



CITY OF BEND

November 18, 2025

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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:

I'm writing to share an update on the City's progress related to the recommendations from the Deschutes Civic Assembly on Youth Homelessness that align with the 2025-2027 City Council Goals.

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

**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.*

Updates:

- The City of Bend continues to do its part to address the key underlying challenge of the costs of providing accessible, affordable, quality childcare in Bend. The City waives transportation System Development Charges (SDCs) for all childcare projects and offers a reduced transportation fee rate for childcare providers.
- In June 2025, the City hired its first Economic Development Officer to lead the City's Economic Development team. The Economic Development team continues to work with local businesses and partners statewide to tackle the labor and financial constraints that continue to impact childcare and families in our community.

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

### **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.*

Updates:

- The City advocated for the passage of the statewide transportation funding bill during the 2025 regular and special legislative sessions. House Bill 3991 raises the state's payroll tax by 0.1% for the next two years to support public transportation.
- The City is currently developing a mobility hub at Troy Field, with installation planned for Summer 2026. The City has also worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), through the Carbon Reduction Grant Program, to consider the development of two additional mobility hubs, one near Juniper Park and another near the intersection of Brosterhouse Road and SE Alstrup Road. The City has encouraged Cascades East Transit (CET) to partner with ODOT to install an additional mobility hub on the north side of the City, near Lowe's.
- The City implemented a new, electric Bike-share program, through a partnership with Veo, a nationally recognized shared mobility company. Their fleet of 300 modern e-bikes is available across the City. E-bikes help minimize single-occupancy vehicle use and offer a low-cost way to travel—while supporting Bend's climate goals and assisting with first and last-mile connectivity.

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

### **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.*

Update:

- The City remains interested in exploring future engagement with Central Oregon Civic Action Project, however, the cost to conduct a civic assembly has been a barrier. We are excited to learn that COIC is considering the creation of a Civic Assembly Hub to support deliberative processes in Central Oregon.

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

### 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: Permit 3,942 total housing units by the end of the biennium.*

#### Updates:

- The housing production strategies work is underway; in summer 2025, the City Council established the temporary Housing Options Made for Everyone (HOME) Committee. The HOME Committee meets regularly, is open to the public, and is tasked with reviewing and prioritizing tools the City may use to spur further housing development in Bend. The HOME Committee will make initial recommendations to the City Council in December 2025. Their final recommendations are expected by late Summer 2026.
- Permitting 3,942 housing units by the end of 2025-2027 biennium is an ambitious and audacious goal. To date, the City has produced 1,370 housing units in 2025. Housing unit production is tracked and reported online on the **City's Housing Production Dashboard**.
- The City provided NeighborImpact with \$1,000 to host an Affordable Homeownership Collaborative Fair, featuring Habitat for Humanity, Rooted Homes, Thistle & Nest, and First Story, during Welcoming Week in July 2025.

#### Strategy: Target efforts for homelessness 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.

#### Updates:

- The City advocated for the passage of the statewide shelter funding bill during the 2025 regular legislative session and will continue to advocate for shelter funding in future state legislative sessions.
- A total of 13 additional safe parking spaces have been developed since July 1, 2025. Safe parking sites have been completed or are in development at the following sites: Franklin Ave, South Highway 97, Public Safety Campus and Westside Church. Shelter & Safe Parking data is shared online on the **City's Shelter & Safe Parking Dashboard**.
- The results from the next region-wide Point-In-Time (PIT) count will be released in Spring 2026. The City currently has 577 shelter beds, exceeding our target of 525. Importantly, in 2025, there were 205 transitions from City-supported shelters into housing.

## 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.

### Updates:

- The City and County held a joint meeting in September 2025 and received a presentation on a sequential review process for the City's Growth Plan. The City Council will consider a resolution formally authorizing this process at their November 19, 2025 meeting. This resolution is an important step to advance the City's growth plan work. In early 2026, the City Council will be asked to approve a contract with a consultant team to assist staff with the multi-year growth plan project.
- The City's internal housing policy group continuously reviews administrative process improvements to review and remove barriers.
- In July 2025, the City Council approved a Housing Code package that included additional accessory dwelling unit (ADU) allowances, standards for row homes, missing middle land divisions, and other improvements.
- On November 5<sup>th</sup>, The City held a public hearing and first reading of an ordinance amending the Bend Development Code to update various standards and procedures. The proposed changes reflect the City's culture of continuous improvement and clarify, modernize, and improve the consistency of the City's Development Code.

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

Sincerely,



Eric King  
City Manager, City of Bend

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