

## Adams tackles his to-do list

By Sherry Rainey  
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Mayor Sam Adams released a 13-page list of committees, initiatives and projects that he wanted to tackle in his first 100 days in office. Here's the status report:

### EDUCATION

- Appoint Education Strategy Cabinet: Done. (Subcabinet committees are also forming: Multnomah Youth Commission Student Advisory Committee, Education Summit Advisory Committee, and Education Strategy Team.)
- Advocate at U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities conference for reduction of dropout rate: Done. (Adams participated in both conferences.)

#### Adams first 100 days

Read the story on the Portland mayor's first 100-days in office

- Create four-year countywide strategy to reduce dropout rate by 50 percent: Under way. (Retreat planned this summer.)
- Create national and international assessment of best practices: Done
- Visit four youth programs: Done
- Complete inventory of programs that provide opportunities for kids at risk of dropping out of high school: Under way (Eco Northwest is working on this; preliminary report done.)

- Define success measures: Under way (School district leaders working on ways to measure success across all districts. The mayor's office will present ideas to the education Cabinet this summer.)
- Develop parental involvement strategy: Initial work started. (Effort will move ahead after summer projects.)
- Create Portland Multnomah Youth Corps: Done (Will provide 2,500 incoming ninth-graders with workplace experience, summer school options and recreation activities this summer.)
- Recruit 250 adult coaches to lead Youth Corps teams: Done (Coaches will be trained in June.)
- Recruit 25 employers to provide workplace experience: Done (More than 25 have signed up.)
- Provide summer school jobs, partnerships with colleges, Campus Compact, and Corporation for National and Community Service: Done (City providing support to bring more students into summer schools.)
- Draft initiative to improve attendance: Not done (Put on hold, in part because Multnomah County, which typically provides attendance services, is facing severe budget problems.)
- Finish feasibility study to establish scholarship program for 2,500 high school students: In progress. (Partnerships and committee established.)
- Secure letters of interest from community colleges and four-year colleges: Not quite done (Schools have expressed interest and are serving on the

committee.)

- Launch local education summit: Delayed (The mayor's education team advised planning the summit for fall, rather than this spring.)

#### **JOBS AND BUSINESS**

- Appoint Economic Cabinet: Done
- Create Economic Development Plan: Mostly done (Draft will be presented to the council in June.)
- Establish Regional Economic Strategy Council: In progress (Met with other regional government leaders to coordinate spending through federal stimulus package.)
- Establish annual economic summit: Done (Scheduled for June 11.)
- Adopt Portland stimulus package: Done (Lifted cap on tax abatement program, approved local purchasing program, increased Portland Development Commission financing options for small businesses, fast-tracked local public works projects.)
- Create Prosperity Alliance: Done (Alliance consists of County Chairman Ted Wheeler and Gresham Mayor Shane Bemis. Launched Prosperity Planner, an online tool that helps identify what wages are needed to cover basic living expenses and what services are available to help increase earnings and achieve economic independence.)
- Fund Cash Oregon: Done (Money for this program that helps low-income Portlanders file income taxes is included in the mayor's proposed budget.)
- Lobby Legislature to authorize bonding for Life Science Center: Done (The city's lobbyists supported university system's bonding request. The research center would be located at South Waterfront and would house faculty and scientists from Portland State University, OHSU and other state schools -- a project that would cost at least \$200 million.)
- Lobby Legislature to fund Vestas Wind System incentives: Done (The mayor worked with the governor's office to support incentives for a Vestas headquarters in Portland.)
- Initiate mayor's annual trip to Asia in April and Europe in fall 2009: Not Done (Adams didn't go with a city trade delegation to China in April to stay home working on the budget. He plans to go to Japan in November and to Europe in spring 2010.)
- Seek alignment of existing business assistance programs and services to meet requirements: Done (Created inventory of existing business assistance programs and began development of a Web site for businesses seeking assistance.)
- Create priorities for business retention, expansion, and recruitment efforts: Done (Included in economic development plan.)
- Establish trade policy: Done (Included in economic development plan.)
- Merge permitting functions: Done (Permitting staff from eight city bureaus will be located in Bureau of Development Services.)
- Launch Portland Business Express: Under way (Based on popular New York City online program where businesses can get a complete list of permits, licenses, tax incentives and other information. Launched an early version, and working on improvements.)
- Launch retail action strategy, establish signature retail street: Under way. (The downtown vision task force worked with consultants to establish Southwest Morrison Street as the signature retail street.)
- Create Neighborhood Mainstreet program: Done (Funding for four pilot projects is in the mayor's proposed budget.)
- Launch "Portland is better together" Web site: Done
- Meet 100 employers in 100 days: Done
- Study feasibility of Oregon Sustainability Center: Under way (Study by

Gerding Edlen Development, in collaboration with GBD Architects and SERA Architects, is scheduled to be completed in June.)

- Determine feasibility of Oregon Convention Center Hotel: Done (A task force determined the project was feasible.)
- Evaluate major league soccer/ Triple A baseball opportunity: Ongoing (A task force supported the idea of remodeling PGE Park for major league soccer and relocating the Beavers to a new stadium, but a financing deal and the location of the new baseball park remain under discussion.)

## TRANSPORTATION

- Appoint Transportation Cabinet: Done
- Conduct snow and ice storm readiness assessment: Done (The city spent \$2.5 million fighting the two-week snowstorm last winter. Recommendations for improvement include review plow types, determine feasibility of chain-up areas in the West Hills and establish warming centers on bus routes.)
- Lobby Legislature for transportation funding package: Done (If the current package is adopted, the city will get \$20 million a year, of which \$8 million would be earmarked for the Sellwood Bridge replacement project.)
- Identify local match for Milwaukie Light Rail project: Done (A funding plan for the \$32 million local match will be announced in June.)
- Release draft of streetcar system plan and updated bicycle master plan: Done (City held six open houses to gather public comment on the plans in May.)
- Advance funding of eastside streetcar line: Done (Federal funding of \$45 million secured. Vehicles are ordered. Budget and finance plan will be adopted in June.)
- Unveil first cycle track: Done (Design for Southwest Broadway cycle track announced, with construction this summer. A "buffered bike lane" on Southwest Stark and Oak streets is to be unveiled soon.)
- Identify 15 miles of bicycle boulevards: Done (North Wabash from North Willamette Boulevard to Columbia Boulevard; Southeast Spokane Street from Southeast 20th Avenue to the river; Northeast Going Street from Interstate 5 past Northeast Cully Boulevard; Southeast Mill Street from Southeast 60th Avenue to Interstate 205; a section of Southwest Terwilliger Boulevard; a section of North Concord Street and a section of Southeast Center Street.)
- Complete bicycle boulevard on North Wabash Street: Not done, but planned (Coming to council in July, with construction this summer.)
- Install bike corrals in four more locations: Done (Officials say the city will probably install 30 more this summer.)
- Lobby for a bill giving cities jurisdiction over speed limits: Done (Adams wrote a letter to ODOT, but it won't happen this session. The mayor says the state is opposed, but he wanted to open the discussion.)
- Identify money for arterial paving projects: Done (The money will come from these sources: \$6.4 million in federal stimulus, \$1 million in the mayor's proposed budget and \$4 million to \$11 million in new state money.)
- Support a Columbia River Crossing project that serves Portland's needs and interests: Matter of opinion (Adams has advocated for stacked design with bike and pedestrian lanes on top. He supports a controversial 12-lane bridge that is actively managed by a "mobility council" to control trip time reliability and greenhouse gases, and to avoid sprawl.)
- Develop a "get charged" strategy to increase electric car availability and use: Done (Installed new charging stations on city streets. Working with the state to revise building codes to incorporate residential charging stations.)

## PLANNING AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Appoint Planning and Sustainability Cabinet: Done
- Formalize Northwest Progressive Cities Coalition: Done (Adams will sign an agreement with the mayor of Vancouver, B.C., to promote high speed rail.)

- Appoint Reusable Bag Policy Task Force: Done (Focus on educating the public about the value of reusable bags.)
- Integrate planning and sustainability functions: Done
- Complete baseline for Portland Plan: Done
- Identify opportunities and barriers to 20-minute neighborhoods: Done (Study by Eco Northwest completed in April.)
- Identify Neighborhood Plaza opportunities: Done (Draft report completed in May.)
- Launch eco-district planning process: Done (Committees will be convened to study four sites: Lloyd Crossing, Rose Quarter, University District and Conway HQ site.)
- Release farmers market assessment and economic analysis: Done (Report to council later this spring. Mayor's budget allocates \$15,000 to help Portland Farmers Market achieve waste reduction goals.)
- Launch Climate Action Plan: Done (Draft plan released in April. Six town halls scheduled through June.)
- Complete assessment of public spending in city: Done (Spending by all governments in Portland totaled \$9.7 billion in 2008-2009. The largest single category was education, at \$1.9 billion.)
- Complete assessment of City Hall eco-roof: Done.
- Complete assessment of city sustainability practices: Done.
- Initiate "green building" rewrite of zoning code: Done (Rewrite coming to council June 5.)
- Create "tree policy": Not Done (Project continues to compile a "tree manual" with all tree regulations in one place.)
- Launch Clean Energy Investment Fund: Done (Formalized partnership with local utilities and Energy Trust of Oregon to retrofit 500 Portland homes. First home will be retrofitted in June.)
- Complete study of district energy system: Done (Feasibility study for North Pearl completed in April.)
- Identify site for commercial composting facility: Ongoing (Working with Metro. A report listed potential sites. Next steps include exploring time frames, opportunities and costs.)
- Locate 30 solar-powered trash compactors: Ongoing (Portland Business Alliance soliciting donations to purchase compactors and donate them to the city. About 10 purchased so far.)
- Identify best practices for public recycling bins: Done (Officials reviewing public recycling programs in other cities. Intention is to have public recycling containers on downtown streets this fall.)
- Establish "green" chair position in neighborhood associations: Not done (Southeast Uplift has a sustainability committee, but that's it so far.)
- Convene citywide "green team": Done (Team had first meeting in May.)
- Announce "Urban Growth Bounty": Done (More than 500 people have participated in backyard gardening and urban food production classes since February.)

#### **ARTS AND CULTURE**

- Appoint Arts and Culture Cabinet: Done.
- Fund Creative Advocacy network: Done (The mayor's proposed budget includes \$100,000.)
- Establish process and goals for integration of public art in the Portland Plan: Not done.

- Explore joint strategies between Right Brain Initiative and mayor's education team on cutting dropout rate: Done (The mayor's budget includes \$200,000 for the Right Brain Initiative, a program aimed to promoting arts education.)
- Work with PDC to establish points awarded for aesthetic innovation in urban design in development bidding process: Done.
- Finish Creative Capacity Strategic Plan: Done (A regional creative action plan was unveiled this spring that calls for more public funding of the arts. No specific funding method was identified, however.)
- Meet with 25 arts organizations: Done.
- Work with Regional Arts and Culture Council to determine need for Web site dedicated to Portland's art community: Done (There's a need, and a couple of organizations are working on it.)
- Foster progress toward mural code revisions: Done (Planning Commission adopted new regulations aimed at allowing more murals to be painted on Portland walls. May come to council this month.)

#### **OTHER**

- Initiate quarterly Portland City Council Bulletin: Under way (First online edition to appear June 1.)
- Establish bureau budget advisory committees: Done.
- Rank bureau programs and services on two scores -- core missions and community priorities: Done.
- Create Bureau of Housing: Ongoing (The new bureau will combine housing programs from the Portland Development Commission and the Bureau of Housing and Development. The merger will take place in phases.)
- Move work force training and community development programs to PDC: Done.
- Establish Office of Healthy Working Rivers: Done (Mayor's proposed budget includes funding for this new office.)

*Source: James Mayer of The Oregonian; mayor's office*