

AGENDA

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Open Networking and Mini Business Expo

9:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Opening Remarks & Building Tigard's Next Chapter

Featuring Mayor Hu, City Manager Brian Rager and Sambo Kirkman

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Regional Economic Forecast – Brittany Hjelte and Matthew Insco

11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Workforce & Education – Dr. Liza Morehead with Worksystems

12:00 PM – 12:30 PM

Break & Mini Business Expo

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

Infrastructure & Transportation: What's Coming and Why It Matters

Panel Discussion Moderated by Dan Murphy

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM

The Future of Main Streets, Tourism & Destination Development

Panel Discussion Moderated by Congresswoman Andrea Salinas

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Closing Remarks, Networking & Strategic Business Expo

3:00 PM

Event Concludes

2026

Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce

THE STATE of **BUSINESS**

Building Tigard's Next Chapter:
Turning Vision into Action

Tuesday, September 29th | 9 AM–3 PM

Presented by



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PANELIST

Future of Main Streets, Tourism and
Destination Development

Dave Parulo

President & CEO of Explore Tualatin Valley

Sean Farrelly

Redevelopment Manager for City of Tigard

Kevin Bates

Owner of Symposium Coffee and Vault & Main

ABOUT TIGARD CHAMBER

The Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to building and connecting businesses, growing leaders, and shaping our community. As a catalyst for business growth and a convener of local leaders, the Chamber champions a strong, inclusive, and thriving Tigard. Guided by values of integrity, collaboration, and equity, the Chamber creates opportunities for business success, leadership development, and community prosperity.

SPEAKERS

**SAMBO
KIRKMAN**



As the Community Development Director of the **City of Tigard**, Sambo provides leadership across community development initiatives and works to support thoughtful, sustainable growth and a high quality of life for the Tigard community. With a focus on collaboration, community and engagement and effective local leadership, Sambo works with residents, businesses, community partners and city staff to advance projects and initiatives that shape Tigard's future.

**MAYOR
YI-KANG HU**



Mayor Hu is a food & drug lawyer whose practice focuses on FDA law and regulation. As Mayor, he is committed to ensuring Tigard is a place where all community members have the opportunity to thrive and contribute to its growth and success.

**BRIAN
RAGER**



Brian has been with the **City of Tigard** since 1996, serving in a variety of roles including Public Works Director and now as the City Manager. He brings strong public sector leadership experience and a deep understanding of Tigard's operations, community priorities and the importance of responsive local government.

SPEAKERS

**MATTHEW
INSCO**



As the the Branch Chief of the **Bureau of Labor Statistic** Western Information Office, serving them for 25 years, he leads a team responsible for disseminating BLS data through press releases, analytical articles, and the BLS website. The office conducts outreach on behalf of BLS and supports data users by helping them access, understand, and interpret BLS statistics.

**BRITTANY
HJELTE**



As a Workforce Analyst / Economist at the **Oregon Employment Department**, working within the Labor and Economic Research Division, Brittany's work centers on delivering data-driven insights and economic analysis that help businesses and organizations understand emerging workforce and economic trends. A long-time Washington County resident, she holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Oregon State University.

**DR. LIZA
MOREHEAD**



As the Data & Research Analyst at **Worksystems**, Dr. Liza leads institutional research, labor market analysis, and policy evaluation that helps guide workforce and economic strategies in our region. With a PhD in Urban Studies focused on Public Policy and Urban Planning, she brings deep expertise in community needs assessments, demographic analysis, and stakeholder engagement.

PANELIST

Infrastructure & Transportation: What's
Coming and Why It Matters

Tiffany Gehrke

Principal Transportation Planner for City of Tigard

Miles Pengilly

Director of Government Affairs for Trimet

Jeff Pazdalski

Executive Director of Westside Transportation Alliance

Tom Mills

Director of Mobility, Planning and Policy for Trimet



OVERVIEW

The Tigard Area Chamber of Commerce
presents the 2026 State of Business

This year's theme, **Building Tigard's Next Chapter: Turning Vision into Action**, is about more than imagining what is next, it is about taking meaningful steps to shape the future of our community. Together, we'll explore the priorities, partnerships and opportunities that will help Tigard move from vision to action.

Through conversations with local leaders, community partners and business and civic professionals, we'll examine the ideas and initiatives shaping Tigard's next chapter.

From investing in our community and strengthening connections to creating new opportunities for residents and businesses, today's program is designed to highlight how we can turn shared vision into meaningful action and build a vibrant, resilient and inclusive future for Tigard.