



CITY OF BEND

May 21, 2025

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Mike Riley
Steve Platt

CITY MANAGER

Eric King

Josh Burgess

Executive Director

Central Oregon Civic Action Project c/o Healthy Democracy
P.O. Box 18104, Portland, OR 97218

Dear Mr. Burgess and Deschutes Civic Assembly:

On behalf of the Bend City Council, I am writing to thank you for convening the Deschutes Civic Assembly on Youth Homelessness and commend you for the groundbreaking introduction to the civic assembly model. The assembly was an innovative engagement opportunity that engaged culturally and demographically diverse residents in identifying solutions and creating a roadmap for change. It provided an example of both high-impact public participation and community building.

The City of Bend is committed to supporting the assembly's recommendations that align with the 2025-2027 Council Goals as follows:

Deschutes Civic Assembly Recommendation 5: Childcare support for families with young children to help break the cycle of poverty.

The City has previously supported childcare initiatives with funding through grants and requests for proposals (RFPs). The City's support continues through advocacy in the City's 2025 State legislative priorities, existing development incentives for childcare through system development charges (SDC) exemptions, a reduced transportation fee rate, and through the City Council's Economic Prosperity goal:

2025 – 2027 City Council Goal: Economic Prosperity

Strategy: Lead an effort to strengthen economic prosperity by enhancing strategic partnerships

- *Action: Identify and contract with partners that offer specialized business and employment services, including childcare aligned to the economic development plan.*

Deschutes Civic Assembly Recommendation 8: Expand Public Transit in Deschutes County

The City supports the local transit agency, Cascades East Transit (CET), through advocacy in the City's 2025 State legislative priorities and through the planned establishment of two mobility hubs as part of the City Council's Transportation & Infrastructure goal.

2025-2027 City Council Goal: Transportation & Infrastructure

Strategy: Improve and deliver the City's transportation projects and plans and prioritize future investments

- *Action: Work proactively with Cascades East Transit to increase transit service, secure sustainable transit funding and establish two mobility hubs.*

Deschutes Civic Assembly Recommendation 12: Establish Future Civic Assemblies Focused on Housing Affordability

The City Council supports innovative and inclusive engagement and partnerships and intends to cultivate partnerships to engage youth and new voices as part of the City Council's Accessible & Effective Government goal. The City Council is open to exploring future engagement with Central Oregon Civic Action Project in support of projects such as the City's growth plan.

2025-2027 City Council Goal: Accessible and Effective Government

Strategy: Engage community members, prioritizing outreach to new voices, to ensure continuous and meaningful community participation in decision-making processes.

- *Action: Cultivate community partnerships to engage youth and other new voices, and implement stakeholder specific engagement, through events and creative initiatives.*

Deschutes Civic Assembly Recommendation 20: Reform Local Housing Policies to Prioritize Local Residents and Sustainable Growth

This recommendation aligns with our adopted 2025-2027 City Council Housing goal.

2025-2027 Council Goal: Housing

Strategy: Target efforts for housing production based on community needs and directed by the State

- *Action: Create a Housing Production Strategies committee to develop policies, incentives and other funding tools to increase the supply of affordable and missing middle housing in alignment with the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis*
- *Action: Collect data on the current housing and rental market to find gaps and key areas to improve housing production in alignment with state and regional plans.*
- *Action: Develop outreach programs and public/private partnerships to promote the uptake of policy changes towards increasing the supply of missing middle-income housing and small infill development.*

Strategy: Target efforts for houselessness based on community needs

- Action: Advocate for a reliable, ongoing funding program for shelters (for capital and operations) and supportive services.
- Action: Develop additional safe parking sites.
- Action: Set goals and metrics for reducing homelessness that meet the needs in Bend while aligning with state and regional plans and funding sources.

Strategy: Accelerate complete neighborhoods

- Action: Adopt elements of a 20-year plan for housing and jobs (Bend's growth plan), emphasizing policies that create walkable and complete neighborhoods and transition Bend to form based development codes.
- Action: Adopt development code and entitlement process improvements that remove barriers and speed up missing middle-income, affordable housing and infill development.
- Action: Promote more affordable home ownership and rental opportunities that recognize the diversity of housing types and sizes needed to support a growing and changing community.

Deschutes Civic Assembly Recommendation 21: Partner with Organizations Like J Bar J to Educate the Public on Youth Homelessness and Prevention

The City of Bend is an active participant in the Deschutes County and Cities of La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters via the Coordinated Homeless Response Office (CHRO), with a City Councilor, the Mayor Pro Tem, serving as Board Co-chair. Mayor Pro Tem Megan Perkins will propose this recommendation for discussion and potential funding at an upcoming CHRO Board meeting. Additionally, the City's Strategic Initiatives Manager, Mickie Derting, will work with COCAP and J Bar J to advance this effort.

Progress on the City Council's 2025-2027 goals will be tracked publicly via the **City's Data Dashboard** and reported quarterly to the City Council from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2027.

We appreciate Central Oregon Civic Action Project's leadership on a critical community issue. Thank you for modeling and introducing Deschutes County to an exciting model for innovative and inclusive engagement.

Sincerely,



Melanie Kebler
Mayor, City of Bend

Language Assistance Services & Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities



You can obtain this information in alternate formats such as Braille, electronic format, etc. Free language assistance services are also available. Please contact Mickie Derting, Strategic Initiatives Manager at mderting@bendoregon.gov. Relay Users Dial 7-1-1.



Servicios de asistencia lingüística e información sobre alojamiento para personas con discapacidad

Puede obtener esta información en formatos alternativos como Braille, formato electrónico, etc. También disponemos de servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Póngase en contacto con Mickie Derting, Gerente de Iniciativas Estratégica en mderting@bendoregon.gov. Los usuarios del servicio de retransmisión deben marcar el 7-1-1.