

2021 West Linn City Council Goals & Initiatives Status

Goal 1: Ensure an equitable, inclusive and diverse community where all feel a sense of belonging	
1. Reflect diversity, equity, and inclusion in our actions and in city staff, public safety staff, and citizen advisory groups through intentional community partnerships, hiring, and appointment practices.	City staff DEI Committee has been meeting biweekly, recently creating a tracking document for identified items in DEI audit (see for more info.) and reviewing professional organization DEI resources, training plans, and discussing changes to progress DEI goals. Council approved name change to "Community Advisory Groups" in Muni Code to better reflect current practice and ensure more consistent use of inclusive language and has been more intentional about ensuring diversity in many forms during recent CAG appointments. Doug Erickson added role as Community Services Director to continue building strong and diverse community partnerships. Recently held a well-attended faith-based leaders breakfast, partners in the successful Multicultural Building Bridges Event, and installed a Peace Pole and held an event at the Police Department in coordination with Rotary. West Linn School and Civic Leaders Summit being held in Dec. 2021. Several community groups involved during multiple phases of Police Chief recruitment and community input is being sought on other police recruitments. Municipal code audit and update for gender neutrality. HR implemented changes to recruitment process and software to eliminate identifying information and unconscious bias in recruitment process.
2. Request that staff create diversity, equity and inclusion into programming offered by the City.	West Linn Alliance and Library have been promoting and holding regular anti-racism book & film discussion groups. Council proclamations on Juneteenth, Women's History Month, Black History Month, Asian-Pacific American Month, Indigenous Peoples' Day, LGBTQ+ Pride Month. Preliminary discussion on Pride and Juneteenth events for next summer. Holding regular faith/civic/school/community leader summit meetings with DEI topics and partnered in Multicultural Building Bridges event. Library provides regular newsletters to School District that includes DEI topics. Plans to increase foreign language holdings in the WL Library and a diversity audit is underway of West Linn Library holdings to ensure representation and key DEI texts are included in childrens literature and regular holdings in all Library formats.
3. Review gaps identified in the DEI audit and implement measures to make improvements.	Final DEI Audit Report completed and shared with community. A spreadsheet of DEI Audit Report recommendations and current status of progress is being maintained to maintain momentum towards goals (see for more info.). Staff DEI Committee meets regularly to make progress on DEI goals and items identified in audit.

Goal 2: Maintain livability and affordability for all	
1. Maintain ease and safety of movement through:	
a. <i>Advocating against I-205 tolling.</i>	Council and staff are very involved in both the I-205 Tolling Project and Regional Congestion Pricing Project and share concerns about impacts to West Linn residents, businesses, and roads. Since tolling by ODOT appears inevitable, recent efforts have been more focused on advocating for equitable outcomes, minimizing impact on local roads, and ensuring state contributions to priority road projects. Staff and Council are in frequent contact with state legislators, ODOT staff, other jurisdictions, and members of the West Linn community on this topic.
b. <i>Pursuing regional, state, and federal funding for Highway 43 and Willamette Falls improvements.</i>	Metro and ODOT grants received for Highway 43 improvements, design work continues by ODOT. Staff continue to lobby to ensure these projects remain on regional lists and eligible for future funding opportunities. Federal infrastructure bill funding represents a new opportunity which is being pursued.
c. <i>Continuing 2018 GO Bond projects on safe routes to schools</i>	Safe Routes to Schools projects prioritized during extensive community outreach process. Projects completed or in progress at Bolton, Sunset, Cedaroak Schools and at Hidden Springs @ Suncrest crossing. Next project is in design phase on Bittner and Long Streets.
2. Enhance recreational opportunities	
a. <i>Move forward Willamette River Waterfront Park and riverside trail.</i>	Potential routes have been drafted and explored with PGE and Willamette Paper Company, primary landholders in the area. We hope to move forward with surveying soon. City Staff have been exploring additional funding options for this work and recently met with Metro to discuss the utilization of West Linn's Local Share Funds for this project.
b. <i>Improve indoor spaces for recreation, emergency response, and community gathering.</i>	New emergency generators installed at the Police Station and Library. Robinwood Station improvements have been coordinated with Friends of Robinwood Station, went through the building permit approval process, and will be bid for construction soon.
3. Make improvements to the Community Development Code	
a. <i>Support the Planning Department and Economic Development Committee's work on zoning changes around Highway 43.</i>	Staff will develop a scope of work in second half of 2022, once several other time-sensitive Planning Docket projects are complete. Staff will also explore grant funding opportunities to supplement the \$40,000 budgeted for the project.
b. <i>Make decisions in accordance with the HB2001/2003 process to support accessible and affordable housing.</i>	Phase 1 of HB2001 project completed with recommended comprehensive plan and code changes to comply with the rules of HB2001. We are currently in Phase 2 engaging the community on the recommended comprehensive plan and code changes to determine whether to provide the minimum to meet state rules or going further and adopting additional changes to better encourage the development of needed middle housing. Public involvement process underway, including CCI involvement, a community survey, and presentations and outreach to numerous community groups. Community input will be used to form policy proposals for Planning Commission and Council review.
c. <i>Amend codes to be clear and objective, in compliance with state law.</i>	A consultant is under contract and performing the initial code audit. The recommended code amendment package will be reviewed by the CDC Chapter 98 Working Group to be appointed by Council.
d. <i>Ensure that Committee for Citizen Involvement has a role in code changes and final plan reviews.</i>	The CCI reviewed and approved the HB2001 Phase 2 Community Engagement Plan. The CCI recently recommended to Council the goals, purpose, and membership for the CDC Chapter 98 Working Group that will review HB2001, Clear and Objective Standards, and CDC Chapter 96 code amendment projects.

4. Examine civic infrastructure needs	
<i>a. Request a facilities report of the Public Works Operations Center to examine its long-term viability. Indoor spaces for recreation, emergency response and community gathering locations should be considered as part of this.</i>	Civic infrastructure has been a regular part of Council discussion, namely unfunded water infrastructure needs, Abernethy Bridge water transmission line, Oppenlander Fields, Public Works Operations Facility, indoor recreation spaces, Historic City Hall, Robinwood Station, and other GO Bond facilities projects. Recent survey on Oppenlander showed ongoing community interest in indoor community spaces. Library and Police Station had new emergency generators installed. Negotiation and purchase of ODOT land off of Salamo Road for a potential future Public Works facility. A facilities report has not been contracted to date.
5. Water Infrastructure	
<i>a. Abernethy Bridge water transmission main replacement during I-205 Project.</i>	Council approved a \$9.5M intergovernmental agreement with ODOT for upgrade of the City's water transmission main during the Abernethy Bridge replacement. Staff successfully worked with ODOT to find more cost-effective solutions to the Abernethy Bridge water transmission main, saving millions of dollars; staff will review construction plans to determine any additional possible cost savings.
<i>b. Identify grant funding opportunities through South Fork Water Board.</i>	Funding opportunities, including federal programs and bonds are being explored for the Abernethy Bridge water transmission main project, in addition to other water system needs.
<i>c. Continue annual water main improvement projects, including Marylhurst area and portions of Highway 43.</i>	Highway 43 water project at 90% design phase, but on hold pending funding issues.

Goal 3: Support a sustainable and healthy environment for all

1. Task the Transportation Advisory Board to explore how to improve public and multi-modal transportation in West Linn, specifically to explore:	
<i>a. Lobbying Trimet for additional routes in town.</i>	Staff and Council has been advocating for lengthening of route #154 to run through Salamo and Rosemont Road to Tualatin. The lengthened route would include all existing stops in Oregon City, pass through West Linn and loop to the Tualatin WES commuter train and include stops at Meridian Park Hospital, schools, shopping/commercial destinations, and multifamily housing. The proposed extension parallels I-205 and could eliminate a major gap in service between Trimet southeast service area (Clackamas County) and southwest service area (Washington County). The Transportation Advisory Board has discussed this goal.
<i>b. Considering intracity shuttle options.</i>	Clackamas County convened a task force to look at local transit and published the Clackamas County Transit Development Plan (clackamas.us/planning/transit). The plan lists a new route on Rosemont Road in addition to 15 minute service on line #35 as the first short term priority project. The Transportation Advisory Board has discussed this goal.
<i>c. Leveraging funding opportunities to build sidewalks and bike lanes on Highway 43 and Willamette Falls Dr.</i>	Staff is exploring potential state and federal funding for these projects.
<i>d. Amending the Transportation System Plan with the updated Willamette Falls Drive Concept Plan.</i>	The Transportation System Plan was amended in August 2021 with the updated Willamette Falls Drive Concept Plan.
2. Use the CIP to build out the City's electric charging infrastructure and vehicle fleet.	Received a PGE grant and completed installation of level 2 electric charging stations at City Hall: a public station for 2 vehicles outside the front door, and a station for 4 City vehicles in the fleet garage. Recently added 2 electric sedans to the Public Works fleet and have additional electric vehicles reserved for production, including 3 electric F-150s, making progress towards electrification of the City's light duty fleet.
3. Adopt a climate action plan in coordination with Clackamas County, other local agencies, community members, and the Sustainability Advisory Board's most recent Appendix update.	Clackamas County's climate action planning process is underway again after Covid/wildfire delays. Consultants have completed initial analyses of emissions and other data and a Community Advisory Task Force has formed that will be asking the community to provide input on climate action proposals this Winter.
4. Request that the Sustainability Advisory Board recommend improvements to the Community Development Code.	The Sustainability Advisory Board has been actively discussing improvements to the Community Development Code and working with staff on a proposal of recommended changes expected to come to Council in December 2021.
5. Protect riparian and Goal 5 wetland areas when planning the Waterfront development.	Environmental protection has been an integral part of ongoing planning of the Waterfront project and will be incorporated into all final plan documents.

Goal 4: Thrive and move forward under community/stakeholder direction

1. Strengthen partnerships with community members as well as public and private entities.	
<i>a. Partner with the County to improve access to services (houselessness, healthcare, behavioral health, addiction, women's services, etc.).</i>	Regular meetings and partnerships with the County discussing social service programs and improvements and sharing them with our community. Mental health and healthcare resources shared regularly as part of Covid-19 response. Neighborhood associations taking part in annual donation/fundraising drive for Clackamas Women's Services. Ongoing food and personal hygiene drives for the West Linn Food Pantry at City buildings, donations collected and delivered weekly with calls for needed supplies. Library co-sponsored rain boot drive for Clackamas Parenting Together. Library distributed free books to youth through the WL Food Pantry and free lunch sites around the city. Police, Behavioral Services Specialist, and Community Services Director working together to connect homeless with services and State and County resources.
<i>b. Local nonprofits, tribes, faith-based organizations, school district, environmental agencies and others.</i>	Doug Erickson named Community Services Director and working on homelessness issues and with faith, school, and other civic and community groups to better communicate and coordinate assistance to the community. Summit meetings have begun with these groups, bringing City staff and elected officials together with leaders in these communities.

<p><i>c. Perform restorative community building and meet people where they are. Connect with community members through gatherings in the community and via convenient electronic means.</i></p>	<p>There has been intentional movement as a City towards creating relationships with groups and members of the community to help heal past injustice and move forward together in a real and authentic way. This is happening with individuals as well as community groups primarily through our new Community Services Director and via Police outreach programs (e.g. Breaking Bread/Breaking Barriers, youth lunches, being a friendly partnership presence at community events, etc.). Gatherings have remained limited due to the pandemic, but the City partnered in the Building Bridges Multicultural Event and the community has embraced online tools and virtual meeting options for ease of participation as part of their daily lives.</p>
<p>2. Support small/local businesses.</p>	
<p><i>a. Work with West Linn Chamber, Historic Main Street, and the Economic Development Committee to identify potential code changes and initiatives to create a thriving local business environment (e.g. food trucks, hotel zoning, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) code review, etc.).</i></p>	<p>This work is pending hiring a City staff person to lead the effort. Staff has interpreted that the existing code allows Mobile Food Units (food carts/trucks) and has received a development review application for the creation of a food cart pod.</p>
<p>3. Continue Waterfront development planning.</p>	
<p><i>a. Adopt a Waterfront Master Plan.</i></p>	<p>Staff is working to develop an RFQ for consultant services to support work on the Waterfront Goals and Objectives/Vision Plan, followed by zoning code implementation. This work is targeted to begin in Spring 2022.</p>
<p><i>b. Pursue Tax Increment Financing.</i></p>	<p>A request for proposal was advertised and we are working to contract with a firm to further a tax increment financing policy in the Waterfront area. This work will be initiated in January 2022.</p>
<p><i>c. Support the Cultural Center at Historic City Hall.</i></p>	<p>With the Willamette Falls Drive Concept Plan adopted, the City, Coalition, and property owner have developed a parking design. City Attorney is working with the owner's attorney on a parking agreement, which is the last element remaining before bringing the Letter of Commitment and lease agreement back to Council for adoption. The Historic City Hall Go Bond Project has been through the Pre-Application process and the application for land use approval is being drafted for submittal in the near future.</p>
<p>4. Ensure adequate staffing levels to support services.</p>	
<p><i>a. Examine legal services provision.</i></p>	<p>Staffing remains an ongoing issue at the City to meet the daily needs of residents as well as make progress towards new goals. The current recruitment landscape is also making filling open jobs increasingly challenging, putting further strain on current staff in our already low staff-to-capita ratio environment. Changes and improvements to how legal services are accessed by staff have been occurring.</p>