

2009 State of the City

Happy New Year, everyone. Welcome to 2010. It is my sincere hope that this New Year finds each of you well and that 2010 will be a year of economic improvement and community success. Here at the City of Tigard we look forward to another year filled with challenge and opportunity.

The overreaching goal of the city must always be to provide basic city services of the highest quality in the most cost-effective way. Underlying that is the need to keep the city on a solid financial base. In 2009, we continued to do those things, even in the face of the most challenging economic downturn experienced by this generation. We have a balanced budget and a positive fund balance, which means that the city is not “broke” and we continue to provide all the municipal services that residents expect like police, water, library, parks, and streets.

We are even able to continue to address the areas which require additional attention, like downtown improvements and traffic congestion. Projects to improve traffic flow on 99W are progressing. Construction of the Hall/99W intersection improvements will begin this year, directly followed by and coordinated with equivalent improvements to the Greenburg/99W intersection.

We are also in the process of a signal control system upgrade for the entire length of 99W. The existing system is out of date and unable to handle the current traffic load. While this will result in little visible change, it is a state of the art, reactive and interactive system that will automatically respond to the amount and direction of traffic, adjusting signal sequencing and timing to optimize traffic flow.

Downtown, the New Burnham Street rebuild is underway, with completion set for next year. In the area of parks, our intent is still to expand our parks system until we make a reality of the vision defined in our Parks Master Plan. The land acquisition bond measure on the ballot last November was narrowly rejected by voters. We hear you. We will make adjustments, better define the goals, and keep trying until we succeed in providing what the people want.

Each December your Council gathers to discuss what the City’s priorities will be for the coming year, and tabulate a list of goals. These, then, are the goals for 2010:

1. Implement Comprehensive Plan

- a. Complete the Transportation System Plan (TSP) and begin area plans (Tigard Triangle, 99W Corridor, etc.)
- b. Update Tree Code
- c. Continue to promote plan for 99W Light Rail

2. Implement Downtown Urban Renewal

- a. Initiate developer outreach/recruitment
- b. Adopt Downtown Circulation Plan

3. Strategize with Park and Recreation Advisory Board on a 2010 Parks Bond

- a. Decide whether to return to ballot and, if so, when
- b. Develop land acquisition strategies (potential options to purchase, etc.)

4. Advance Methods of Communication

- a. External: Develop communication strategy and methods in support of city goals.
- b. Internal: Support staff efforts to change the organizational culture to create a proactive environment of exceptional people and service, promoting the values of “respect and care,” “get it done,” and do the “right thing” (Strategic Clarity).

5. Support 2010 Washington County Cooperative Library System (WCCLS) and Public Safety Levies

Five-Year Council Goals

- Obtain Ash Street railroad crossing in downtown
- Explore 99W Urban Renewal District
- Continue to support the Legislature in addressing the financial needs of state and local governments in Oregon
- Develop long-term financial strategy
- Start implementing plan for City facility needs
- Develop Sustainability Plan

Long-Term Council Goals

- Continue pursuing opportunities to reduce traffic congestion
- Continue implementing Downtown Urban Renewal Plan
- Continue to monitor the Tigard/Lake Oswego Water Partnership

A few years ago we all made some decisions that defined a direction for the future of our city. As we go down that road together, let's all continue to work toward the common goal of making Tigard a Place to Call Home.

God bless you all, and God bless the City of Tigard