**Parkway Plan Forum Central Core, Questions and Comments 1-20-20**

**Most Responses by Rick Williams, ODOT Parkway Plan manager.**

**1. What will be the impacts on the Parkway of the proposed Right IN Right OUT closures?**

* ODOT RIRO Study November 2019 shows impacts of various closure options on Core area.
* Less weaving, fewer turns, less delay in Parkway flow
* Parkway curries 56,000 trips a day now, 3 times original traffic when opened 20 years ago

**2. If only 10% of Parkway traffic is through Bend, was the parkway built for the wrong purpose?**

* No. Bend tripled in size since Parkway opened in 2001. Local Traffic blew out all expectations. Goal today is to squeeze as much capacity as possible from the existing road. More West side frontage is critical need if longer lanes or ramps are added into Central core.

**3. Why are there limited advance warning signs of exits or entries to the Parkway?**

* Parkway is not an Interstate, or truly limited access design! Entry and exit lanes are too close or too short for higher speeds. **We** (meaning short local trips on the Parkway) **are the Problem**.

**4. Does adding new regional jobs in Bend add to the problem**

* Yes, more commuting to Bend jobs adds to the problem, but so does Bend’s lack of housing affordable to our growing workforce.

**5. Will lengthening southbound off ramps or ramp meters help?**

* ODOT will signalize some Southbound ramps. build out of Powers, Murphy and Empire interchanges will help

**6. Where does Southbound Traffic from downtown go if Hawthorne and Lafayette Southbound on ramps are closed (i.e. partial closure)**

* Colorado and Revere corridors will pick up more Parkway traffic. Community concern is more local street congestion and shortcuts from Downtown or Parkway related traffic.

**7. Are City and ODOT plans Coordinated?**

* City’s Transportation System Plan must include all ODOT Parkway projects and both plans use some data.
* Bend has unique barriers to cross town circulation (River, Railroad, Parkway itself). East west traffic issues will grow, just to keep up.

**8. When will right out changes from Downtown occur,**

* Likely in five years. Rear end crashes and congested on ramps here likely to grow as Parkway traffic grows. Could trigger closures.

**9. Are longer Lafayette and Hawthorne off ramps here to stay?**

* These should work better with (proposed) longer southbound Parkway exit lanes.

**10 We need better ways to get in and out of Core and Downtown area than cars (transit, walk, bike)**

**11. ODOT needs Transportation Commission approval for a new Parkway Plan, before it can go beyond plans to project development. Doing nothing is not an option.**