



April 21, 2021

Mayor Sally Russell
Bend City Councilors
Delivery via E-mail

Mayor Russell and Council Members,

The Bend Chamber of Commerce is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Commercial Parklet License Program. The Chamber represents over 1,650 small and medium sized businesses through the region, many of which are located in, or near the Downtown District.

In response to COVID, we supported the Downtown Bend Business Association (DBBA) and downtown businesses for a temporary program for use of sidewalks and curbside parking spaces to allow businesses to remain open. We have been so pleased to see the opportunity this temporary program has created for downtown businesses, and fully support transitioning it to a permanent licensure program.

Not only will the Commercial Parklet Program continue to allow businesses additional capacity, but moreover it will give the City, downtown business owners and community members the ability to revision the area. The program will allow stakeholders the opportunity to redesign the look and feel of the Downtown District and develop cohesive esthetics. We also believe that the Commercial Parklet Program can be a catalyst to look towards other downtown infrastructure modifications, such as implementing pedestrian malls, developing additional public spaces for special events and multi-modal integration to other areas of the City.

The Chamber wholeheartedly supports the proposal before you this evening, and we look forward towards working collaboratively with the City and other stakeholders towards a successful implementation.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katy Brooks".

Katy Brooks
President + CEO
Bend Chamber of Commerce

Creating an environment where businesses, their employees and our community excel together through collaboration, advocacy, resources and leadership to meet Bend's business challenges.