



Wednesday, April 30, 2025

News & Notes



Policy Conference a success.

WEA's 2025 Policy Conference, held on April 17 at Hidden Creek Community Center, was a great success by all accounts. We heard from elected officials, expert panelists and regional economists about challenges and opportunities we face as a region.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, panelists and attendees. Stay tuned in the coming weeks as we operationalize what we learned into a tangible action plan.



Mayor Beach Pace, City of Hillsboro, opens the Conference with welcome remarks highlighting opportunities and challenges for her city.



Matt Craigie and Mike Wilkerson of EConorthwest set the stage with a regional forecast highlighting compelling data and a call for action.



Metro Councilor and WEA Board Member Juan Carlos Gonzalez engages with panelists.



Mackenzie's Gabriela Frask makes a point while Jerry Johnson (left), Johnson Economics & Keith Leavitt (right), Confluence Strategies listen in.

Tigard Council President and WEA Board Member, Maureen Wolf, enjoys the conference conversation.

Rep. Daniel Nguyen sits for an interview with Espousal Strategies CEO Johnell Bell.

News and Notes

TriMet service on the chopping block in new transportation package

Public transit connects people to jobs, schools, healthcare, and more. However, the 2025 Oregon transportation funding proposal doesn't include enough support to sustain current service levels at TriMet meaning tens of thousands of Oregonians could lose the transportation they rely on.



Inflation has driven the cost of providing transit up by over 50% in the past five years, and without a phased 0.4% increase in the payroll tax that funds public transit, agencies like TriMet will be forced to cut service drastically, including up to 34 bus lines by 2027, with more cuts to follow in 2029 and 2031. In total, 51 of TriMet's current fleet of 78 bus lines would need to be eliminated by July 2031.

Public transit reduces traffic congestion, supports local economies (every \$1 invested generates \$5 in return*), creates thousands of jobs, and lowers carbon emissions by taking cars off the road. Losing transit access would hurt our communities, our environment, and our economy. **Click [HERE](#)** if you'd like to learn more.



New Brands and Big Changes Coming to Washington Square Mall

Washington Square Mall continues to evolve as a premier retail destination with the addition of two new global brands. Mejuri, a minimalist fine jeweler known for its responsibly sourced designs, will open its first Oregon store on April 18. Following closely behind, international fashion retailer Mango is set to debut its

Pacific Northwest flagship location on June 6, marking its second entry into the Oregon market after launching at Pioneer Place in early April.

Washington Square isn't just adding new names, it's also investing in long-standing favorites. Champs Sports is temporarily closed through July 1 for renovations, while Foot Locker is expanding and redesigning its space. These updates reflect Washington Square's ongoing commitment to elevating their customer's shopping experience. With eight new businesses already launched in 2024 and plans underway to transform the former Sears site into a Dick's House of Sport, plus future hotel and residential development, the center is reinforcing its role as a retail and lifestyle hub for Tigard and the entire Portland Metro region.

Click [Here](#) to learn more.

Clean Water Services looking for Applicants for New Audit Committee



Clean Water Services (CWS) is inviting community members to apply for its newly formed Audit Committee, which will play a critical role in maintaining transparency and financial integrity. The committee will review accounting policies and practices related to CWS's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), serving as a liaison between the CWS Board of Directors, external auditors, and CWS leadership. The Audit Committee will consist of four Board-appointed members, each serving a three-year term, with staggered initial appointments to ensure continuity. The committee is expected to meet at least twice annually, with its inaugural meeting planned for summer 2025.

If you're interested in fiscal oversight and public service, apply by May 16, 2025. Send your completed application to Kathy Leader at LeaderK@CleanWaterServices.org or mail it to 2550 Hillsboro Hwy, Hillsboro, OR 97123. Selected members will be announced in mid-June.

Upcoming WEA Events

On June 12, we continue WEA tradition of meeting with the Westside Mayors! Join us for an evening reception...

At this year's Mayors Forum, WEA is updating our programming with an evening reception being hosted before and after the presentation to give attendees a greater opportunity to meet, greet and network with the Mayors and one another. The new interview format will allow for greater focus on some of the key issues facing the region including Economic Development, Land Capacity, Housing Production and Affordability and more.

Stay tuned for more information and the launch of ticket sales.

Reach out to [Dani](#) about sponsorship opportunities.

SAVE THE DATE

MAYORS FORUM

Thursday, June 12, 2025

5:00 – 7:30 pm



Thanks to our
Presenting Sponsor



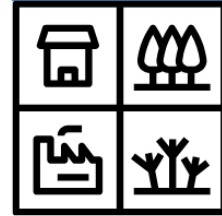
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Upcoming Policy Committees & Other Events



LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING

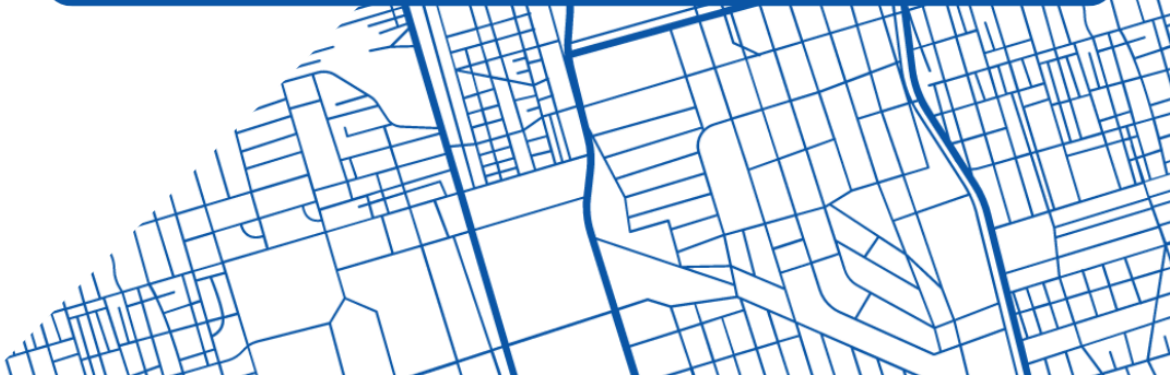
The Basalt Creek Project and the Timeline of Economic Development within the UGB

with Representatives of the Cities of Tualatin and Wilsonville

Thursday, May 1, 2025 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

*In Person attendance encouraged
3J Consulting and via Zoom*

**WEA Committees are open to
Members only.**





GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING



Regional Partner Updates -

Ft. Representatives of Beaverton, Clackamas County, and
Washington County

Thursday, May 8, 2025 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

*In Person attendance encouraged
TVF&R in Tigard and via Zoom*

**WEA Committees are open to
Members only.**



Westside Economic Alliance | [Contact Us](#) | www.WestsideAlliance.org

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