



Wednesday, June 24, 2026

A call to modernize Oregon's Land Use System.

Growing up in the 1970s I spent a good amount of time at my grandparent's home. In their kitchen was a mustard yellow rotary telephone attached to the wall with a long, curled cord that would allow you to walk around, sit at the kitchen or hide down the adjacent hall while you chatted. If one of our West Coast family members called, there would be static and sometimes we would have to shout to hear one another.



Fast forward to today and some of you may be opening this newsletter, reading this article, checking your email, and sending a text from your phone that you hold in your hand and carry in your bag.

Technology advances. It gets better. It meets the needs of the user.

So why is it that here in Oregon, we are using a system for land use that was created 50+ years ago? Is our system meeting the needs of today's Oregon? Is it allowing us to keep pace with other states as we compete for industry and jobs? Is it continuing to work as intended, which was to stop leap frogging further and further out into rural areas and instead focus on dense urbanization - or has it shifted toward protection of farm and forest land at all costs?

As we await the report from the Prosperity Council, we hold out hope that there is a call for our Governor and Legislators to take seriously the need to match our land use system with the needs of 21st Century Oregon.

The data everywhere tells us that Oregon business is leaving the state. We harken back to the University of Oregon report from March of 2025 that told us that when Oregon businesses are approached by out of state recruiters two-thirds of them will either leave the state or make their next investment outside of Oregon.

The Prosperity Council report should be public any day now. As we cheer on what we hope will be smart recommendations, including more and direct investment in industrial land, we also urge the Council to ensure there is ENOUGH land to make those investments.

In the coming weeks we will be announcing the topic for our next policy workshop as well as a new process for getting engaged at that table. Stay tuned as we get ready to tackle another big policy issue...

And in the meantime, stay tuned as we will provide a read out of the Prosperity Council report as soon as it is issued.

Elizabeth

News & Notes



Metro's MTIP Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Amendment Passes: A Win for Regional Transportation

We're thrilled to share that Metro Council has approved the 2024–27 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Amendment Resolution that focused on the Interstate Bridge Replacement Project. Securing critical funding corrections, increases, and reprogramming for four projects vital to our region's transportation future.

This is more than a procedural win, it's a meaningful step forward for the safety and success of the Columbia River I-5 corridor, one of the most significant transportation links in the country.

On behalf of the Westside Economic Alliance, we want to extend our sincere thanks to the Metro Council for their leadership, diligence, and continued commitment to smart regional planning. Investments like these don't just solve today's challenges, they lay the groundwork for safety and economic vitality for generations to come.

For more information on the resolution that were passed, [CLICK HERE](#).

Clean Water Services seeks Applicants for their Advisory Commission



Clean Water Services' Board of Directors is seeking applicants to serve a four-year term on its [Clean Water Services Advisory Commission \(CWAC\)](#). The 15 members of CWAC review major policy issues and programs related to the management of water resources in the Tualatin River Watershed and make recommendations to the Board. The Clean Water Services Board also serves as the Washington County [Board of Commissioners](#).

Recruitment is open for four positions:

- **Neighbor District 4:** Applicants must live in Washington County Commission [District 4](#), which includes central to western part of the county, taking in large sections of Hillsboro, Aloha, and Cornelius.
- **Homebuilder/Developer Rep 1:** Applicants for this position must own, manage or work for a home builder or developer that operates with Clean Water Services' [boundaries](#).
- **Business Rep 2:** The business rep must own or manage a business in the CWS service district other than land development or construction.
- **Environmental Rep 2:** Applicants must own, manage, or work for an environmental organization that operates within Clean Water Services' [boundaries](#).

CWAC applications are available [online](#) or at the CWS main office at 2550 SW Hillsboro Highway in Hillsboro.

People interested in applying for CWAC are encouraged to contact Elizabeth Edwards at 503.681.3600. **Application period closes August 31, 2026.**

WEA Summer Events

EDUCATION SUMMIT

Beyond the Rankings: Fixing our Education System



Courtney Neron-Misslin
Oregon State Senator



Dan Goldman
Superintendent
Northwest Regional Education
Service District



Travis Reiman
Superintendent
Hillsboro School District



Andy Saultz
Dean
Lewis and Clark Graduate School of
Education & Counseling,

 **27 August, 2026**  **07:30 - 9:30 am**  **PCC Rock Creek Campus**



For information or Sponsorship Contact Danielle@WestsideAlliance.org

Register



Celebrating 40 Years of Moving the Westside Forward.

Bring your friends and teammates to WEA's summer scramble.

 Reserve Vineyard & Golf Club

 Monday, July 27

 12:30 PM Start

 Scramble Format - Pick up at Par

 Putt with Regional Elected
Leaders Lunch, Dinner and
Beverages

 Great Prizes | Hole In One Contest

Special Thanks To

Presenting Sponsor



Major Sponsors



Learn more about upcoming events.
Contact Danielle@WestsideAlliance.org.

Upcoming WEA Committees



WEA JOINT COMMITTEE TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

ODOT I-5 Rose Quarter Closure Update

Featuring Representatives from ODOT detailing the Rose Quarter project and the closures scheduled for the Southbound I-5 Freeway

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 | 4:00 - 5:00 pm

*Meeting ONLINE Only
via Zoom*

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

For more information on attendance or how to get involved with WEA Committees
Please contact our Policy Committee Coordinator **Teddy Russell**

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GOLD PARTNER



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INTERESTED IN BECOMING AN ANNUAL PARTNER? DANIELLE@WESTSIDEALLIANCE.ORG

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

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