

Monthly Community Engagement Status Update: February 2025

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	February 2025	Total to-date (since Nov. 2022)	Transition projections to March 2025
Community survey responses	171	3,216	600
Transition newsletter signups	189*	4,006	3,665
Community listening sessions & workshops	0	16	7
Participants at listening sessions	N/A	713	250
Public comments received	35	2,814	2,000
Hours of verbal public comment	1.25	22.50	37
Public meetings and hearings	7	176	100
Briefings and presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those done by GTAC 	0	189 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 141/189 	126 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 126
Policy discussions with community organizations	0	47	60
Employee townhall meetings	0	16	18
Employee attendance per townhall topic	N/A	1,423	1,100
Media coverage	16	632	200

* The transition newsletter was discontinued in December 2024. Rose City Connection – the new city newsletter – began in January and assumed the signup list from the transition newsletter.

Public comment

The public is invited to comment through our online comment form, email, and verbal public comment. From February 1 to 28, 2025, the Portland Transition Team received 35 public comments.

Topic	October 2024 (% of comments received)	Total to-date (since Nov 2022)
Other	8	5%
Ranked-choice voting		3%
Form of government (including electeds' roles)	23	20%
City budgeting, resource allocation, participatory budgeting		6%
Service delivery & bureau management	4	33%
Transition management		5%
Geographic districts		41%
Salaries of city leaders		18%
Community engagement		7%
Number of comments	35	2,814

Big questions raised and themes

The following themes emerged from public comment, public meetings, and community briefings and presentations in the [February 2025 Public Comment Report](#).

Public comment: Public comments focused on the appointment of the city administrator and Chief of Police and Zenith Energy Fund operation.

Public meetings: There was one public meeting of the Government Transition Advisory Committee:

- One full GTAC meeting (topics included transition project evaluation, voter education subcommittee proposed recommendations and additional GTAC workgroup proposed recommendations).

City Council took the following actions in council meetings related to charter reform:

- Governance Committee: Adopt procedure to establish what comes before Council and committees (Resolution) (Continued as Amended)
- Governance Committee: Council and committee procedures and rules (Presentation) (Placed on File)
- Finance Committee: Adopt the Budget Calendar for FY 2025-26 (Resolution) (Referred to City Council as amended)
- Governance Committee: Discuss possible Council and Committee procedures and rules (Presentation) (Placed on File)
- Finance Committee: Proposed City budget hearings and adoption schedule (Presentation) (Placed on File)
- Council: Appoint Michael Jordan as City Administrator (Resolution) (Adopted as Amended)
- Council: Appoint Robert Taylor as City Attorney (Resolution) (Adopted)
- Council: Appoint Robert Day as Chief of Police (Resolution) (Adopted)

Community survey. There were two surveys open during this report period

- Community survey to collect feedback on how the City did on the transition; and
- Employee survey to collect feedback on how the City did on the transition.

The surveys closed February 5, 2025.

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, one commenter in district 1 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 March 2025.

Individuals and groups engaged

For the month of February GTAC members reported 0 engagement.

New opportunities for engagement or barriers to engagement

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

- Share resources with community organizations for Portlanders to stay engaged with the City.

Upcoming transition decisions

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

- The Government Transition Advisory Committee will be at the Mar. 10 council Governance Committee to discuss community-informed policy movement and budget and budget engagement.
- The Government Transition Advisory Committee will be the Mar. 19 council meeting to present its final report.
- The City begun recruitment efforts for the Equity Officer in early March 2025. To view the opportunity visit portland.gov/jobs.