

# City Manager's Report

## Information and Updates for the Mayor and City Council

April 5, 2024

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

MEETING/EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Council Meeting	April 17	3 p.m. Quarterly Council-Board/Commission 4:30 p.m. Work Session 7 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chambers / Virtual
Council Meeting	May 1	5 p.m. Work Session 7 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chambers / Virtual

[VIEW THE FULL COUNCIL SCHEDULE](#)

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## PUBLIC AGENCY AND COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

### League of Oregon Cities Bulletin

**Read the most recent LOC Bulletin here.** Of note, the LOC advocacy team has produced a comprehensive summary of priority legislation from the recently completed short legislative session, and the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) is launching three different grant programs this spring to help cities reach their renewable energy goals.

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### LOC Infrastructure Needs Survey

The City submitted responses to the LOC Infrastructure Needs Survey, which will help LOC make the case for continued and increased state funding for local infrastructure projects. This year, they



expanded their water and transportation infrastructure survey to include questions about infrastructure to support new housing development. [Read the survey responses from the City of Bend here.](#)

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## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### Bend Development Sentiment Survey

The Economic Development Department finished compiling results from the first Bend Development Sentiment Survey. This survey will be conducted twice annually to monitor development sentiment over time.

In summary, 55 development professionals completed the survey and responses were anonymous. The majority of the responders (56%) feel cautiously optimistic about the Bend market. They believe that the City should support and prioritize housing of all types especially middle housing (cottage clusters, duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, and townhomes) as well as Middle-Income Housing, followed by Healthcare and Childcare/Education. SDC's were identified as the number one obstacle or concern to doing business in Bend, followed by construction costs, permit turnaround times, and interest rates. Less than half of respondents have a great or somewhat positive experience working with the City and a development professional's experience working with the City does have an impact on their overall development sentiment.

Some next steps for sharing the survey results include:


- Presentation & discussion with BEDAB on Monday, April 15
- Presentation to CEDD Management team
- Sharing results via the Business Advocacy Newsletter & Development Community distribution list that the survey was sent out to
- Sharing with other departments (housing, growth management, urban renewal, etc)

[View the fully survey summary here.](#)

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### Firerock Bridge Removal Update

In 2021, the City assessed the Firerock footbridge's condition. The bridge, built in the 1970s, closed to the public in 2015 due to concerns with its structural integrity deficiencies and public safety risks. This summer, the City will begin to:



- Remove the derelict wooden pedestrian bridge over the Deschutes River downstream of the Archie Briggs Road bridge and remove the abandoned waterline between Firerock Road and the west side of the Deschutes River.
- Remove the staircase on the east side of the Deschutes River.
- Restore the work area on the east and west riverbanks with native seeding and plantings.

The City has recently engaged affected neighborhoods to discuss the project. A group of residents from the east side of the river have expressed opposition to removal of the bridge and/or the staircase that provides access to the public land along the river. It's the City's position that the staircase is an unsafe piece of infrastructure that we must remove and rebuilding or maintaining access to the river is not part of the project.

Engineering staff are meeting with a group of neighbors Friday, April 5 to hear their concerns and answer questions. There is a planning commission meeting Monday, April 8 regarding approvals needed for removing the bridge. The City is exploring alternative options for ownership and management of what is now generally referred to as public land.

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## March Social Media and Media Report

For the month of March, the top community topics and themes observed in media and social media by Communications Department staff included:

- MUPTE: Media coverage and conversations about the MUPTE program and the project voted on at Council meetings.
- O.B. Riley/Empire Stop Signs: Coverage of the new stop signs at the O.B. Riley and Empire intersection.
- Warm Springs Tribes and City MOU: Media stories about the agreement between the two governments.

For more information, including media coverage of the City and social media engagement, see the [Monthly Social Media and Media Monitoring Report](#).

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## VIEW PREVIOUS CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS

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### Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

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