



# Portland Transition

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## Monthly Community Engagement Status Update: July 2023

### 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 - CORRECTED

Engagements	July 2023	Total to-date (since Nov. 2022)
Community survey responses	603	744
People receiving monthly email updates	137	2,703
Community listening sessions & workshops	1	3
Participants at listening sessions	40	92
Public comments received	1,238	2,184
Hours of verbal public comment	9	17.5
Public meetings and hearings	15	59
Briefings and presentations	5	13
Policy discussions with community organizations	9	36
Employee townhalls	0	4
Employee attendance per townhall	0	807
Media coverage	23	130

### Public comment

The public is invited to comment through our online comment form, email, and verbal public comment. From July 1 to July 31, 2023, the Portland Transition Team received **1,238** public comments.

This month's public comments were dominated by the topic of salaries of elected officials at 51% followed by geographic districts at 48%, which reflects efforts to engage the public on the Salary Commission's draft pay recommendations for future elected officials and geographic district options



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through public hearings hosted by the Independent District Commission. Other themes included community education and engagement (3%), roles & responsibilities of elected officials (3%, mainly around the Independent Salary Commission proposal), and city budgeting (2%, largely about the Independent Salary Commission proposal). Transition Management, ranked-choice voting, service delivery and bureau management, and other topics each represented 1%.

Table 2: Public comments received by topic – CORRECTED

Topic	July 2023 (% of comments received)	Total to-date (since Nov 2022)
Salaries of elected officials	51%	44%
Geographic districts	48%	48%
Community education and engagement	3%	5%
Roles and responsibilities of elected officials	3%	4%
City budgeting, resource allocation, participatory budgeting	2%	4%
Transition management	1%	3%
Ranked-choice voting	1%	2%
Service delivery & bureau management	1%	2%
Other	1%	2%
Phase II of charter review	>0%	3%
Number of comments	1,238	2,184

## **Big questions raised and themes**

The following themes emerged from public comment and GTAC engagement activities in July 2023. Note that all public comment is available in the [July 2023 public comment report](#).

### Geographic districts

- Commenters expressed preferences for different geographic district options, highlighting concerns around dividing up current neighborhood boundaries, the economic impacts of districts, and shared history. Some key insights include:



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- Alder – best considers neighborhood organization and boundaries; keeps inner east side together; distributes renter concentration as they are historically less civically engaged
- Cedar – creates larger shared district across the river; aligned with demographic regions
- Maple – keeps SE together including Sellwood; captures shared concerns of eastside communities

## Salaries of elected officials

- Concerns about the fiscal responsibility of the proposed salaries, especially when compared to average wages in the city and other cities' council salaries and considering the removal of bureau oversight for new council members' responsibilities
- Questions about the alignment of the proposed salaries with equity goals, including addressing the racial wage gap, transparency, and promoting diversity in council representation

## Form of government

- Concerns about misunderstanding of Independent Salary Commission's authority and importance.
- Questions related to receiving notifications and the availability of materials for the public to follow transition work including GTAC, events/meetings, and relevant Council agendas.

## Community Education and Engagement

- Accessibility concerns for information and participation including small font size and color choices on district mapping options cards mailed to residences and inability to find relevant links, schedules, and registration details for public meetings.
- Positive feedback about the commission's presentations and their efforts in informing the community about the new geographic districts.
- Questions about whether the meetings will be recorded or broadcasted on public TV, including specifics about channels, dates, and times.
- Interest in additional information on future government structure including roles and responsibilities of the new city council, voter education, and costs of government; current efforts to prepare for transition; ranked-choice voting method relative to other cities.

## Other

- General concern around houselessness, camping, drugs



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## 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 currently available for **60%** of commenters for July 2023.

Table 3: Public comments received by geography

Location	July Public Comment	Total Public Comment (Since April 2023)	Portland Population
North/Northeast Portland	23%	24%	28%
Southeast Portland	55%	52%	25%
East Portland	4%	6%	24%
West Portland	17%	16%	23%
Portland-Metropolitan area	0.4%	1%	N/A
Other Oregon cities outside metropolitan area	0%	<1%	N/A
Outside of Oregon	0%	<1%	N/A
Number of commenters with zip code data	453	690	

In June 2023, the Portland Independent Salary Commission sought community input on a draft salary proposal, with responses due by July 2023. A total of 603 responded to the survey, which included questions on race/ethnicity, household status, household structure, and household income to understand the perspectives of impacted communities. Note that some participants chose not to provide demographic information.



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Table 4: Draft salary proposal survey respondents – race/ethnicity

Race / ethnicity	# of respondents	% of respondents
White	355	62%
Black or African American	37	6 %
Hispanic or Latino	47	8%
Asian or Asian American	27	5%
American Indian or Alaska Native	13	2%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	4	1%
Another race	88	15%
Total respondents	573	

Table 5: Draft salary proposal survey respondents – household status

Household status	# of respondents	% of respondents
Renter	130	22%
Homeowner	426	73%
Houseless	4	1%
Other	22	4%
Total respondents	582	



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Table 6: Draft salary proposal survey respondents – household structure

Race / ethnicity	# of respondents	% of respondents
1 adult with 0 dependents	92	16%
1 adult with 1-2 dependents	42	7%
1 adult with 3 or more dependents	9	2%
2 adults (one working) with 0 dependents	54	9%
2 adults (one working) with 1-2 dependents	62	11%
2 adults (one working) with 3 or more dependents	15	3%
2 adults (both working) with 0 dependents	98	17%
2 adults (both working) with 1-2 dependents	103	18%
2 adults (both working) with 3 or more dependents	22	4%
Retired	62	11%
Other (please specify)	24	4%
Total respondents	583	

Table 7: Draft salary proposal survey respondents – household income

Race / ethnicity	# of respondents	% of respondents
\$0-\$30,000	37	7%
\$31,000-\$60,000	72	13%
\$61,000-\$90,000	124	22%
\$91,000-\$120,000	109	19%
\$121,000 or more	223	39%
Total respondents	565	



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## **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, the committee actively engages with the community by providing at least two education or engagement opportunities each quarter outside of City-hosted events from June 2023 to February 2025.

### **Individuals and groups engaged**

GTAC members reported engagement with various individuals and groups in July 2023:

- Albina Rockwood Promise Neighborhood Initiative (ARPNI) Research Manager, Morgan Holmgren
- Matt McNally, former staff representative to JoAnn Hardesty
- Northwest District Association
- Vadim Mozyrsky
- NW Portland neighborhoods with Commissioner Rene Gonzalez
- Coalition of Communities of Color
- Portland United for Change
- Working Waterfront Coalition meeting

### **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:

- Upcoming presentation or partnership opportunities:
  - A formal presentation is scheduled at Peninsula's Park "Cajun Cookout" event on November 16 at 7p.m.
  - Exploring a connection and presentation with the ARPNI partnership collaboration project that includes organizations like Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Self Enhancement Inc, and United Way, which is currently collecting data from local school districts and neighborhoods.
  - Exploring an August event with Neighbors West-Northwest group.
  - Following up at the next Northwest District Association, planning for engagement at September 18 meeting.
- It is beneficial for GTAC to attend districting public hearings and important for them to be prepared to answer questions post-event.
- Maintain engagement with City Council as GTAC.



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## Upcoming transition decisions

The following milestones / events serve as a reference to promote early engagement:

- September 20, 2023– Code 3.02: Council Organization & Procedure goes to City Council for reading and adoption.
  - August 8, 2023 – Community Listening Session on Code 3.02 – [City Council Organization and Procedures Listening Session | Portland.gov](#)
- October 2023 – Resolution on City Organization goes to City Council.