

Written Public Comments
City Council
June 16, 2026 through July 6, 2026

- Tammy Kunz, Keizer, Barriers to multi-modal transportation safety within the Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association boundaries.
- Dustin Karstetter, Keizer, user fees at Keizer Rapids Park Turf Fields and request for City Council to consider CFC for the management at Keizer Rapids Park Turf Fields.
- Kathy Lincoln, Keizer, concern about process for investigation into two City Council members.
- Carolyn Homa, Keizer, questions about inquiry.

Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association

gnekna.com | 503-911-1671 | nekna2022@gmail.com

To: City of Keizer, Multi-Modal Advisory Committee

From: Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association & Concerned Residents

Date: June 24, 2026

Subject: Barriers to Multi-Modal Safety: Community Data Proving NTMP Structural Shortcomings in Greater Northeast Keizer

Dear Members of the Committee,

We are submitting formal testimony regarding the systematic barriers to multi-modal transportation safety within the Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association boundaries. Based on a rigorous collection of citizen-submitted traffic safety complaints spanning 2025 and 2026, it is clear that the structural execution of Keizer's current Neighborhood Traffic Management Program (NTMP) is failing to protect vulnerable road users—specifically children walking to school, cyclists, and transit riders.

Our neighborhood collectors and local streets, largely built with 34-to-36-foot widths, are experiencing high speeds, increased traffic volumes, and inadequate infrastructure that effectively locks residents out of safe, active transportation. While the NTMP framework is built around three pillars **Education, Enforcement, and Engineering** the actual application of these tools in our neighborhood reveals severe systemic deficiencies. The localized data demonstrates a severe backlog of safety issues that remain stuck in administrative loops or are restricted by obsolete design guidelines.

We urge the Multi-Modal Committee to review the following community-sourced data and advocate for immediate, physical traffic-calming interventions, structural updates to the NTMP, continuous sidewalks, and physically protected bike lanes.

Key Corridors and Documented NTMP Deficiencies

1. The Verda Lane NE Corridor (Between Chemawa Rd & Lockhaven Dr.)

- **Street Classification:** Collector (2 lanes, 36 ft road width)
- **NTMP Barrier:** Despite the NTMP explicitly stating that traffic management measures should be used on collector streets to reduce speeding traffic, there is a total lack of traffic control devices or passive engineering controls here.
- **Multi-Modal Impact:** Increased vehicle speeds and rising volume make this corridor highly hazardous. Because the NTMP relies heavily on **Level 1** (Education/Enforcement) measures for collectors, residents remain structurally unprotected. Pedestrians must cross a high-speed collector in the dark simply to retrieve mail, access public

transportation, or utilize school buses. Community interviews reveal a widespread fear for families with small children due to reckless driving and vehicles passing one another.

- **Verda NE & Dearborn NE to Rickman:** Speeding and a total lack of bike infrastructure directly conflict with school safety as families' attempt to navigate the area on foot or bike.

2. The School Access Network & Parks (Dearborn Ave, Manbrin Ave, Adam St, and Cherry Ave)

- **Street Classification:** Collector / Neighborhood Street (34–36 ft road width)
- **NTMP Barrier:** The neighborhood has repeatedly requested lower speed limits near parks and school zones (including primary access routes to **Kennedy Elementary School** and **Weddle and Claggett Creek Middle School**). Under current policies, statutory limits remain a barrier to quick implementation, and off-road/roadside parking continues to choke travel lanes.
- **Multi-Modal Impact:** This network serves as the primary gateway for school commute routes. Due to the lack of continuous sidewalks, school children are forced directly into active traffic lanes. On Cherry Ave (from Manbrin to Dietz), roadside parking blocks what little pedestrian infrastructure exists, creating a severe bottleneck that has caused physical property damage and forced pedestrians into the street. At the Manbrin Ave split for Thorman and Dearborn, excessive speeds and dangerous passing maneuvers make active commuting entirely non-viable. The community is explicitly calling for the NTMP to shift from slow-moving engineering investigations to proactive education and lower localized speed limits (**such as a 20 mph zone**) to protect families as the school year approaches.

3. Lockhaven Dr. NE & Chemawa Rd NE (At McLeod Lane NE & Larchwood/Arcade Ave)

- **Street Classification:** Collector (2 lanes, 36 ft road width)
- **NTMP Barrier:** The NTMP relies on shared-lane markings or basic paint on high-volume collectors. The data proves that shared lanes without physical barriers are fundamentally perceived as unsafe and create intense motorist conflicts due to large speed and size differentials.
- **Multi-Modal Impact:** Disconnected bike lanes, motorist failure to yield at the roundabout entry, and poor signal timing have made this stretch a hotspot for near-misses. **GNEKNA has recorded 12 distinct complaints of school children almost being hit by vehicles along this corridor.** Families are actively withholding their children from using these lanes for transportation to school or work because the existing "infrastructure" represents an unacceptable safety gamble. Inadequate signal timing and a lack of prominent markings drastically increase crash risks at these intersections.

4. Keizer Road NE

- **Street Classification:** Local Street (34 ft road width)
- **NTMP Barrier:** Under the NTMP, local streets are supposed to be prime candidates for quick Engineering and **Level 2** interventions. However, chronic, all-hours speeding directly adjacent to the school environment remains unaddressed.

- **Multi-Modal Impact:** The total failure of drivers to slow down near the school environment signals a lack of visual cues or passive traffic calming, creating an ongoing danger for student pedestrians. The neighborhood is forced to formally request basic diagnostic tools such as a formal speed study and the deployment of a radar-activated **"Slow Down"**, **"This Is Your Speed"** flashing feedback sign to act as an interim safety measure where systemic engineering changes have stalled.

Systemic NTMP Gaps & Requested Actions

The data shows that standard traffic management approaches are not keeping pace with Keizer's growth. To ensure that Keizer's commitment to equity and neighborhood livability is met, the Greater Northeast Keizer Neighborhood Association requests that the Multi-Modal Committee recommend the following actions to City Council and Public Works:

- **Ditch "Shared Lanes" and Implement Physical Segregation:** Update NTMP engineering guidelines to transition away from "shared lanes" or painted lines on high-volume collectors like Lockhaven and Chemawa. **Mandate Protected Bike Lanes** with physical barriers to prevent motorist conflicts and protect school children from the near-misses reported this past year.
- **Address Pedestrian Crossings and Infrastructure on Collectors:** Install enhanced, high-visibility crossings and pedestrian-scale lighting on Verda Lane NE to protect transit riders and residents accessing daily necessities in low-light conditions.
- **Streamline Level 1 to Level 2 Transitions for School Access:** Accelerate the process for moving projects from **Level 1** (Education/Enforcement) to **Level 2** (Physical Engineering, such as speed cushions or radar feedback signs) when a neighborhood association submits multi-point, recurring safety data. Fill the sidewalk gaps along the Dearborn-Manbrin-Adam network immediately, lower speed limits near neighborhood parks/school zones, and install high-visibility intersection markings.
- **Prioritize Continuous Networks:** Create an explicit scoring bonus within the NTMP prioritization framework for projects that eliminate "dead-end" bike lanes or sidewalk gaps on identified routes to schools and public parks to prevent disconnected safety systems.
- **Execute Immediate Diagnostics on Keizer Road:** Deploy immediate Level 1 enforcement alongside an automated speed feedback sign on Keizer Road NE to address immediate school safety concerns while a long-term engineering solution is mapped.

The residents of Greater Northeast Keizer and Keizer families deserve a traffic management plan that treats multi-modal safety as an immediate necessity, not an administrative afterthought. Choosing to walk or ride a bicycle should not be an inherent safety gamble. Thank you for your time, your consideration of this data, and your continued partnership in making Keizer's streets safe for everyone.

Sincerely,
Tammy Kunz
GNEKNA- President

On behalf of the Greater NE Keizer Neighborhood Association Residents: *Data Compiled from GNEKNA Community Safety Reports, Member Interviews, & Meeting Minutes (2025–2026)*

Bisset, Melissa

From: Dustin & Alicia Karstetter [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 3, 2026 7:23 PM
To: Bisset, Melissa
Subject: 7-6-26 City Council Meeting - Written Statement Submission
Attachments: Keizer City Council - Written Statement for 7-6-26 - Keizer Turf Fields.pdf

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Melissa,

Hoping your week is going well and that you have a wonderful 4th of July weekend ahead with family and friends.

I'm reaching out to provide the attached written statement for consideration by the councilors in anticipation of next Monday's City Council meeting.

Thank you,
Dustin Karstetter

Keizer City Council
PO Box 21000
Keizer, OR 97307

July 3, 2026

Dear Council Members,

In preparation for the upcoming council meeting on 7/6/26, I would like to share thoughts on two of the administrative actions being presented: adoption of revised user fees for the Keizer Rapids Park artificial turf fields and change in the management and operations of that same KRP complex.

I'd like to start by reiterating my significant trepidation, as a Keizer resident, about any further involvement by the current management of KCFA with respect to the KRP fields and the reservation oversight that KCFA has. Based on recent investigative reporting by the Keizer Times and statements from KCFA's former General Manager, highlighting significant issues related to MVSC's involvement with the field management and attempts to dominate field access while serving as the leading cause of little (if any) funding being received by the city for the turf field sinking fund, there should be serious hesitation about allowing KCFA (effectively MVSC, with the only KCFA board members being recently resigned from MVSC, likely for the appearance of impartiality) in its current form to have any further direct involvement in management of the fields, and definitely with them being allowed to make any recommendations of who they would personally like to see receive that privilege and responsibility moving forward.

Revisiting a written statement I'd submitted back in 2024, and quoted in the Keizer Times article, the decision to award direct field management access to MVSC "will almost certainly be a net economic loss for the city". This assertion was made based on direct knowledge of how that club has and continues to operate, largely for the benefit of themselves and often at the expense of others, and that is exactly what transpired as details of the arrangement have continued to come to light over these past few months.

ADOPTION OF USER FEES AT KRP TURF FIELDS

One of the key reasons for failure of the city to receive expected revenue and proceeds to the sinking fund was in how the user fees were configured from the start, with significant input from MVSC as the primary beneficiary.

For those who may not recall, or weren't on the council back in August 2024, one of the key reasons Ryan Kinnett (former and now current board co-president of MVSC) gave for MVSC's need to receive this contract from the city was due to their club finally being charged for use of their home fields at Whiteaker Middle School by the Salem-Keizer School District back, starting in 2024. Per his testimony, this would likely result in MVSC needing to increase registration fees. They were essentially looking for a subsidy from the City of Keizer, allowing them to avoid doing what practically any other business has to, raising prices over time to keep up with inflation and the general cost of doing business. The predicted outcome of their having the RFP results overturned, being awarded the management contract, and having involvement in the pricing structure of field

access/usage ultimately resulted in a huge deficit for the city (and indirectly, the need to increase costs for Keizer residents, to help pay for their mismanagement).

Being in complete agreement with recent comments from Councilor Juran over concerns about whether the city would ever see any of the funds that KCFA/MVSC has failed to raise thus far, I would like to make a reasonable proposal. Given the financial hole MVSC has contributed to directly, as the only “Keizer-based program” involved with KCFA from the beginning and through their monopolizing a vast majority of the field usage, there are three options that would seem appropriate to consider:

1. Charge MVSC at the local, non-Keizer based rate for the foreseeable future, until the City Council feels they have paid back their portion of the deficit and contributed sufficiently to the sinking fund, for future replacement of the fields.
2. Significantly reduce the maximum number of weekly hours available to any Keizer-based program at the reduced user fee, allowing for only 5 to 10 full-field equivalent hours before the higher local, non-Keizer usage rate is applied.
3. Increase the Keizer-based usage rates as such:
 - Prime-Time Weekdays – From currently proposed \$20/\$15 up to \$60/\$40
 - Non-Prime-Time Weekdays – From currently proposed \$20/\$15 to \$40/\$30

With Alternative B of the staff report addressing modification of the proposed fee schedule before adoption by the City Council, it would seem the right time to pursue decisive action and send a clear message that the economic health of the city matters a great deal. Considering one of these increased usage rate options would also help set a precedent moving forward for any city vendor/contractor, ensuring they are operating in a way that meets their contractual obligations, with financial penalties being applied for failure to do so.

CHANGE IN MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS OF KRP TURF FIELDS

As representatives from MVSC currently make up the entirety of the KCFA leadership, and have failed to meet any key objectives of the current management agreement as laid out clearly in the recent Keizer Times reporting, there should be serious concerns about why KCFA suddenly decided between the 6/8 work session and 6/15 city council meeting that they could no longer establish a golf tournament, help with other fundraising efforts, or otherwise meet obligations of the contract they fought so hard for, going so far as to push out the General Manager earlier this year.

Furthermore, given how adamant MVSC was back in 2024 that the management of these fields needed to be handled locally (highlighted by several MVSC member statements indicating their kids would somehow not have any access to the fields if the contract wasn’t kept in local hands), it should cause further pause as to why they would now readily want to hand over management to a Florida-based organization in the span of less than a week, after almost two years of pushing for more direct oversight at those fields.

And once again referencing 2024, the only other respondent to (and initial winner of) the RFP that summer was another local sports organization, Capital Futbol Club (CFC) in Salem. As opposed to MVSC, they provided the superior RFP submission, highlighting their ability to effectively manage a complex like the one at Keizer Rapids Park. There should be questions about why there was no

recommendation for CFC to take over operations of the field management and reservations, given they already have been vetted by the city through that 2024 RFP process.

Regarding CFC, they already have long-standing, established relationships with many of the local sports organizations in the Salem-Keizer community, and successfully operate a similar (albeit larger) facility that sees constant, year-round usage by both CFC teams and other local sports organizations. Beyond that, CFC would make an ideal business partner for the City of Keizer for this particular role due to the following:

- Provide year-round programming for over 7,500 local area youth
- Train nearly 100 new youth referees annually
- Create opportunities for over 80 youth athletes with various disabilities (TOPSoccer)
- Award between \$200,000-\$250,000 in need-based scholarships
- Operate their own annual summer golf tournament for fundraising purposes
- Host two highly successful and well-attended summer soccer tournaments, bringing in teams from around the northwest (including Washington and Idaho)
- Have a strong presence in the community, with several hundred Keizer youth playing in their recreational and competitive programs, along with strong involvement with Keizer schools:
 - o Oversee the GRASSP program (free soccer to at-risk 4th/5th graders) in 28 of 42 elementary schools in the Salem-Keizer School District (including 4 of 6 in Keizer)

Finally, while MVSC appeared to be embroiled with interpersonal issues through their KCFA involvement and struggling to contribute necessary field usage revenue to the City of Keizer's sinking fund (per the Keizer Times article and information presented to the City Council), CFC continued to display their professionalism, organization, and long-term investment in the local community by completing a \$3-million-dollar capital campaign and constructing a brand new soccer facility to provide year-round indoor soccer opportunities for local athletes (including those from Keizer), in addition to staff offices and classroom/training space, all since 2024.

Connecting the above information about CFC to the staff report on the synthetic turf management change, there are a few things that stand out which would seem to make this local organization a great option to receive strong consideration with the city:

- Background item D: The current KCFA leadership has struggled with providing **equal** opportunities for local leagues to access the facility.
 - o For example, Rebecca Ross (former KCFA GM) informed me that MVSC would not allow field access for a single evening last month when local middle schools needed a facility to host their postseason soccer tournament, not willing to move their practices elsewhere. Instead, CFC offered to cancel their entire competitive programming one night in early June, of which my son is a part of, to allow those teams use of the CFC turf fields for that experience.
- Current Situation item C: In addition to the termination clause, the current KCFA management agreement also includes a 7-day default provision, which would allow for a swifter dissolution to their involvement and the ability to enter into negotiations with another organization, whether SFC or CFC.

- Current Situation item E: With Councilor Cross raising the idea of another RFP to consider options outside of SFC, it would seem within the city council's ability to go back and re-consider the results of the 2024 RFP process, deciding now to enter into an agreement with CFC, just as that body had decided back in 2024 to instruct city staff to negotiate a contract with MVSC/Salem Women's Football.

And while not listed in the specified alternatives of the proposed motion for the synthetic field management change, the recommendation itself included the option of bringing back a proposal for Council consideration to transfer management and operations of these fields at KRP to "another qualified sports-facility management company". And it just so happens that CFC fits that very description, has operated approximately 10 miles from Keizer Rapids Park for decades and very clearly meets the definition of local, and has already been through the RFP process.

In summary, given the importance of these fields, both to the city and broader sports community, I would ask that there be serious consideration given to keeping the management of these fields in local hands and operated by an organization with a highly vested interest in the community (having hundreds of Keizer youth among their membership). Considering CFC for this opportunity would retroactively honor the objective results of the 2024 RFP for KRP field management and also serve as a boon for the local economy, given their established ability to successfully host large-scale events, fundraise both locally and regionally, and ultimately put more TLT dollars back into Keizer through those efforts now and in the future.

Respectfully,

Dustin Karstetter
Keizer Resident

Bisset, Melissa

From: kathryn lincoln [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2026 8:28 AM
To: Bisset, Melissa
Subject: July 6 City council meeting

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Melissa - please forward this on to the city council. Thank you.

To Mayor Clark and Keizer City Council:

I am very concerned about the recent report of an investigation into two City Council members. It appears that the process required by city ordinance is not being followed. Not only would that be a violation of your oath of office, it is ethically untenable. If there are actions that should be addressed, your constituents should know all about it, especially in an election year. Hiding issues and concerns from citizens undermines our trust in our government. It would be helpful if the city attorney would articulate his analysis of the situation in a written manner. It was not clear at the last city council meeting.

I look forward to a more open, honest and transparent conversation about these matters.

Kathy Lincoln
[REDACTED]

Keizer

July 6, 2026

To: Mayor Clark, Council President Starr, Councilors Christopher, Juran, Cross and Parsons

From: Carolyn Homan, Keizer Resident

The recent launch of an inquiry into occurrences at an executive session held by Council in June raises several questions.

Since it was an executive session, I recognize the need for discretion, but it shouldn't allow every detail to be shrouded in secrecy. For one, what's the cost? Outside counsel has been obtained – and this at a time of severe budget constraint for the City. Secondly, it appears that Council's own procedures and policies may not have been followed exactly.

The public at least deserves to know how much taxpayer money this is costing. And with three Councilors constituting the inquiry panel, questions of objectivity can arise. Ms. Christopher had already walked out of the executive session. What were the reasons and do they reflect on the move to launch an inquiry? And if not, how did her vote in favor of an inquiry arise? Were those who are the targets of the inquiry asked or allowed to add other members to the inquiry panel?

These are important details, and there should be a way, executive session aside, for the public to know some semblance of the impetus to launch an official investigation and especially at what cost. In addition, the rush to get it before Council, bypassing the official step to formally add it to an agenda, should be explained.

The details are important any time but when several councilors and the Mayor are running for re-election, they become doubly important. I hope voters can count on as transparent a discussion of the situation as possible. Thank you.