



2026-2028 West Linn City Council Priorities

**Updated February 2026*

These critical community topics are those that the West Linn City Council intends to focus its time on over the 36-month time span from January 2026 to December 2028. The list will also be used to define Community Advisory Group (CAG) priorities and will be considered when developing, adopting, and implementing the City's budget. Priorities may be amended or modified by Council in the future as needed. The items are not listed in a priority order.

Financial Strategic Planning

Strategies

- Transparently communicate the City's comprehensive financial picture, including needs and opportunities.
- Substantial public engagement and community conversations to build trust and shared knowledge. Convey we are all in this together as One West Linn.
- Match city service levels and project delivery to community expectations, ensure sustainable funding for long-term provision of services and projects.
- Develop priorities and solutions with the community to stabilize the City's long-term finances.

Council Role

- Community conversations about City of West Linn services, projects, and finances – listen and gather community feedback. Council Work Session listening forum to understand community perspectives.
- Review summarized community feedback themes and values to determine community priorities.
- Evaluate community priorities list, match services and projects to cost and funding mechanisms.
- Host Council Work Session forum(s) to review the community priorities list and funding options with the public, focusing on listening and clarification.
- Approve a Financial Strategic Plan that clearly explains priorities, assumptions and next steps.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- CAGs to provide recommendations on the highest priority needs and opportunities of the City as requested by Council.

(Refer to end of document for list of Community Advisory Groups + acronyms)

Transportation Safety and Funding

Strategies

- Safety: Assess, prioritize, and find funding for needed safety projects city-wide.
- Transit: Advocate for transit improvements within West Linn as well as connections to area transit providers. Consider senior, teen, worker, tolling diversion, and last mile services.
- Highway 43: Advocate for needed repairs and more significant improvements to state-owned Highway 43 and investigate the possibility of transfer along with State-funded improvements.
- Multimodal: Enhance planning efforts and financial investments in multimodal transportation and sidewalk connections, including on Highway 43.
- Transportation Revenue: Monitor legislative changes to ensure fairness and equity in our regional and local area transportation system.

Council Role

- Advocate for traffic safety and road maintenance funding stabilization and enhancement, including lobbying ODOT/State Legislature regarding Highway 43.
- Direction to CAGs and decision-making on local funding and project options, including Safe Routes to School projects.
- Maintain relationships with legislators and monitor any updates to transportation revenue plans to ensure fairness and equity in our transportation system.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- TAB to review staff recommendations on West Linn pedestrian and traffic safety needs and potential funding sources, provide recommendation to Council.

Community Gathering Spaces

Strategies

- Involve the community to understand where community gathering spaces are desired.
- Explore enhanced use of city-owned Parker Road property for recreation and community gathering purposes using a phased approach.
- Explore creating new or improving existing community gathering spaces throughout the city, considering financial opportunities to fund improvement.

Council Role

- Leadership role in community engagement and outreach, including Council worksessions to gather community input.
- Decisions on potential public space improvements, considering financial constraints.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- PRAB to provide data and recommendations on community desires and public space improvements.
- HRB and PRAB to provide recommendations on wayfinding signage inclusive of indigenous history.

Continue Improvement of Community Advisory Group and Neighborhood Association Programs

Strategies

- Continue to provide clear direction to Community Advisory Groups (CAGs) in accordance with West Linn Municipal Code.
- Assist Neighborhood Associations (NA) to improve community engagement.

Council Role

- Meet with CAGs periodically to agree on work programs, which should focus on Council Priorities and items within the adopted City budget.
- Individual Councilors serve as liaisons to individual CAGs, as provided for in the West Linn Municipal Code. Council utilizes CAG report form to assist.
- Provide direction on improvements to NA Program.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- CAGs to implement work programs developed by Council and develop proposals for Council consideration in annual work programs.
- NAs to provide feedback to the Council on ways to better coordinate, engage, and communicate within the NA program.

Fund Drinking Water System Capital Needs

Strategies

- Ensure continued maintenance and operation of the City's drinking water system at the highest possible level.
- Pursue federal and state grant funding to support potable water infrastructure when available and appropriate.
- Continue research and investigation into local water rate caps and South Fork Water Board rates.
- Establish highest priority capital needs based on the adopted Water Master Plan.

Council Role

- Continue to advocate for funding of the Abernethy Bridge water transmission main as well as any other water mains affected by I-205 construction. Lobby ODOT and State Legislature for fair funding of project.
- Communicate value of clean drinking water.
- Decision-making on rates and project funding.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- UAB to review water system needs against funding resources following adoption of the Water Master Plan and recommend any needed funding changes to Council.
- SAB and UAB to consider conservation pricing options and make recommendations to Council.

West Linn Waterfront Vision

Strategies

- Implement the recently adopted Waterfront Vision Plan to move towards creation of a world class destination for people to work, live, and play. Implementation measures include zoning, working with property owners, and planning for infrastructure improvements.
- Strengthen and sustain visioning and implementation partnerships with tribal communities.
- Explore recreational, historical, environmental, and educational tourism opportunities with community partners.
- Support the Historic City Hall Museum and Cultural Center as an anchor site to redevelopment.
- Support efforts by the Willamette Falls Locks Authority to repair and reopen the Locks.

Council Role

- Leadership in partnering with tribal entities.
- Work with property owners on future of Blue Heron Mill Pond site and entire waterfront area.
- Research potential return of Willamette Meteorite.
- Decision-making on project and clear direction to CAGs.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- PC advisory and formal recommendation on adoption to Council.
- Future consultant team and staff to involve HRB, SAB, TAB, ACC, EDC, YAC, PRAB as needed to provide recommendations on specific elements.

VISION43 Project

Strategies

- Adopt vision plan and zoning code to revitalize the Highway 43 corridor, creating a sense of place and local identity, ensuring safe crossings, promoting vibrant commerce, and enhancing pedestrian and neighborhood connections.
- Following adoption of VISION43, carry out implementation measures including a Tax Increment Financing feasibility study and an assessment of city-owned properties in the corridor including Bolton Station.
- Prioritize and work to fund infrastructure improvements such as crosswalks throughout the corridor.
- Ongoing engagement and outreach with neighborhood associations, residents, and commercial property owners.

Council Role

- Policy direction and Councilor liaison involvement with VISION43 project.
- Ensure extensive community involvement in the VISION43 process and attend neighborhood association meetings to discuss.
- Consider Tax Increment Finance District as a funding source for revitalization in Hwy 43 area.
- Decision-making on project.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- PC advisory and formal recommendation on adoption to Council.
- Consultant and staff to involve EDC, CCI, TAB, PRAB, SAB, and YAC as needed to provide recommendations on specific elements.

Environmental Protection & Sustainable City Operations

Strategies

- Make progress on list of highest impact sustainability measures created with consultant assistance, based on cost and staff capacity for implementation.
- Consider grant funding to implement more complex projects.
- Phase in LED lighting upgrades at end of life of current lighting.
- Monitor and proactively plan for Emerald Ash Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer impacts on city trees.

Council Role

- Work with local business owners to encourage installation of EV charging stations.
- Direct staff to review policies related to alternative fuel, electric, and hybrid vehicles including a cost/benefit analysis for future purchases.
- Receive updates on Emerald Ash Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer issues and provide guidance as needed.

Community Advisory Group Roles

- SAB and PRAB to recommend ways to reduce gas powered equipment use in West Linn (e.g. electric equipment incentives) and find funding for this work.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging

Strategies

- Prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging as the heart of our work as a city. Our core values of inclusivity, collaboration, and accountability steer our actions, interactions, decisions, and policymaking to build an engaged and welcoming workplace, community, and a cohesive city.
- Increase access and opportunities for the West Linn community to feel welcome, educated, and engaged with the City.
- Intentional and meaningful engagement and collaboration with tribal communities.

Council Role

- Leadership in improving accessibility to the community to participate in community advisory groups and neighborhood associations through education, outreach, feedback loops, and creative solutions.
- Provide and participate in educational opportunities with the Council and community.

Community Advisory Group Role

- All CAGs hold a role in improving DEIB throughout the organization and community and should be considering their recommendations and actions through an equity lens.

- Participate in educational opportunities on DEIB topics both personally and as provided by the City.

Construct New City Operations Facility

Strategies

- Finalize building and site development construction documents and apply for site development and building permits to allow for construction in early summer 2026.
- Issue Full Faith and Credit Obligation for funding of Operations Complex as approved by City Council.
- Maintain communication with community regarding timelines of land use approval and subsequent phases of construction estimated to continue through FY2027.
- Assessment of next steps for current City operations property following move out.

Council Role

- Provide policy direction on utility capital construction priorities.
- Leadership on community outreach in support of the facility's construction.
- Adopting and finalizing final construction budget through future Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) contract amendment.
- Decision-making and clear direction to CAGs.

Community Advisory Group Role

- UAB consideration of rate and project impacts.
- PC decision-making on development review application prior to construction.

All priorities will involve extensive community engagement and involvement, including efforts to reach those not typically involved with city government. Priorities may also require evaluation of additional revenue resources by Council.

Community Advisory Groups

ACC = Arts and Culture Commission

CCI = Committee for Community Involvement

EDC = Economic Development Committee

HRB = Historic Review Board

PC = Planning Commission

PRAB = Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

PRR = Police Review and Recommend Committee

SAB = Sustainability Advisory Board

TAB = Transportation Advisory Board

UAB = Utility Advisory Board

YAC = Youth Advisory Council