

# BACK ON BOARD

A year after the pandemic decimated the travel industry, the Redmond Airport is showing signs of life • **Business, C1**



# The Bulletin

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**SPECIAL SUNDAY REPORT** | The Bulletin requested a few years of data from the Oregon DMV to see where new residents came from. Here's what we found.



*"We were ready to give up the concrete and embrace more nature."*

— Jen Gordon, who moved with her family from Chicago

BY SUZANNE ROIG • The Bulletin

In the middle of the pandemic, Jen and Mitch Gordon realized that Chicago wasn't home anymore. That was in March. A few months later, the Gordons sold their house. Packed up their belongings and became new Bend residents.

As newcomers, the Gordons are among thousands whose moves were tracked by exchanging their former state's driver's licenses for Oregon licenses. According to the most recent data from the Oregon Department of Transportation's Driver and Motor Vehicle Services division, 23,914 licenses were surrendered in Oregon during the first three months of 2020 from places as far away as American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, Quebec, Mexico, Germany and South Korea. In 2019, the top five states where new residents came from were California, Washington, Arizona, Texas and Colorado.

"We had come (to Oregon) on vacation for the past decade," Gordon said. "We decided during the pandemic to move. We were wondering why we were not living there. "We were ready to give up the concrete and embrace more nature."

The Bulletin requested data from the DMV of surrendered licenses over the past five years to see where new residents came from. The statewide data mirrors new address data from the United States Postal Service, which sells information on change of addresses by county.

See **DMV / A4**

## MINNESOTA AVENUE

# Closure would make room for plaza

*Presentation on the pedestrian area will go before council on Wednesday*

BY BRENNA VISSER  
The Bulletin

A proposal to close a block of Minnesota Avenue is being considered by the Bend City Council, and so far has garnered mixed reactions from businesses along the downtown street.

The proposal, which will be presented Wednesday to the Bend City Council by the Downtown Bend Business Association, explores the idea of turning Minnesota Avenue between Wall Street and Bond Avenue into some type of pedestrian plaza closed to cars.

This idea has been kicked around by businesses and residents for years, said Ben Hemson, the city's business advocate. It was seriously considered last spring near the beginning of the pandemic as a way to help restaurants get more outdoor seating to increase their capacity, but was ultimately shot down because not enough businesses were on board.

But the idea has come yet again to the forefront. Many members of the council are interested in it, as they have been hearing from the community about a desire to make Bend more walkable and to have more outdoor community spaces, Hemson said.

"That seems to be a consistent theme," Hemson said Friday.

Several things must be considered before a proposal like this can move forward, Hemson said, and it could be several years and take lots of public input before anything like this could be realized.

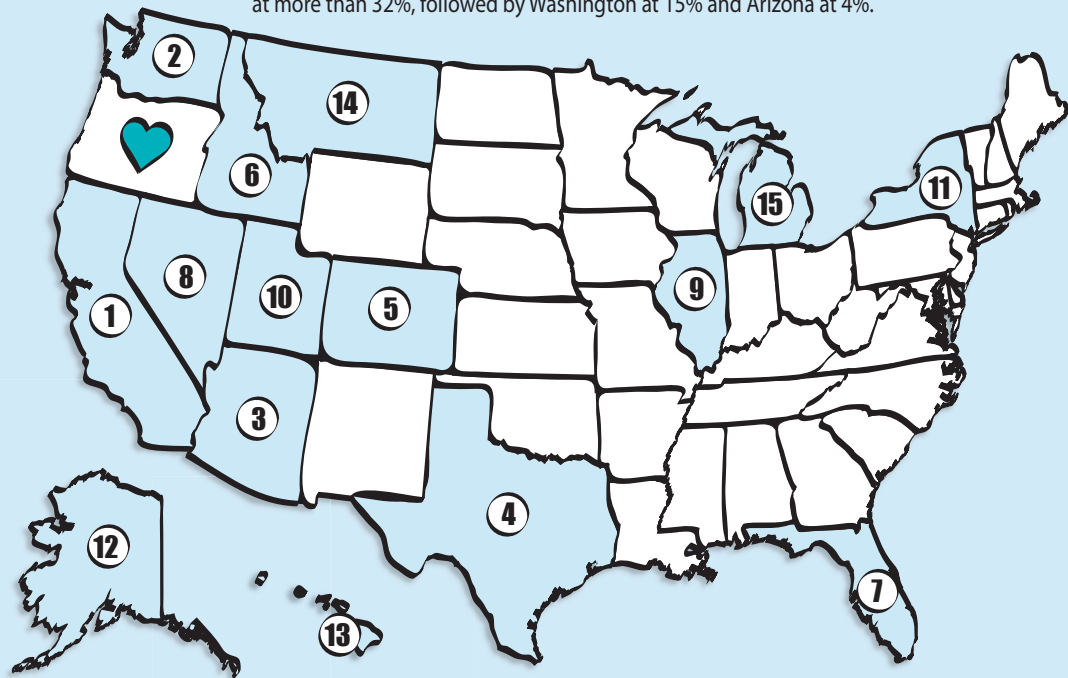
One of the most crucial things to be considered is the reaction from the businesses along this street.

In a listening session held for businesses on Friday, Hemson said the reaction from businesses is mixed.

See **Plaza / A4**

# Who's moving in

People who move to Oregon from other states are required to obtain a state driver's license. Driver's license-surrender data provided by the Oregon Department of Transportation provides an insight into where the majority of people relocating to Oregon are coming from in the United States and Canada. California topped the list in 2019 at more than 32%, followed by Washington at 15% and Arizona at 4%.



## Top 15 states by driver's license surrender to Oregon

Rank/State	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	5-year total
1. California	24,628	27,566	26,150	28,065	27,429	133,838
2. Washington	13,701	14,565	14,399	14,463	12,804	69,932
3. Arizona	4,037	4,259	3,763	3,728	3,514	19,301
4. Texas	3,287	3,784	3,655	3,728	3,408	17,862
5. Colorado	2,809	3,118	2,936	3,032	2,840	14,735
6. Idaho	2,852	3,099	2,761	2,897	2,621	14,230
7. Florida	2,100	2,597	2,621	2,856	2,526	12,700
8. Nevada	2,481	2,413	2,322	2,040	1,973	11,229
9. Illinois	1,644	1,858	1,753	1,703	1,493	8,451
10. Utah	1,664	1,659	1,628	1,661	1,624	8,236
11. New York	1,536	1,691	1,599	1,582	1,586	7,994
12. Alaska	1,457	1,567	1,372	1,354	1,125	6,875
13. Hawaii	1,107	1,240	1,349	1,449	1,371	6,516
14. Montana	1,216	1,253	1,178	1,227	1,174	6,048
15. Michigan	1,212	1,268	1,071	1,094	1,146	5,791

Source: Oregon Department of Transportation

Alan Kenaga/For The Bulletin

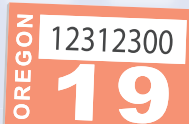
## Annual driver's license surrender totals in Oregon, 1985-2019\*

Year	Total
2019	84,658
	90,311
	88,562
	93,428
2015	85,114
	75,478
	68,446
	62,900
	59,643
2010	60,234
	58,628
	63,082
	68,017
	73,123
2005	74,234
	62,245
	64,275
	66,103
	73,768
2000	72,228
	72,669
	76,838
	79,977
	82,832
1995	79,058
	79,848
	75,781
	74,819
	72,617
1990	74,239
	72,717
	65,948
	58,222
	58,582
1985	46,584

\*Includes all Canadian provinces and territories.

# Oregon

# MOV 20R



## TODAY'S WEATHER



A brief shower  
High 85, Low 55  
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The Bulletin  
An Independent Newspaper

Vol. 117, No. 329,  
28 pages, 4 sections

We use recycled newsprint

