

A NOTE FROM MAYOR DAVID FABER

I'm an "infrastructure guy." By that I mean that my policy focus on City Council since my first election in 2015 has been pretty squarely aimed at our "built environment," or the condition of our streets/sidewalks/trails, sewer, water system, and buildings. There's no question that so much of our infrastructure is in dreadful condition, from our "well-textured" street, as my colleague Ben Thomas once called them, to the failing sewer lines in certain parts of town, to the 30-mile 30-inch diameter pipe that feeds us potable water, of which 10 miles is past its useful lifespan. So many issues demand our attention (and resources)!



Over the last couple of years, we've notched up some big "wins" in our attempt to address these issues: (1) we negotiated a new water contract with the paper mill that has allowed us to save millions toward repair and replacement of that large water pipe; (2) we budgeted over \$1 million for street repair and maintenance in 2023; and (3) we just secured more than \$2 million from the State to help us address our sewer needs, to name a few.

While these may sound like big numbers, infrastructure is phenomenally expensive, so council and city staff are working on additional creative ways to address our serious infrastructure needs. Topics like the Transportation Benefit District I can't discuss in length in these pages due to Washington State election rules, but others I can freely discuss, like our "Edge Lane Roads" initiative. Edge Lane Roads encourage vehicles to drive toward the center of certain collector streets, which not only slows cars and shares the street with other users (bikes & pedestrians), but also helps preserve pavement from the destructive effect of heavy vehicles driving along their edge. More to come!

EQUITY ACCESS AND RIGHTS (EAR) ADVISORY BOARD

Seeking Equity Access and Rights (EAR) Advisory Board Members:
<https://cityofpt.us/b-c/page/equity-access-and-rights-advisory-board>

The EAR Advisory Board is charged with helping to move the City forward as a more diverse and equitable place through outreach, education, and feedback to staff and City Council. The City of Port Townsend is seeking community members with a demonstrated commitment to social justice and community care. There are nine open positions on the EAR Board. The Mayor will begin reviewing applications and making appointments in fall and winter 2023. The EAR Advisory Board is expected to begin work in 2024. Do you know someone who would be a great fit for this Advisory Board? Please consider forwarding the application link.

Consider applying to be on a City Advisory Board or Commission. Visit our website for descriptions, applications, and meeting schedules: www.cityofpt.us

For more information, contact the City Clerk's office at: (360) 379-5083.

The following Boards and Commissions have current and upcoming vacancies:

- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Climate Action Committee
- Equity, Access & Rights Advisory Board
- Library Advisory Board
- Lodging Tax Advisory Committee
- Fort Worden PDA



OCTOBER CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS:

10/02/23: Business Meeting

10/9/23: Workshop Meeting

Special Session Joint City Council/
Planning Commission
5:00 p.m. Evans Vista Site Tour
6:00 p.m. City Council Chambers

10/16/23: Business Meeting

Meetings are subject to change.
Please view our website calendar
for an up-to-date meeting
schedule:

www.cityofpt.us/calendar

CITY OF PORT TOWNSEND
250 MADISON STREET
(360)385-3000
WWW.CITYOFPT.US

A NOTE FROM CITY MANAGER JOHN MAURO

What's the word on the street? Streets. As we head into autumn and, ideally before the rains, we're pushing pavement, potholes, partnerships, and projects with urgent intensity and high enthusiasm.

Whether I walk, cycle, drive, or otherwise make my way along our city streets, there are three themes that I increasingly see around me:

1. We're making our streets safer.
2. We're making our streets more accessible.
3. We're embracing innovation and collaboration to do things better.

Yes, streets are still generally in rough shape and we have choices as a community – I'll get to that at the end of this piece. But before that, a few examples that bring those principles to life:

On safety, we have re-painted **fog lines** to provide better visual guidance of the road edge. To save money, some lines are painted less frequently, but many of them need a refresh. No doubt you've also seen or heard of the **Kearney Street project** – a compact roundabout – under construction. A \$2 million state (WSDOT) project with a \$476,900 grant and \$76,500 matching funds, this project will pave Kearney improve ADA/accessibility, walking and cycling, and address drainage problems. Roundabouts have proven safer solutions for all road users.



On accessibility, beyond the **Kearney compact roundabout** which enhances accessibility, there's the **Discovery Road project**. A \$6 million project funded mostly by state and federal grants, Discovery Road (between Rainier Street roundabout and Salish Coast Elementary) is getting a full makeover, plus pedestrian sidewalks on both sides of the street and a new bikeway. It's a complete street project with access and space for all road users.

On innovation and collaboration, we've painted additional **Edge Lane Roads (ELRs)** which slow speeds and bolster safety for everyone. They are also among the lowest-cost solutions for traffic calming, a frequent request from neighborhoods. While perhaps technically not just transportation, an innovative and collaborative spirit is alive in the **Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT)**. Thanks to a \$16 million federal (RAISE) grant, jurisdictions from PT to Bainbridge to La Push are planning and designing trail segments. A fully connected ODT will be a legacy of health and connection to nature for generations to come.

There's a ton more – longer-lasting **hot patch** treatment for potholes, drainage and paving projects from **'Banked Capacity'** funding – but you get the picture.

Back to choices. PT voters have a chance in November to weigh in on whether we make further investments in our streets. Visit our fact sheet here to learn more (www.cityofpt.us/tbdfacts) and, regardless of your opinion, have your say by voting on or by Tuesday, November 7.

IRRIGATION - WINTER RATE DECREASE

Irrigation water will return to winter rate pricing, effective November 1, 2023. The price per 1,000 gallons consumed will go from \$7.43 to \$3.92 (inside city limits) and from \$8.92 to \$4.70 (outside city limits). If you are in irrigation water customer, you will see this change reflected on your November 30, 2023 billing statement.

PUBLIC WORKS - WATER SUPPLY METERING IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In October 2023 two meters will be installed on the Olympic Gravity Water System (OGWS) Transmission line to measure water consumption, maximum flow, and volume limits. A 48-hour shutdown of the water line will start on Wednesday, October 11, and run through Friday, October 13. City Water customers will not notice any difference to their water supply as the City's two reservoirs will be sufficient to supply water during the project. **Out of precaution, we are asking customers to voluntarily conserve water during the shutdown period.** For more information: <https://cityofpt.us/engagept/page/water-supply-mill-agreement>

PUBLIC WORKS - BANKED CAPACITY PROJECT

Did you know that the City crew maintains over 80 miles of road?

The map below illustrates the projects funded with 2023 Banked Capacity (property tax) funding. The construction of these projects will take two years with those circled on the map scheduled for paving this fall. The other road repair locations shown on the map are scheduled for 2024 construction.



LAWRENCE STREET ROAD RECONSTRUCTION TEST

The condition of Lawrence Street represents a pavement failure situation and many other streets are following suit. In addition to lack of investment in street preservation, the challenge with Lawrence Street lies below the surface of the asphalt associated with structurally deficient soils. The City plans to pave 100 feet of Lawrence with a test section of asphalt paving after the City treats the soil below to improve its structural integrity. If this test section proves to work, it will save millions of dollars in the future for streets that need to be entirely reconstructed. You'll see crews working on this project later this fall.



PORT TOWNSEND LIBRARY

Celebrating 110 Years in the Carnegie Library: Friday, October 13, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Celebrate the Carnegie Library turning 110 this October! Come to the library for an open house style birthday party. Enjoy live music, library themed crafts, and light refreshments. The party will be held in the Carnegie Reading Room and is generously sponsored by Friends of the Port Townsend Library.



History Talk with Melody Sky Weaver

Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. in the Carnegie Reading Room

Join Library Director Melody Sky Weaver as she gives a talk on the 110 year history of the Carnegie Library.

Author Talk with Jennifer Silva Redmond

Wednesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m., Port Townsend Library

Join Jennifer Silva Redmond for a discussion on her latest book, *Honeymoon at Sea*. She will talk about how the couple sailed Watchfire to Baja California's Sea of Cortez.



Author Talk with Zoe Ballering

Thursday, October 12, 6:30 p.m., Port Townsend Library

Join author, Zoe Ballering in conversation about her new book, *There is Only Us*. Zoe's debut collection of stories, *There Is Only Us*, was selected as the winner of the Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction and was released in November 2022.

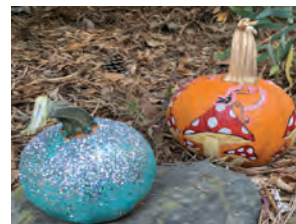
These author talks are generously sponsored by the Friends of the Port Townsend Library. Learn more about them at: <https://www.friendsofptlibrary.org>

Pumpkin Walk:

October 1- October 31

Join us for the Port Townsend Public Library's 2nd Annual Pumpkin Walk!

Paint a pumpkin any time during the month of October and bring it to the library to have it displayed. Walk along the lighted pathway, enjoy the creative designs and fall festivities. All submissions should be family friendly and non-scary for this event.



PT MAIN STREET / PT CREATIVE DISTRICT OCTOBER EVENTS

Port Townsend Creative District Convenings - Contribute Your Ideas to the Port Townsend Arts and Culture Plan

Two meeting options:

- Wednesday, October 11, 7- 9:00 p.m., followed by networking at the Cotton Building, 607 Water Street, Port Townsend
- Thursday, October 12, 4- 6:00 p.m., followed by networking at Fort Worden Commons, 210 Battery Way, Port Townsend

The Port Townsend Creative District Subcommittee is moving forward on the development of the Creative District's Arts and Culture Plan. This strategic framework will provide a three- to five-year blueprint for the District's activities to help support the creative economy. More info can be found at: www.ptcreativedistrict.org