



# Ashcreek-Crestwood

## Neighborhood Association

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April 2, 2025

Mayor Keith Wilson  
Portland City Councilors  
c/o Council Clerk  
1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 130  
Portland, OR 97204

Re: City of Portland Budget Comments  
FY 2025-2026 Budget

Dear Portland City Councilors, Mayor Wilson and City Administrator Jordan:

The Ashcreek-Crestwood Neighborhood Association in outer SW Portland has many concerns about Portland's budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Our neighborhood is home to several natural areas and has only one park with a play structure. Our neighborhood has few sidewalks and bike lanes and limited transit service. We have an active Ash-Crest Neighborhood Emergency Team and several Neighborhood Watches. We care about each other's safety and neighborhood livability, and we want to make it safer to walk, bike and take transit in our neighborhood.


The City Administrator's budget proposal is challenging for us to comment on. We need basic services that prioritize community safety and livability.

1. First, we ask you to reassess the city's organizational structure and staffing to find efficiencies rather than eliminating positions that provide valuable services in our community. In the past 18 months the city's organizational chart has added layers of new staff positions, yet the budget recommends cutting city staff positions that provide services we value. We also ask that you leverage spending among bureaus to create efficiencies and free up resources that support needed projects and services in our community within existing resources.
2. We support public safety, including the Police and Portland Street Response and emergency response; addressing homelessness and related issues in a cost-effective and humane way; transportation safety programs; parks operations and maintenance; and community center services and events in our neighborhood.

3. Portland's neighborhood system extends city services throughout Portland. Our Neighborhood Association relies on city funding for basic support to comply with city standards for neighborhood associations, such as insurance (liability and directors/officers' insurance), communications support (websites, email groups and meeting spaces both virtual and in-person) and state and federal corporate registration fees. Please don't cut those services.
4. We support actions to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate climate change. It is especially important to fund programs that construct the needed infrastructure that enables us to safely walk, bike and take transit and reduce dependence on motor vehicles. Very few of the busy streets in our neighborhood have sidewalks or bicycle facilities. No new improvements have been constructed on our busy streets and we are just as dependent on motor vehicles today as when we were annexed into Portland between 1960-1980. Since our neighborhood does not have a grid system and has a lot of dead-end streets due to topography, we need transportation safety improvements on busy streets to enable people to walk and bike to access transit, shops and services. We want to support our local small businesses and services in the West Portland Town Center, Garden Home Neighborhood Center, on SW Barbur Blvd and other commercial nodes.
5. Our top needed transportation safety projects in Portland's Transportation Systems Plan include:
  - a. Outer Taylors Ferry Road pedestrian/bicycle projects in the West Portland Town Center;
  - b. Garden Home Road/Multnomah Blvd. Intersection Safety Project (funded but never constructed);
  - c. SW 64<sup>th</sup> and Barbur to SW 62<sup>nd</sup> and Pasadena pedestrian/bicycle project; and
  - d. Markham/Luradel Pedestrian/Bicycle Overcrossing over I-5.

We know you face difficult challenges as you balance the budget based on Portland's priorities. In addition to seeking efficiencies within Portland's organizational structure and revenue, please consider our neighborhood priorities of public safety, homelessness response, transportation safety, parks operation and maintenance, and addressing climate change.

Sincerely,



Marianne E. Fitzgerald  
President, Ashcreek-Crestwood Neighborhood Association  
<https://ashcreekcrestwoodna.org>

cc: Ashcreek-Crestwood Board of Directors