



Eugene City Council Work Session



April 23, 2025

**Shopping Carts,
Metal Theft and
Stolen Scrap Sales**

**Unlawful Transfer on
Vehicular Portion of
Right-of-Way**

**PUBLIC WORKS
EUGENE POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

1

SHOPPING CARTS



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**Large number of
shopping carts are
recovered annually
from public spaces.**

**2024 figures from the
city's Public Spaces Team
show that an estimated**

1900 carts

**were recovered by the
ROW Maintenance and
Parks and Open Space
teams.**

2

Current Impacts

Obstruction of waterways, streets and paths
Environmental pollution and litter
Safety hazards for staff and public



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3



Management of Recovered Carts

Recovered carts and material transported to Roosevelt Yard for processing
Established procedures for safe removal, storage and retrieval of personal property
Staff and equipment intensive

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4

Processing of Carts

**Sorting of empty shopping carts at Roosevelt Yard
Partnership with GlideRite, Inc.
Weekly retrieval and return to participating retailers
Recycling or disposal of remainder (40%)**



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5



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Public Spaces Summary

Significant effort by staff to safely manage carts in public spaces

Good systems to return or recycle carts where feasible

Consideration of park rules update

6

EPD Response

Housing Support Officers (HSOs) treat unauthorized possession of carts as theft and return recovered carts to businesses

As of April 4, HSOs began coordination with major retailers to streamline recovery and victim identification



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7

**THANK
YOU**

Questions?



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8

METAL THEFT



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9

Impacts

Copper wire thefts cause lengthy service disruptions and project delays

Incidents of copper thefts and vandalism pose significant public safety risks

There is a high financial cost to replace stolen copper and repair damaged infrastructure

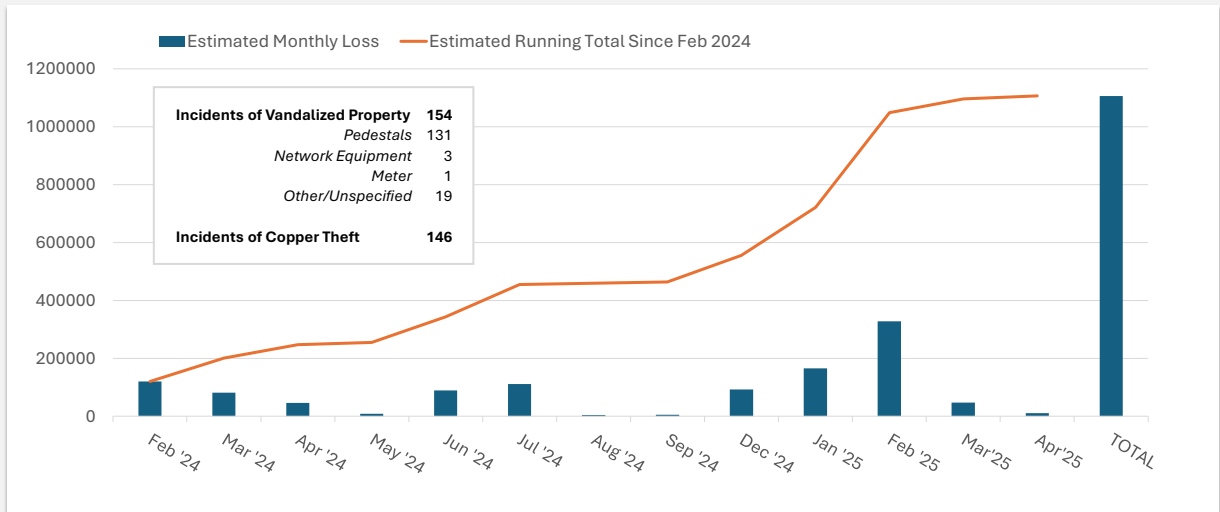


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10



Estimated loss from copper theft and associated vandalism (since Feb '24)



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11

Public Safety

Recently, Lumen utility wires were cut and removed, resulting in the disruption of thousands of lines of communication

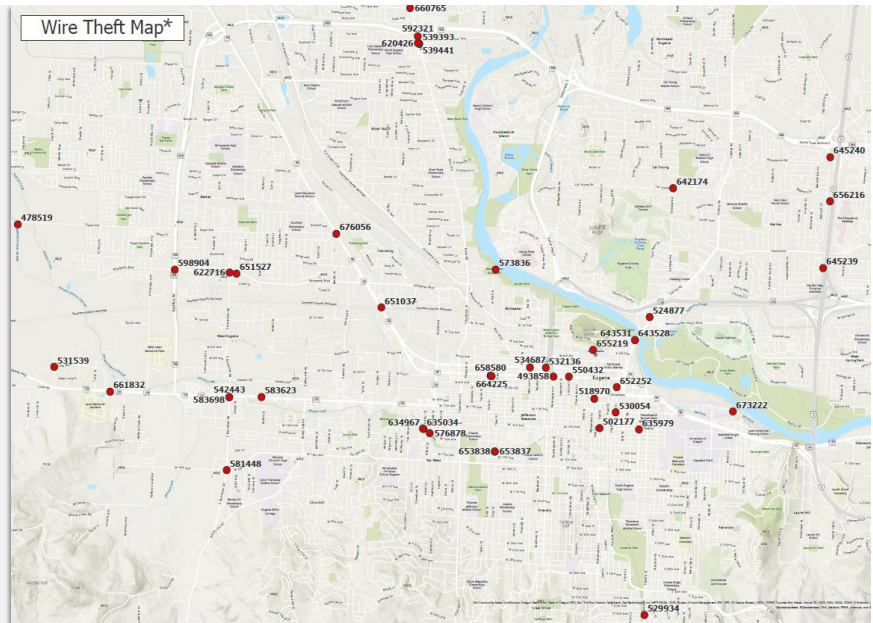


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12

Traffic Signal Wire Theft

Recent data show
44 locations
 across the city have
 been vandalized,
 resulting in hundreds
 of thousands of
 dollars in damages



**Map courtesy of City of Eugene Traffic Engineering*

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13



Scrap Metal Business Regulations

ORS 165.117(2)(c)
 prohibits cash
 payments to individuals.

ORS 165.117(a)
 requires detailed
 records of transactions,
 including seller ID and
 metal description

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14

Barriers to Enforcement

Non-ferrous metal theft is a **crime of opportunity** with cash payment for readily available material

Latency to detection and destruction of evidence (recycling) hinders investigation efforts

Regular contact with recyclers helps ensure compliance



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15



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16

UNLAWFUL TRANSFER ON VEHICULAR PORTION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY



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In 2016, City of Springfield adopted code section 6.112, an offense punishable as a violation and a \$50 fine

To date, no citations have been issued by SPD

In 2019, City of Eugene drafted a similar code section and held a public hearing

17



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18