



Tuesday, September 30, 2025

## Get engaged. Be heard.

Last week I was honored to be recognized as the Greater Portland Champion by our regional partner, Greater Portland, Inc. Often times, the work we do to create a better and more vibrant economy is behind the scenes. And so, I am grateful to have received this award.



With the award proudly on my shelf, the work continues to ensure we are representing the interests of our member. Indeed, we work hard here at WEA to get current and relevant information to our membership on a regular basis. We also provide testimony on issues that we believe will create a better business environment and stronger economy.

However, we also want to ensure we are providing members direct access to policymakers. We do this through our committees, forums, annual legislative reception and other events. Another piece of this advocacy puzzle is members can meeting directly with Westside lawmakers and, indeed, there is just such an opportunity for that later this week.

WEA members are encouraged to attend an upcoming town hall hosted by **Sen. Janeen Sollman, Sen. Lisa Reynolds, Rep. Mari Watanabe, and Rep. Nathan Sosa** at **Portland Community College (PCC) Rock Creek, Building 7 Room 110**, on **Thursday, October 2**, from **5:30pm to 7:00pm**.

We encourage you to attend, hear their priorities and ask them about yours. Your participation helps ensure the business community's voice is part of the conversation on policy and legislative priorities. You can register for the event [here](#).

Want to find more ways to get engaged? Reach out to [Danielle@WestsideAlliance.org](mailto:Danielle@WestsideAlliance.org) to find out more about becoming a member and get connected to our member-only committees.

Thank you for all you do to support our region and to ensure we have a vibrant, accessible economy.

*Elizabeth*

## Oregon State Legislature passes Transportation Funding Bill in Special Session

On Monday, September 29, 2025, the Oregon Senate passed House Bill 3991, along with a companion bill, House Bill 3992, which adjusts the budget to reflect the new transportation funding legislation. Both bills cleared on party-line votes of 18–11, with one Republican senator absent.



The legislation provides a temporary, scaled-down funding package that is about one-third the size of a broader transportation measure that failed during the regular session in June. Governor Tina Kotek called the special session after the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) warned of hundreds of layoffs and deep service cuts would occur without the new funding. Passage of HB 3991 prevents those layoffs, at least in the short term, while longer-term transportation funding discussions are expected to continue.

WEA's Transportation Revenue Workshop spent much of 2024 and the long session of 2025 tracking the progress of this funding bill. While more work needs to be done to solidify transportation funding in our state, our workshop members are glad to see that the massive layoffs are being avoided and that the bill kept its commitment to the 50/30/20 funding split between the state, counties, and cities respectively. You can read about our workshop's recommendations [here](#) on the WEA website.

Click [Here](#) to learn more about the bill that passed.

## Westside News and Notes

### Jupiter Power hosting Community Event to Introduce Blackberry Grove Team and Answer Resident Questions

Jupiter Power is planning to develop and operate the Blackberry Grove Energy Storage Facility (Blackberry Grove) in Washington County, Oregon. The project is a 100-megawatt utility-scale battery storage system that will connect to the existing West Union substation on NW West Union Road. Its purpose is to strengthen the reliability, stability, and resilience of the regional power grid.



Jupiter Power will be hosting its first community event on **Tuesday, October 7**, from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** at the **Portland Community College Rock Creek Event Center, located at 17705 NW Springfield Rd, Building #9, Portland, OR 97229**. This open-house style event is an opportunity for residents to meet the Blackberry Grove project team, ask questions, and learn more about the proposed battery energy storage system. Attendees are welcome to come and go at any time during the event.

Click [here](#) to learn more.

### Westside residents invited to share thoughts on TriMet service cuts

**TriMet needs your help!** After years of rising costs and less money coming in from fares, TriMet is reducing its spending to close a \$300 million annual budget gap. While the agency

has started making administrative cuts, service cuts will also be necessary.



TriMet will make initial rounds of service cuts on Nov. 30, 2025, and again on March 1, 2026. But larger cuts will be needed to reduce service by at least 10%.

As TriMet prepares to make these cuts, the agency is asking community members to weigh in. You can help shape the future of transit service. TriMet has launched an online

**Service Priorities Survey**, open through Oct. 31. The survey is open to everyone, including those who don't ride TriMet regularly.

TriMet will also hold open houses in October, including:

- 5-7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the Hillsboro Shute Park Library
- 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Tualatin Public Library

These open houses are a chance for you to speak directly with TriMet staff, ask questions and share your thoughts. Information will be available in English and Spanish.

Several more open houses will be held virtually from Oct. 2-9, via Zoom. Visit [trimet.org/servicecuts](https://trimet.org/servicecuts) for more information.

## **Wilsonville Seeks Community Input on RV Parking, Abandoned Vehicle Policies**

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners seeks committed volunteers to advise them on critical community issues.

Various boards, committees and commissions advise the Board of County Commissioners on matters of interest to people who live and work in Washington County. Commission members are volunteers appointed by the Board to provide input on service priorities, how to distribute available resources, and strategies to improve collaboration within the wider community. Serving on a board or commission allows county residents to participate in decisions that affect them and learn more about how local government works as they study issues and make recommendations on various policy decisions.



Please visit the [Boards and Commissions webpage](#) for detailed information about these and other boards and commissions, including member descriptions, terms of service, estimated time commitment, meeting schedules and staff contacts.

## **Upcoming WEA Policy Committees**



## TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING



### Regional Transportation Update with Metro Councilor Juan Carlos González And Other WEA Updates

Thursday, October 2, 2025 | 7:30 - 9:00 am

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

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



**Councilor González**  
Metro District 4

## State of the Westside | The State of Business in Oregon

Join us on Thursday, November 20 for the 2025 State of the Westside where we will talk with expert panelists about the state of business in Oregon, explore data findings and discuss what we can do to ensure we are recruiting and retaining business.

**Stay Tuned for Registration and Speaker Details**

# SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER  
20

## 2025 STATE OF THE WESTSIDE

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