



WEST LINN UPDATE

March 2015

Mayor John Kovash Retires After 13 Years of Service to West Linn

At the end of Monday's city council meeting, Mayor John Kovash announced he was stepping down from office at the end of the month and that this was his last meeting. "I'm 74 years old," he said. "It's time ... to retire." Kovash was elected to the city council in 2008, appointed interim mayor in April 2010 following the resignation of then-Mayor Patti Galle, elected mayor in September 2010 to fill the remainder of her term and elected to a full term in 2014. Before his service on the council, he was a planning commissioner for six years.

"It has been my honor to serve our city for the past 13 years, including five as mayor. During my tenure, I have been privileged to work with many talented and dedicated staff, councilors and citizen volunteers and I would like to thank them for their work on the city's behalf. I leave knowing the city is financially strong, has sound infrastructure and is preparing for the future. My wife and I have lived and worked in West Linn for 27 years and it is now time for us to be fully retired, so be sure to wave if you see us walking in the park." Kovash is a retired U.S. Army colonel. His family moved to West Linn in 1988.



The mayor recalled that when he entered office the city was unstable from a former embezzlement and a former mayor who stepped down after admitting to falsifying information on the voters pamphlet. "I wanted a stable, productive city, and we got that," he said.

Kovash thanked his fellow councilors and city staff and he gave a special thanks to his wife. "It's been a great ride," Kovash said.

Here's what the city councilors had to say about Mayor Kovash:

- "I would like to thank Mayor Kovash for his years of service and wish him the very best. Our lives are truly very short, and his focus on family and health in another chapter of his life is very honorable." — Councilor Russ Axelrod
- "Mayor Kovash has led this city with a solid and steady hand. He not only brought the city into a stable and healthy position for residents today, but has paved the way for future generations to enjoy our great community." — Council President Thomas Frank
- "I very much appreciate his service to the city and community and hope that he gets to enjoy many years of retirement." — Councilor Brenda Perry
- "During his tenure, he has addressed infrastructure needs, supported a necessary and safe new police station, and restored stability in the city. I thank him for his many years of service, and wish him all the best in his retirement." — Councilor Jenni Tan



West Linn's Transportation System Plan

The City of West Linn is currently working with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and others to update the City's Transportation System Plan (TSP). The West Linn TSP is a long-range planning document that helps the City identify and prioritize improvements to the transportation system over the next 25 years.

The West Linn TSP Update will include an evaluation of the existing transportation systems within West Linn, including the pedestrian, bicycle, transit, motor vehicle, and other systems, the identification of existing and future transportation system needs, and the prioritization of potential transportation improvement projects to address the needs.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

At this point, the City has completed a series of draft technical memoranda for the TSP Update, which can be found on the project website: <http://westlinnoregon.gov/planning/transportation-system-plan-update>.

The goals for the updated Transportation System Plan include:

- Safety - Reduce transportation related fatalities and injuries for all transportation modes
- Mobility, Access and Environment - Improve people's access to jobs, schools, health care and other needs in ways that improve health, reduce pollution and retain money in the local economy
- Equity - Deliver transportation improvements equitably
- Maintenance - Deliver access and safety improvements cost effectively, within available revenues and responsibly to the needs of all users of the transportation system

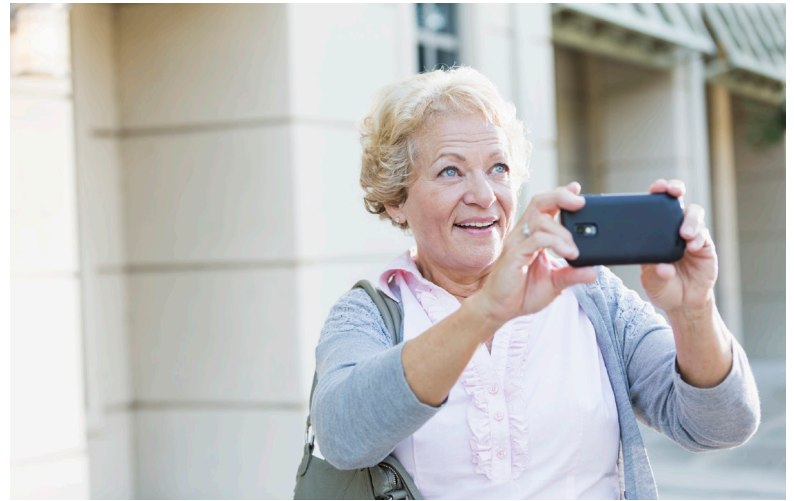
A community meeting for the West Linn TSP Update will be held on March 10th, 2015 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at West Linn City Hall in the Council Chambers. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce local residents to the project purpose, process, and intended outcomes as well as to receive comments on the identified transportation needs.

A virtual community meeting that allows local residents to attend the community meeting online and provide comments on-line will be held at the same time on the City's website and will run for up to one-week following the meeting. A link to the virtual open house will be provided at the web address identified above on March 10th, 2015.

Other upcoming meetings for the West Linn TSP Update include a City Council update on March 2nd and a Planning Commission update on March 4th.

The next Community Meeting and Virtual Community Meetings will be held on April 8th, 2015. Please feel free to contact Zach Pelz with the City of West Linn at zpelz@westlinnoregon.gov or Susan Wright with Kittelson & Associates, Inc. (503.228.5230) if you have any questions or comments about the West Linn TSP Update.

Save the Date:
Join us on March 10th
at 6:00 p.m. for a
community meeting
on the Transportation
System Plan!



What's Your Commute?

The city would like you to use your smartphones or digital cameras to take photos in West Linn. Please remember to be safe, stay out of traffic and do not take pictures while driving.

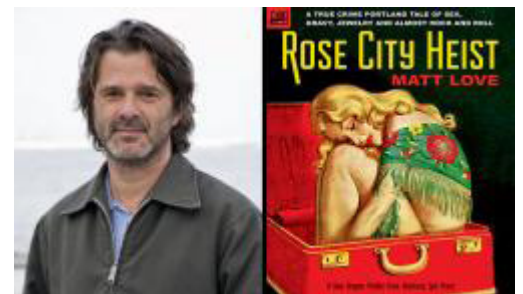
Over the course of four weeks we are asking you to take photos of different aspects of transportation. Specifically, we want to learn how you drive around West Linn:

1. Where is your favorite street in West Linn?
2. Where is the worst part of your daily commute or driving route?

Email photos to Citizen Engagement Coordinator Lori Hall at lhall@westlinnoregon.gov with a few words describing the photos and the locations by Feb. 28. Your photos will provide us information as we update our Transportation Systems Plan. For more information and to see submissions, visit WestLinnOregon.gov. The TSP was last updated in 2008. This new update will plan through the year 2040.

Library Author Talk: Matt Love Thursday, March 19, 2015 - 6:30pm

On August 21, 1993, Matt Love and his friend Philipp Kohlmann became the chief suspects in the biggest jewelry theft in Portland history. No one was ever arrested in the case, the



jewelry never recovered. The statute of limitations on the crime, grand larceny as he read the law, has expired. At long last, Matt is free to confess what really happened. His confession is called *Rose City Heist: A True Crime Portland Tale of Sex, Gravy, Jewelry and Almost Rock and Roll*.