



CITY OF BEND

# City Manager's Report

## Information and Updates for the Mayor and City Council

January 30, 2026

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

MEETING/EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
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 <sup>rd</sup> Floor)

[VIEW THE FULL COUNCIL SCHEDULE](#)

### PUBLIC AGENCY AND COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

#### League of Oregon Cities Bulletin

Read the most recent LOC Bulletin [here](#). Highlights include:

- The 2026 legislative session kicks off Monday. Lawmakers will grapple with budget shortfalls, transportation funding challenges, and a wide range of issues affecting cities, including land use, water, public safety and energy.
- LOC is set to cohost a webinar exploring Congressional Community Project Funding.
- Cities are invited to participate in Water Day at the Capitol on February 2.
- LOC's April 23–24 Local Government Spring Conference opens soon.
- LOC has released a new annual review summarizing key findings from its 2025 research and surveys, highlighting trends and insights related to city finances, infrastructure, governance, and revenue.
- University of Oregon is seeking a city partner for the Sustainable City Year Program.



---

## Regional Partners Come Together on Housing and Homelessness

On January 26, the Central Oregon Regional Housing Council (RHC) and Deschutes County's Coordinated Houseless Response Office (CHRO) held a joint work session at Redmond City Hall to explore what is needed to effectively address the region's shared housing and homelessness challenges. The discussion generated helpful insights to inform the next phase of regional planning. Review the [PowerPoint presentation](#) from the meeting.

Attendees of the meeting recommended a May 2024 presentation, *Building a Better Bend: Homelessness is a Housing Problem*, by Dr. Gregg Colburn, Associate Professor in the Runstad Department of Real Estate in the College of Built Environments at the University of Washington. See [Dr. Colburn's presentation on YouTube](#).

The Central Oregon Regional Housing Council is a regional body convened by the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) to support coordination among cities, counties, tribes, and community partners. It advances shared learning, priorities, and advocacy and provides unified feedback to state agencies.

---

## DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### Bend Municipal Airport News

Highlights from the [February 2026 Airport Newsletter](#) include:

- The Airfield Lighting Project enters Phase 2 of 5, with the full project expected to continue through May 2026. This project will enhance safety and operational efficiency for all users at Bend Municipal Airport.
- The Taxilane Pavement Rehabilitation Project is scheduled to begin on March 30, 2026. The purpose of this project is to address pavement failures, surface dips, and drainage issues. Work will be completed in three phases, weather permitting, over an estimated three-month period.

---

### Microtransit Solutions: Lessons from Sioux Falls

On January 23, Mobility Programs Manager Derek Hofbauer, along with other staff, attended a Via Transportation webinar titled *Rethinking Transit in America's Fastest-Growing Cities: Lessons from Sioux Falls*.



Councilors are invited to view the [webinar](#), which includes insights from the Mayor of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Faced with population growth, low fixed-route bus ridership, and high operating costs, the City reevaluated its approach and transitioned from a traditional fixed-route bus network to one that added an on-demand microtransit service model.

By adopting microtransit in addition to modernizing existing routes, Sioux Falls was able to increase ridership, reduce cost per trip, improve travel times, and significantly expand geographic coverage from 60 percent to 100 percent of the city. The microtransit system uses smaller vehicles, such as vans, allowing service to reach the entire city.

---

## **Neighborhood Street Safety Program Update**

The Neighborhood Street Safety Program (NSSP) was initiated in 2020 as part of the City's ongoing effort to improve safety, livability, and comfort on neighborhood streets. The program focuses on low-cost, high-impact safety improvements intended to reduce vehicle speeds, improve visibility, and support walking, biking, and rolling, while maintaining neighborhood access and emergency response needs.

Since its launch, the City has completed 28 Neighborhood Street Safety Program (NSSP) projects, with an additional 16 projects scheduled for completion by the end of 2028. These projects represent incremental, citywide investments focused on improving safety at the neighborhood scale.

### **Program Status**

- Program criteria and prioritization methods have been refined using a combination of data, including crash history, vehicle speeds, traffic volumes, along with community-identified concerns.
- Projects continue to advance through concept development, preliminary design, and implementation, with an emphasis on quick-build and scalable treatments.
- Ongoing coordination is occurring with Operations, Police, Fire, and utility partners to ensure proposed designs are operationally feasible, maintainable, and compatible with emergency access requirements.
- Community input gathered from neighborhood associations, service requests, and prior outreach efforts continues to shape project selection and design.

### **Typical NSSP Improvements**

Neighborhood Street Safety Program projects may include traffic calming and safety measures such as:

- Speed management treatments (e.g., speed humps, curb extensions, chicanes)
- Intersection visibility and pedestrian crossing enhancements
- Signing, striping, and pavement markings
- Minor geometric adjustments to reinforce lower operating speeds



**More Information:** If you are interested in seeing what has been done and what is expected to be built in the next three years, see: [Neighborhood Street Safety Program - City of Bend](#)

---

## DEIA Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting Highlights

On January 23, the City of Bend's internal DEIA Advisory Committee held its quarterly meeting. Ben Duncan of Kearns & West presented on the Equity Structure Analysis work currently underway for the City. The group also received an update on several current and upcoming projects including an equity review of three chapters of the City's Hiring Guide, two future Lunch & Learn trainings for staff, and the City's Employee Resource Group (ERG) program. The group will receive an update on the AIM Equity Tool at its next meeting.

---

## [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](mailto:hmcDonald@bendoregon.gov) or 541-678-6596. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.