



Portland Transition

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Monthly Community Engagement Status Update: April 2024

Purpose

This monthly status update gives an overview of community engagement activities related to the government transition, highlighting progress toward engagement goals, themes from public comment, activities by the Government Transition Advisory Committee (GTAC), and upcoming milestones.

Summary of engagement activities

Table 1: Engagement activities to-date

Engagements	April 2024	Total to-date (since Nov. 2022)	Transition projections to April 2025
Community survey responses	121	823	600
Transition newsletter signups	185	3,456	3,665
Community listening sessions & workshops	0	9	7
Participants at listening sessions	0	513	250
Public comments received	10	2,669	2,000
Hours of verbal public comment	0	19.61	37
Public meetings and hearings	4	124	100
Briefings and presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those done by GTAC 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13/15 	121 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80/121 	126 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 126
Policy discussions with community organizations	0	40	60
Employee townhall meetings	0	8	18
Employee attendance per townhall topic	0	1,558	1,100
Media coverage	1	279	200



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Public comment

The public is invited to comment through our online comment form, email, and verbal public comment. From April 1 to 30, 2024, the Portland Transition Team received **10** public comments.

This month's public comments were driven by the launch of the Portland Votes 2024 program, future districts and council operations engagement efforts, and GTAC's Budget Work Group meeting.

Topic	April 2024 (% of comments received)	Total to-date (since Nov 2022)
Community education & engagement	40%	7%
Other	30%	2%
Rank-choice voting	20%	3%
Form of government (including roles and responsibilities of elected officials)	20%	20%
City budgeting, resource allocation, participatory budgeting	20%	7%
Service delivery & bureau management (including city organization chart)	10%	34%
Transition management	10%	4%
Geographic districts	0%	42%
Salaries of city leaders	0%	18%
Number of comments	10	2,669

Big questions raised and themes

The following themes emerged from public comment, public meetings, and community briefings and presentations in April 2024. Note that all public comment is available in the [April 2024 public comment report](#).



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Public comment. The comments received in the month of April advocated for improvements to community engagement, additional information on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), greater transparency in the budgeting process and suggestions for onboarding the future City Council.

Three of the public comments were about improving current and future community engagement efforts. One commenter shared their experience with Transition updates happening after the fact. They expressed their frustration and desire to see greater proactive civic engagement. Two comments provided suggestions on improve civic engagement and public awareness on how to give input on relevant issues. The commenter suggested public engagement and input should happen beyond council and committee meeting. Boards, commission, and administrative hearings were suggested as other avenues to collect public input. These suggestions emphasized leveraging technology to expand the scope of civic engagement.

Two comments were requesting clear information and examples of RCV on the City's website. Another commenter provided feedback on the draft voter education comic, to improve the clarity and delivery of information about the transition and RCV. One public comment advocated for comprehensive onboarding education on the budget development processes and city operations for future city councilors. Finally, two of the comments were requesting greater transparency and accountability for Federal funding on housing assistance.

Public meetings. There were four public meetings of the Government Transition Advisory Committee. GTAC meetings included the following:

- One meeting of the Budget Workgroup (topics included new City budget process; recommended improvements to community engagement; and early stakeholder engagement)
- One meeting of the Voter/Candidate Education & Outreach Subcommittee (topics included subgrant outreach; internship program; and educational materials review)
- One full regular meeting (topics included city administrator recruitment; evaluation of the transition project; city organization next steps; and proposed resolution re budget sessions)
- One meeting of the Districts + Council Operations Subcommittee (topics included early community engagement; recommendations; and summer engagement plan)

City council held three community listening sessions on the budget. GTAC members testified at the sessions in support of its existing recommendations related to

- Onboarding recommendations
- District offices recommendations
- Recommended improvements to community engagement



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City Council was going to revise the City chart of accounts to show newly created service areas, bureau, and bureau hierarchy and adopt the updated appropriations schedule but the item was rescheduled and then referred back to the mayor's office.

Community briefings and presentations. The Government Transition Advisory Committee held thirteen community briefings and presentations. Travel Portland, two Portland State University classes, two neighborhood associations (Hayden Island Neighborhood Network and an update to the NW District Association), Senior Studies Institute of Portland Community College, and the League of Women Voters. Four of the presentations included groups traditionally left out of City Hall decisionmaking including LACE Oregon (in Spanish), Rahab's Sisters, Latino Network, and Division Midway Alliance. Members also testified at listening sessions on the city's budget sharing GTAC's formal budgeting recommendations regarding council staff, community engagement, council committees, and district offices.

Chief Administrative Officer, Michael Jordan, was a speaker for the event "Hindsight is 20/20: What Other City's First City Administrators Have to Say About System and Culture Change." Transition staff held a briefing on the government transition with the congressional delegation.

Community Surveys. There were two surveys with responses in April: the districts and council operations community survey and the budget advisory committee survey. Survey results can be found [here for the budget advisory committees](#) and [here for the districts and council operations](#). Both surveys will inform GTAC's draft recommendations released to community in June 2024.

Demographics

Collecting demographic data allows us to understand the representation of historically underrepresented communities in City Hall and decision-making processes. We gather this data with a commitment to collecting only necessary information, ensuring its value to the City and the communities we serve.

The City collects zip codes from public commenters, but this information is optional and 0 commenters provided this information.

Government Transition Advisory Committee (GTAC) engagement

GTAC is the primary public engagement body for the transition, advising on the Transition Plan's development and implementation. Committed to augmenting the City's engagement strategy, members actively engage with the community by providing at least two education or engagement opportunities each quarter outside of City-hosted events from June 2023 to April 2025.

Individuals and groups engaged



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GTAC members reported engagement with the following individuals and groups in April 2024:

- Travel Portland
- Portland State University “Freshman Inquiry” Classes (2)
- Senior Studies Institute of Portland
- NW District Association
- LACE Oregon
- Rahab’s Sisters
- League of Women Voters
- Latino Network Staff
- Division Midway Alliance
- Hayden Island Neighborhood Network
- House party to discuss the transition
- City of Portland budget listening session
- Individuals
 - Constituent Services Representative for San Antonio Council Member Manny Palaez

City of Portland staff reported the following engagement in April 2024:

- North Star Civic with City Administrators panel
- Briefing of the congressional delegation

New opportunities for engagement or barriers to engagement

GTAC reported the following reflections as new opportunities for engagement or barriers to engagement identified as part of their outreach efforts this month:

- Future presentations
 - Voter education presentation for Senior Studies Institute, attendees of the house party, and possibly Rahab’s Sisters

Big Themes or Questions

- Voting and 2024 election
 - Voter education strategy with this being the first time ranked choice voting is used
 - Concern with quality of candidates that will be running for office
 - Timeline for declaring candidacy is in June though people already declared
 - How to run for office
 - Voter registration
- Mayor / City Administrator



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- Difference between a manager and an administrator
- Role of Mayor hiring City Administrator
- Role of Mayor versus City Administrator
- Council Operations
 - How city councilors will work with city administration
- City Organization
 - Potential conflicts in management of the Police Bureau between the Chief of Police and the Deputy City Administrator
 - Where bureaus or offices are located like the Portland Bureau of Transportation or neighborhood associations
 - City employees and change management
- Districts
 - In San Antonio, benefit of in-district office primarily to be in proximity of community as a launch point for events or meetings
- Contacts in new form of government
 - Will there be changes to liaison roles / points of contact
- Engagement
 - Opportunities to be involved with the transition's work
 - Difficult to access information about the transition

Upcoming transition decisions

The following actions and milestones serve as a reference to promote early engagement.

- Mayor releases proposed budget, May 2, 2024
- Mayor's Proposed Budget Work Session, May 7, 2024
- City Budget Hearing, May 9, 2024
- Amending City Code Title 3 Administration to codify both the organizational chart approved by council in November 2023 and the requirement of council from August 2023 to streamline permitting processes. First reading May 22, 2024. Additional Title 3 updates are anticipated to come in July or August to align that title with charter.