



CITY OF BEND

City Manager's Report

Information and Updates for the Mayor and City Council

January 17, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

MEETING/EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Council Meeting	January 22	3 p.m. Work Session 7 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chambers / Virtual
Council Goal Setting Retreat	February 3-4	8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. February 3 11:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. February 4	OSU-Cascades
Council Meeting	February 5	5 p.m. Work Session 7 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chambers / Virtual

[VIEW THE FULL COUNCIL SCHEDULE](#)

PUBLIC AGENCY AND COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

League of Oregon Cities Bulletin

Read the most recent LOC Bulletin [here](#). Of note,

- **Registration now open** for the 2025 Oregon Latinos in Local Government Winter Conference.

Milken Institute's Annual Report: 2025 Best-Performing Cities

The Milken Institute released the annual report **2025 Best-Performing Cities: Mapping Economic Growth across the US**. The Bend-Redmond metropolitan statistical area (MSA) ranked in the Top 5 of Small Cities.



The Best-Performing Cities (BPC) ranking offers a simple but comprehensive metric for businesses, policymakers, and government officials to craft targeted strategies for fostering sustainable growth in the metros that drive America's economy. The BPC index utilizes 13 key measures that fall into three categories: labor market conditions, high-tech growth, and access to economic opportunities.

1. **Labor market conditions** include short- and medium-term indicators of trends in employment and wages.
2. **High-tech industry growth** captures the presence and growth of key industries with a high concentration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (i.e., STEM) workers.
3. **Access to economic opportunities** reflects cities' ability to remain attractive to residents by providing access to services and building inclusive and sustainable social structures.

City Day Meeting with Governor Kotek

The League of Oregon Cities confirmed a meeting with Governor Kotek is scheduled following her opening remarks at City Day on January 28th. Mayor Melanie Kebler will be in attendance for this meeting and will share LOC's legislative priority regarding **Lodging Tax Flexibility** with the Governor.

Other attendees and the topics they will share include:

- Gresham Mayor Travis Stovall - **Community Infrastructure and Housing Development Funding**
- City of Fossil Mayor Carol MacInnes - **Transportation Package**
- North Bend Mayor Jessica Engelke – **HB 3115**, (ORS 195.530 Johnson v. Grants Pass)

Mirror Pond Fish Passage Update

Kris Knight, Executive Director of Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, provided the following update regarding the Mirror Pond Fish Passage:

I am happy to share that we have been successful in raising funding to complete the engineering design for fish passage at Mirror Pond, more specifically the nature-like fishway that the advisory committee recommended as a preferred alternative. This funding for engineering design was secured just at the end of the year, in December of 2024. The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC) received a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and I've been working closely with Greg Apke (cc'd here) at ODFW, who has been a huge support and helped secure grant funding for the fish passage design from ODFW. We also have a small amount of funding remaining from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that wasn't used during the feasibility study. The UDWC will be managing the funding for the



project and will oversee the design effort and will hire an engineering consultant to lead the design work. I anticipate this effort will start sometime in the first half of 2025 and be completed sometime in 2026. As a note, Matt Chancellor has moved on to a new position at PacifiCorp and Alisa Dunlap has replaced Matt as the Regional Business Manager for PacifiCorp and will be the contact for the project at PacifiCorp. I'm looking forward to moving this project into the next phase of design.

I will be providing this same update next week to the Bend Park and Recreation District Board so there is a chance you may hear about this next design phase in the media or elsewhere.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Wildfire Preparedness FAQ

Please reference this **Wildfire Preparedness FAQ** document as you receive questions from the community in regard to local preparations for possible wildfire emergencies. This document reflects the knowledge of many departments and subject matter experts – so thank you to everyone who contributed. Should you receive any media inquiries, please direct them to Makayla Oliver and René Mitchell. Our communications department will also be launching a social media and web strategy campaign to communicate additional key messages and considerations related to wildfire preparedness throughout the community.

[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 Michelle Driggs at mdriggs@bendoregon.gov or 541-678-6596. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.