

# Monthly Community Engagement Status Update: March 2025

## Purpose

This monthly report, March 2025, is the final monthly engagement report of the transition. The purposes of the monthly reports were to give an overview of community engagement activities related to the government transition, highlight progress toward engagement goals, share themes from public comment, report activities by the Government Transition Advisory Committee (GTAC), and note upcoming milestones.

## Summary of engagement activities

Table 1: Engagement activities to-date

| Engagements  | March 2025 | Total to-date (since Nov. 2022)                                  | Transition projections to March 2025                        |
|--|------------|--|---|
| Community survey responses   | 0          | 3,216  | 600   |
| Transition newsletter signups  | 70         | 4,076  | 3,665   |
| Community listening sessions & workshops   | 0          | 16   | 7   |
| Participants at listening sessions   | N/A        | 713  | 250   |
| Public comments received   | 20         | 2,824  | 2,000   |
| Hours of verbal public comment   | .25        | 22.74  | 37  |
| Public meetings and hearings   | 4          | 180  | 100   |
| Briefings and presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those done by GTAC</li> </ul> | 1          | 168* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 142/168</li> </ul> | 126 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 126</li> </ul> |
| Policy discussions with community organizations  | 0          | 70**   | 60  |
| Employee townhall meetings   | 1          | 17   | 18  |
| Employee attendance per townhall topic   | 1,969      | 1,455  | 1,100   |
| Media coverage   | 3          | 635  | 200   |

\*Twenty-two briefings and presentations have been removed from this final report because the team lacks documentation – they were likely done by staff early in the project.

\*\*Twenty-three policy discussions of the Independent District Commission were added to this final report as they were missed in previous reports.

## Public comment

The public is invited to comment through our online comment form, email, and verbal public comment. From March 1 to 31, 2025, there were 20 public comments.

| Topic  | October 2024<br>(% of<br>comments<br>received) | Total to-date<br>(since Nov<br>2022) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Other  | 5  | 5%                                   |
| Ranked-choice voting   |  | 3%                                   |
| Form of government (including electeds' roles)               |  | 20%                                  |
| City budgeting, resource allocation, participatory budgeting | 15   | 7%                                   |
| Service delivery & bureau management                         |  | 33%                                  |
| Transition management  |  | 5%                                   |
| Geographic districts   |  | 41%                                  |
| Salaries of city leaders                                     |  | 18%                                  |
| Community engagement   |  | 7%                                   |
| <b>Number of comments</b>                                    | <b>20</b>                                      | <b>2,824</b>                         |

## Big questions raised and themes

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

Public comment: Public comments focused on city budget cuts.

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

- One full GTAC meeting (topics included city leadership connections, city administrator's budget recommendations, final reflections and final report).

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

- City Council: Adopt Budget Calendar for FY 2025-26 (Resolution) (Adopted as Amended)

- Governance Committee: Government Transition Advisory Committee (Presentation) (Placed on File)
- City Council: Authorize City Administrator to negotiate and execute a lease for District 3 Council office space for an estimated total cost of \$63,000 (Emergency Ordinance) (Passed)
- City Council: Accept the Government Transition Advisory Committee Final Report (Report) (Accepted)
- Governance Committee: Adopt a procedure for the appointment and confirmation of Portlanders to City boards, commissions, and committees
- Governance Committee: Advisory bodies alignment (Presentation) (Placed on File)

### Employee Town Hall

There was one town hall with 1,756 attendees. Topics included budget situation overview and employee support & labor relations. The main theme of comments was about layoffs.

### Budget Listening Sessions

There were two district-based Budget listening sessions with a total of 559 attendees. Topics included a budget presentation and community testimony. The main themes of the public testimony were what programs community would not like to see budget cuts and programs that need additional funding.

### 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 and one commenter from district 4 provided this information.

## **Government Transition Advisory Committee (GTAC) engagement**

The GTAC concluded its work in March 2025. The final report is available online: [Government Transition Advisory Committee Final Report](#). GTAC was the primary public engagement body for the transition. For the month of March GTAC members reported 1 engagement.

## **How to stay connected**

You can choose to stay connected by calling 3-1-1 with any questions, signing up for the City of Portland's newsletter at [portland.gov/updates](http://portland.gov/updates), and visiting the city's social media accounts: Instagram and X- @ portlandgov and Facebook @ PortlandORGov.