

Gustavo J. Cruz, Jr.
Chair

William Myers
Commissioner

Peter Platt
Commissioner

**Serena Stoudamire
Wesley**
Commissioner

Ted Wheeler
Mayor

Kimberly Branam
Executive Director

This document represents the official meeting record of the March 9, 2022, Prosper Portland Board of Commissioners (Board) meeting held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The full video recording of this meeting can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXC-iVcnOSE>

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Gustavo Cruz called the Prosper Portland Board meeting to order at approximately 3:03 p.m. Pam Feigenbutz, Prosper Portland Board recording secretary, called the roll:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Chair Gustavo Cruz | PRESENT |
| Commissioner William Myers | PRESENT |
| Commissioner Peter Platt | PRESENT |
| Commissioner Serena Stoudamire Wesley | ABSENT |

Chair Cruz read the following statement: “As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to limit in-person contact and promote social distancing, Prosper Portland is holding this meeting electronically as allowed by State law. All members of the Commission are attending remotely by computer or phone. Prosper Portland has provided access for the public to listen to the audio broadcast of this meeting (see above). The public can also provide written testimony to the Commission by emailing ProsperCommissioners@ProsperPortland.us”

1. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Platt

- Attended Business for a Better Portland Board meeting February 15
- In capacity as Board Chair of Hacienda Community Development Corporation, toured the Port of Portland March 3
- Chaired Hacienda Community Development Corporation Board meeting March 4

Commissioner Myers

- Nothing to report

Chair Cruz

- Nothing to report

2. Executive Director Report

- Shared Prosper Portland is highlighting the women-owned businesses, city and community leaders, and resources that continue to celebrate the role of women in the City of Portland during Women’s History Month

- Announced Prosper Portland is celebrating the grand opening of the historic Allen Temple CME Church on March 12
- Stated Prosper Portland will open a new round of Community Livability Grants March 14
- Noted Prosper Portland, through the Portland Film Office and in partnership with Travel Portland, is launching a post-production film grant March 15
- Invited business owners and representatives to attend Greet and Grow March 15
- Announced Prosper Portland released a Request for Proposals from individuals and/or firms to provide Community Outreach Navigator services and/or marketing support for the Community Outreach Navigator services

3. Meeting Minutes

Chair Cruz called for a motion to approve the February 9, 2022, Prosper Portland Board meeting minutes. Commissioner Myers moved and Commissioner Platt seconded the motion.

AYES: Cruz, Myers, Platt

NAYS: None

4. Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda

Michael Harrison requested the City make additional investments to improve bicycle infrastructure. (See attachment 1.)

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Information Item: Update on Prosper Portland's Entrepreneurship Programs

Prosper Portland Staff presenting this item:

Morgan Masterman, Project Manager I

Yvonne Smoker, Project Manager I

Amanda Park, Project Manager I

Ms. Smoker provided an overview of the Inclusive Business Resource Network (IBRN) program, highlighted Mercatus initiatives and provided an example of an IBRN client's journey from start to finish.

Ms. Masterman reviewed the goals for advancing prosperity of small businesses, shared IBRN outcomes including revenue growth and job creation, and reviewed the results of the COVID-19 impact survey.

Ms. Park shared Mercatus outcomes from the following three focus areas: 1.) Member Marketing and Exposure, 2.) Growth Pathways, and 3.) Community Building and Connections. Ms. Park noted Mercatus grew 30 percent from 2019 to 2021 and expects the Mercatus to return with its ninth event in 2022.

Ms. Masterman reviewed IBRN partners and noted Prosper Portland is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking additional partners.

Ms. Masterman reviewed the RFP timeline noting the process will commence with small business focus groups, followed by an evaluation committee kickoff, and a community session. Lastly, Ms. Masterman reviewed lessons learned.

Ms. Masterman invited guests forward to testify

Amalia Sierra, owner, Tierra del Sol, stated Mercatus provided her the support and tools she needed to empower herself. IBRN partners helped her with a business plan and to procure a license. Ms. Sierra has since opened at Portland Mercado with 20 employees.

Kyiky Momo, owner, Himalayan Dumplings, shared she is a Tibetan immigrant and was unable to afford consultation services. She learned about and received services from Xxcelerate, and began to believe her dream was possible

6. Information Item: Update on My Peoples Market

Prosper Portland staff and guest presenting this item:

Amanda Park, Project Manager I

Ms. Park provided a brief history of My People's Market (MPM) since its inception in 2017.

Ms. Park invited guests forward to testify.

Kamelah Adams, founder Mimi's Fresh Tees, noted MPM is a beacon of diversity and inclusion. She has developed friendships, and created community, noting vendors love the energy, the atmosphere, and that it feels like a safe place.

Ms. Park reviewed numbers of participating vendors, sales, and attendees from the previous years as well as an upcoming opportunity to partner with the Public Library Association which is providing space at their Portland convention and expects over 300 attendees.

7. Information Item: Update on Inclusive Economic Development Strategy

Prosper Portland staff and guest presenting this item:

Andrea Gall, Project Manager II

Roger Gonzalez, Project Manager I

Ms. Gall noted the Inclusive Economic Development Strategy (IEDS) is a citywide economic strategy. The RFP to identify consultants to assist in this effort has been divided into four scopes: 1.) Project Management, Analysis & Planning, 2.) Inclusive Engagement & Communications, 3.) Equity & Inclusion Advisor, and 4.) Climate Resilience & Adaptation Advisor.

Ms. Gall noted the evaluation committee will have five or more members, with at least two members being external.

Mr. Gonzalez continued by reviewing anticipated community engagement for the IEDS as follows: 1.) a Steering Committee convened by Mayor Wheeler, 2.) leadership roundtables, 3.) focus groups, and 4.) the broader public. Mr. Gonzalez stated representation in each group will center racial equity.

Mr. Gonzalez described the project timeline beginning with community engagement, followed by Prosper Portland Board and City Council engagement, strategy design, development, and implementation sometime in the year 2023.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Cruz adjourned the Prosper Portland Board meeting at approximately 4:40 p.m.

Approved by the Prosper Portland Commission on April 20, 2022



Pam Feigenbutz, Recording Secretary

s Oregon ponders how to spend feds' \$1.2B on transportation

\$400 million in 'flexible funding' can be spent at state's discretion

By **PETER WONG**
Pamplin Media Group

Oregon Transportation Commission members face more questions than answers as they ponder how to spend most of the \$1.2 billion Oregon will get in new federal money in the next five years from the infrastructure legislation that President Joe Biden signed Nov. 15.

They will have to work relatively fast to decide the first installment, which must be committed by Sept. 30, 2022. In reality, that means the commission must approve money by spring for projects that the Oregon Department of Transportation seeks to break ground on next summer.

"Under this, the time you have to get projects out the door is more like four months," instead of the four years for projects in the state transportation improvement program, ODOT assistant director Travis Brouwer said. "That is a very compressed timeline."

Chairman Bob Van Brocklin of Portland cautioned against raising expectations too high.

"They will provide much-needed funding," he said Thursday, Nov. 18, during a briefing. "But we will still be challenged, because the needs are far outstripping the funding."

Julie Brown, a commission member and general manager of the Rogue Valley Transportation District, added: "What people do not understand is that much of this money is already obligated."

The commission can divide the largest single pot of \$400 million, known as "flexible funding," among qualifying projects in the state transportation improvement program — a four-year list — and its strategic plan for the Oregon Department of Transportation.

"This is the money that the commission can dedicate to any of the categories" under the state transportation improvement program, Brouwer said.

Specified spending

But almost all the rest of the new money goes into programs specified by Congress, as follows (all figures are five-year totals):

■ Bridge repairs, \$250 million. ODOT began a more extensive bridge repair program in 2003, after cracks on some Interstate 5 bridges prompted the agency to post load limits. The Legislature responded with a \$2.5 billion plan, two-thirds of which went to fix state and local bridges on key freight routes. But most of the 2,800 bridges in the state highway system, built largely during the interstate highway era of the 1960s, are past the 50-year mark.

Brouwer said the new money would enable ODOT to increase its funding for bridge repairs by about a third — but it's still less than what is needed annually.

■ Charging stations for elec-



PMG FILE PHOTO

Pedestrians are detoured around a Portland sidewalk in 2011.

tric vehicles, \$52 million. Oregon has corridors already designated on Interstate 5, Interstate 84, U.S. 101 and selected routes to the Oregon coast and Central Oregon.

■ Resilience, such as making bridges resistant to earthquakes, protecting highways from flooding and other measures prompted by climate change, \$94 million.

■ Reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions, \$82 million. The Environmental Quality Commission is writing a final plan to comply with a 2020 executive order by Gov. Kate Brown to reduce such emissions by 80% by 2050; transportation accounts for about 40% of total current emissions.

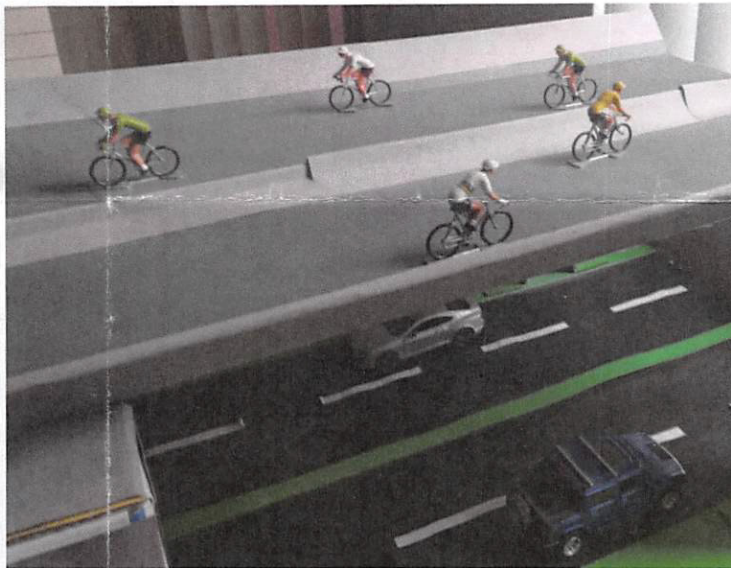
■ Safety measures, \$45 million.

■ Bicycle and pedestrian paths, \$30 million.

In addition, \$200 million goes for public transportation over five years, but the lion's share will go to Oregon's transit districts, including TriMet for the Portland metro area. Cities, counties and Oregon's eight metropolitan planning organizations will split \$200 million; this total is excluded from the \$1.2 billion total.

Let's build a bicycle skyway system!

A new frontier in transportation



And besides, Miami, Florida is already designing one, planzmiami.com
We can use one here in Portland.

Contact your state legislator and tell them IIJA (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) funds, \$1.2 Billion, should be used for a bicycle skyway

bikeskyway.org, Skyway group meetings

- Help to collect signatures, make presentations; mayor's office, green party, etc., discuss locations for a bicycle skyway as well as plan and purchase billboard space.
- With a bicycle skyway system we can:
 - 1) Completely separate the bicycle traffic from the car traffic.
 - 2) Ride risk-free; eliminate bicycle/car accidents on our way to work free of fossil fuels
 - 3) Best of all: reduce car usage! Yes! It's time to build a new and separate transportation system, (without excessive dependency on gasoline for most of our transportation needs)

Michael Harrison

mikezpdx@gmail.com

503-607-6524