



Wednesday, January 21, 2026

## News & Notes

### What lies ahead in 2026?

As we settle into the new year, the work we are doing remains the same.

We continue to see mixed indicators about our economy. Oregon's unemployment rate is outpacing the rest of the country's, we shed 25,000 jobs from our economy over the last year and our state budget is facing a significant hole due mainly to the clawing back of critical federal investments.



Anytime we have a short legislative session, our expectations should be tempered. While there are big issues our state needs to tackle - there is only so much that can get accomplished in 35 days. But our eyes will be on Salem as we track legislation intended to provide some economic opportunities for our state. We will also be closely watching the Governor's Prosperity Council as well as her newly formed Data Center Advisory Committee. Regionally, our eyes are on Metro and their Future Vision convening as well as their new work on economic development.

Economic development is the new buzz word for 2026 with jurisdictions large and small leaning in on their own programs and strategies. We'll be working hard to track all of these efforts while simultaneously sending the message that these efforts should be thoughtfully coordinated - we don't need 15 plans for our region or state. We need unifying principles with an all-hands-on-deck implementation effort. [Agreed upon goals and outcomes will help us measure success and better understand what programs are worth scaling and which need to be left behind.](#)

This is no time for re-inventing the wheel or experimenting with "uniquely Oregon" approaches. I hope our partners are looking to emulate successful programs and right-size those to meet our economic and workforce needs.

Next week we will have a chance to sit down with members of our Westside caucus to talk about the upcoming session, to ask what they think is the key to a successful 2026 for our state and to unpack some of the news about infrastructure and transportation investments and next steps for our economy. I hope you can join us at our upcoming Legislative Reception on January 27 - we'll have lots to talk about.

Winter break is over. It's time to get back to work.

*Elizabeth*

**Coming Up in 2026**



**Westside Economic Alliance's  
Legislative Reception  
Presented by Legacy Health**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2025 | 5 pm - 7:30 pm**

**Legacy Meridian Park Medical Center  
Health Education Center**

**Presented by**



Meet the Westside's legislative caucus. Our Executive Director, Elizabeth Mazzara Myers, will moderate a conversation with state legislators discussing key policy issues that matter to you and our region. Is there something you want to be sure we ask? [Click here](#) to drop us a line.

Doors at 5pm  
Program at 6pm

## Register for the Legislative Reception

We have launched a new event registration system.  
If you have any problems with your registration, please reach out to [Dani](#).



Join policy makers, elected officials and leaders from business, labor, and non-profits for an in-depth, one-day exploration of energy policy shaping our region's future. This immersive conference offers insights, collaboration and thoughtful conversation to power Oregon's next chapter.

Reach out to [Dani](#) about Policy Conference sponsorships.

## Get engaged.

**Significant changes to TriMet service are coming in August.**



To make transit more efficient and save money, TriMet has announced service proposals that will make substantial changes to transit service across the tri-county area, including bus lines that serve Washington County.

You have the opportunity to weigh in and help shape TriMet's service plan before it is finalized. Learn more about these service proposals, open house dates and fill out a survey at [trimet.org/servicecuts](https://trimet.org/servicecuts).

TriMet will hold open houses online and at locations throughout the tri-county area, the remaining dates include the following:

- Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Beaverton City Library, Room A (in English and Spanish)
- Thursday, Jan. 22, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the Tualatin Public Library, Community Room (in English and Spanish)

You don't have to register in advance. Just drop by during an event that is convenient for you. TriMet is reducing service, among other cost-saving measures, due to rising costs and less money coming in. While TriMet has already reduced its annual expenses by about \$150 million through internal cuts and pausing plans to increase bus service, the transit agency needs to reduce service in 2026 and 2027 to close a projected budget gap and stabilize its finances.

Making these changes now will allow TriMet to provide reliable, efficient transit service for many years to come.

## Metro opens application for Regional Oversight Committee



Metro has [opened applications](#) for their Supportive Housing Services Regional Policy and Oversight Committee (SHS RPOC).

The Regional Policy and Oversight Committee will serve as the regional governance committee for the Supportive Housing Services Program and is charged with regional oversight and accountability responsibilities for the SHS program while guiding regional coordination and approving regional investments. Duties will include reviewing annual reports for alignment with local implementation plans, monitoring financial aspects of the program, reviewing and recommending investments to regionalize the homeless system of care.

**This application closes on Monday, February 9th at 11:59pm.**

Please e-mail [housingservices@oregonmetro.gov](mailto:housingservices@oregonmetro.gov) with any questions or for help with other formats such as print or assistance by phone.



## **Community Members invited to help shape Beaverton's financial future**

The City of Beaverton is committed to financial stability and sustaining the services that matter most to the community. To engage the community in this important conversation, the city is hosting a series of forums across local neighborhoods.

These events will provide residents with an opportunity to learn more about Beaverton's financial outlook, hear directly from city leaders, explore potential funding options, and share ideas to help shape the city's financial future.

"Beaverton is a growing, vibrant city, and with that growth comes real responsibility," said Mayor Beaty. "We're facing tough choices about how we sustain the services our community relies on, from public safety and libraries to sidewalks and streets. These forums create space for transparency about our financial reality and for residents to help shape what matters most as we move forward together."

### **Forum Dates and Locations**

#### **Monday, Feb. 2**

##### **Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW 5th Street**

*Hosted by Central Beaverton, Denney Whitford/Raleigh West, West Slope, and Vose Neighborhoods*

#### **Thursday, Feb. 12**

##### **Five Oaks Middle School, 1600 NW 173rd Avenue**

*Hosted by Five Oaks/Triple Creek, Highland, and West Beaverton Neighborhoods*

#### **Thursday, Feb. 19**

##### **Conestoga Recreation Center, 9985 SW 125th Avenue**

*Hosted by Greenway, Neighbors Southwest, Sexton Mountain, and South Beaverton Neighborhoods*

All meetings will be held from **6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Community members are encouraged to attend the forum most convenient for them. Childcare will be provided.

For more information, visit [www.BeavertonOregon.gov/FiscalSustainability](http://www.BeavertonOregon.gov/FiscalSustainability).

## Upcoming WEA Policy Committees





## LAND USE & HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING

### First Meeting of the Year!

(Topic to be announced soon)

**Thursday, February 5, 2026 | 7:30 - 9:00 am**

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

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

**Want to know more about how you can support WEA's work?**  
Reach out to [Dani](#) about Membership and Partnership Opportunities.





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

Westside Economic Alliance | 10220 SW Nimbus Ave., Suite K-12 | Tigard, OR 97223 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Our Privacy Policy](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!