Marketplace; one of those awards, if funds are left over, can support the plaza project. We have a smaller state grant and a few more in the hopper. We have also been working to develop a relationship with the Portland Indigenous Marketplace.
- Emily Guise: What is the feedback you are looking for at this point? Higher level or more detailed?
- Adam: Any feedback is helpful.
- Emily: I biked through the activation last summer, and I was confused about where to bike. I ended up on the sidewalk. There wasn't a clear path. How are the bike lanes going to be intuitive?
- Adam: Yes that's feedback we have heard from others. We heard this both about during events and day to day.
- Emily: That's been my only quibble with street plazas in general. Not a clear space to bike through. Not a dedicated space or lane, so people are milling around a lot.
- Malena: That's a comment I'm getting up to speed on. This particular plaza project will be on a greenway. I bike on the Blumenauer Bridge which has the "spaghetti lanes" on one side, and I end up in the wrong spot even though I do it all the time. So we know this project has to be aware of this issue.
- Adam: If this was just a bike safety project it would probably look a lot different. But we do still want it to be intuitive for people biking.
- Adam: As part of a seasonal activation, we had skateboarding. We are not sure if long term that will be best use here. We know there are other skate facilities around. But we recognize that we need ideas to activate this space and reasons for people to come here on a day to day basis.
- Adam: We are looking to terrace the road. And we are contemplating a modest water feature to engage it as a plaza. There are no water features in the Central Eastside. So we are tinkering with that. We'd prefer not to use green paint within the plaza because we want to make it a pedestrian priority space.
- Gabe Graff: Have you thought at all about street vacation with Portland Indigenous Marketplace?
- Adam: After talking with them, I think a street vacation is probably off the table. What we will really need is an activation partner to manage the space, we can't just build it and expect it function well.
- Ted: We put that question to Portland Indigenous Marketplace last year in a design charrette with them. Their response was that they felt it wasn't a good fit for their vision for their property.
- Susan: What has generally been the response to this project, since it has the potential to impede freight, traffic, and reduce parking?

- Adam: We're taking our roadshow to Central Eastside Industrial Council Land Use Committee next month to get more feedback from the group. We'll be continuing engagement with others.
- Peter: Just to be clear I'm not representing CEIC on this committee. That said, I'm vice chair of the Land Use Committee for CEIC. Adam and Depave have been very good at connecting with Central Eastside over the past three years. This is kind of a weird dead area…to the west there is Melody Ballroom, there's new shelters around that nobody bothered to ask us about, there's challenges. My personal opinion is that vacating that street or a portion of street would be difficult for the Central Eastside because there's a lot of need to connect with the Blumenauer Bridge and up to Lloyd. In theory SE 7th might end up going all the way south to a new bridge over the railway connecting to OMSI. The challenge here is going to be activation and programming the space. Unless some of the other street plazas that are surrounded by active businesses, this one is not.

Closing Roundtable: (No time for discussion)

Comments from Teams Chat: (None)

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