

City Manager's Report

Information and Updates for the Mayor and City Council

January 23, 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

MEETING/EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
City Council Work Session	January 28	4-6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers / Virtual
City Council Business Meeting	February 4	6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers / Virtual
City Council Work Session	February 11	4-6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers / Virtual
City Council Business Meeting	February 18	6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers / Virtual
City Council Work Session	February 25	4-6 p.m.	City Hall Council Chambers / Virtual
Advisory Body / Council Summit	February 26	4-6 p.m.	Public Works Campus (Prowell Springs Room, 3 rd Floor)

[VIEW THE FULL COUNCIL SCHEDULE](#)

PUBLIC AGENCY AND COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

League of Oregon Cities Bulletin

Read the most recent LOC Bulletin [here](#). This edition highlights:

- **2025 State of the Cities Report:** LOC has released its 2025 report, offering a detailed snapshot of Oregon cities' fiscal conditions and service demands.
- **Updated Capital Construction Request Process:** The Oregon Legislature has revised its capital construction request procedures. Cities must submit requests by January 30.
- **Spring Conference Participation:** LOC encourages city officials to attend the Local Government Spring Conference, scheduled for April 23–24.
- **Upcoming Webinars:** The Business Oregon Rural Capacity Assistance Program (RCAP) has a free webinar series February–June. Additionally, Sustainable Northwest is hosting the 4th Annual Energy Resilience for Local & Tribal Governments Workshop on January 27.



New Name for Stevens Road Tract: Legacy Village

Hayden Homes has announced a new name for the Stevens Road Tract: Legacy Village. The new name will help to differentiate the project from the adjacent parcel, Stevens Ranch, to help avoid confusion.

Hayden Homes provided the following information:

The name "Legacy Village" is inspired by the vision for the community's long-term impact. Vicki Walker, now retired, served as the longtime Director of Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) and she played a pivotal role with Rep. Kropf and other on legislation to bring this parcel into Bend's Urban Growth Boundary (Oregon HB 3318, 2021). Through that legislation, the proceeds from the sale of the Stevens Road Tract went to support the State's Common School Fund. Director Walker was deeply passionate about ensuring the sale of this land left a legacy, especially in support of education and learning. It was her vision that 20 acres of housing at Stevens Road Tract would be deed-restricted affordable, with a percentage prioritized for local educators. Legacy Village honors Director Walker and other local and state visionaries whose commitment to the legacy of this community will have a lasting impact on Bend, Central Oregon, and the state.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Olney Avenue Project Named 2025 Transportation Project of the Year

The Oregon Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) has recognized the City of Bend's **Olney Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements Project** as the **2025 Transportation Project of the Year**. This award honors innovative projects that successfully address challenging transportation issues.

The Olney Avenue Improvements Project reimagines one of Bend's critical east–west corridors as a safe, comfortable, and connected route for people walking, biking, and rolling. By crossing three major barriers—the Deschutes River, US 97, and a railroad—Olney Avenue serves as a key walking and bicycling route in Bend's Transportation System Plan. This \$15.7 million investment is one of Bend's most comprehensive corridor reconstructions in five years, advancing safety, connectivity, and infrastructure resiliency.

Rebuilding the multimodal, protected intersection at Olney Avenue and Wall Street required creativity and innovative engineering to retrofit the intersection while preserving existing infrastructure. The project team balanced pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicle needs within a constrained right-of-way, all while coordinating extensive utility replacements and a rail crossing. The award was presented at the 34th Annual Bill Kloos Traffic Bowl on November 20.



Congratulations to the City engineers and contractors who made this project possible! For more information, contact Anne Aurand (aurand@bendoregon.gov).

Olney Project Update:

The City of Bend Engineering Department reports that the BNSF Railway staff are scheduled to arrive next week to begin installing the railroad track signals, arms, and related equipment. The cold weather this week has slowed some of the asphalt bike path and sidewalk work near the tracks; however, crews continue to proceed as temperatures allow.

Warmer conditions last week allowed all roadway paving to be completed, including sections originally anticipated for spring! With this milestone reached, the project is on schedule to reopen the corridor to traffic in early February.

Weather permitting, minor bike path and striping work may continue into February, but conditions are expected to be safe to open the corridor to vehicles within the next two weeks.

Planning Commission Members Invited to Work Sessions

The Planning Commission is a volunteer committee that makes recommendations to the City Council on policies and regulations guiding Bend's future development, including making final decisions on certain land use and development applications.

With the Commission gearing up for a busy 2026, Community Development Director Colin Stephens and Planning Manager Renee Brooke are encouraging Commissioners to participate in a series of upcoming work sessions designed to support the City Council's 2025–2027 goals and prepare Commissioners for key policy decisions ahead.

In January, Commissioners received **an update** from Chief Operations Officer Russell Grayson on Council goals and related work sessions, along with a briefing from the City Attorney on the Commission's role under state law and local codes. Later this month, Growth Management staff will provide an overview of the Growth Plan and opportunities for both Commissioners and the public to engage. In the months ahead, staff will share updates on proposed Bend Development Code amendments and other land use–related initiatives, with additional discussions scheduled as directed by the City Council.

Master Reissue Permit Program: Stakeholder Feedback Highlights

On January 7th, the City's Community Development Department held an informal stakeholder discussion on the Master Reissue Permit Program, which is designed to streamline permitting by fully reviewing and approving a building plan at the master level and then reissuing permits for subsequent



sites later. For the reissued permits, the building does not need to be re-reviewed, and there is a focus on site-specific planning and engineering elements (e.g., zoning, grading, drainage).

At the meeting, builders, designers, and developers shared real-world feedback on how the program functions, and staff clarified expectations around its intended use. The program has had rapid growth since being reintroduced in 2023, showing confidence within the development community.

Builders consistently emphasized that the principal benefit of the Master Reissue Program is time savings, not fee reduction. Faster permits allow homes to be delivered sooner, support buyer commitments, and increase predictability for construction schedules. The discussion also focused on the distinction between options and revisions and discussed the potential use of state-approved plans, which function similarly to City master plans.

*See the full details in the **Master Reissue Permit Program meeting notes**.*

December Social Media and Media Report

For the month of December, the top community topics and themes observed in media and social media by the Communications & Engagement Department included:

- Latino Community Association Office Hours: City of Bend partners with the Latino Community Association to hold office hours and provide vital City services and one-on-one consultations for community members requesting support in navigating City processes.
- Parking Code Update: New parking code updates take effect on January 1 that have impacts on the ticketing payment process.
- Road Construction: Updates on the various construction projects happening across the city.

For more information, including media coverage of the City and social media engagement, see the **Monthly Social Media and Media Monitoring Report**.

VIEW PREVIOUS CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc., please contact Hilary McDonald at hmcDonald@bendoregon.gov or 541-678-6596. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.

