



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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April 14, 2017

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
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Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

The Planning and Sustainability Commission's (PSC) charge is to act for the benefit of the people of Portland by providing opportunities for the public to share their input on a number of projects and plans before we offer a recommendation to Council. The PSC is the steward of the Portland Plan, Comprehensive Plan and Climate Action Plan, and we consider the overarching themes of equity, prosperity, connectedness and resilience in all the projects we discuss.

You recently adopted the most extensive update to the Comprehensive Plan since 1980. Your continued financial support for the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) in FY17-18 will ensure that the Plan is implemented and produce a tremendous return on investment for Portland's prosperity and equity for decades to come. BPS urgently needs to proceed with the code writing to put the Comp Plan into practice. This is the right time to put resources into planning solutions that avoid the mistakes of other booming West Coast cities, which have become unaffordable.

At this time, several positions in the bureau are vulnerable heading into FY17-18 because of serial one-time funding. Under any circumstances, this is damaging to staff morale; in today's healthy economy, vulnerable employees will be easily persuaded to leave the City for more stable positions with other agencies or in the private sector. This has happened for the past two years, and talented planners have gone elsewhere. It hinders the bureau's ability to lead the type of planning and sustainability innovations that drive the City's reputation and success.

In order to implement essential projects, the PSC supports the following budget requests:

1. Housing Code Package.

\$584,000 in one-time General Fund and \$172,000 in on-going General Fund

- Residential Infill Project (\$387,000).
- Better Housing by Design/Multi-family dwelling code update (\$197,000).
- SW Corridor Equitable Housing Strategy (\$172,000).



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2. Smart Cities Initiative.

\$256,000 in on-going General Fund

- Establish an open data policy.
- Develop and support a system for citywide smart cities coordination with PBOT, CBO and OMF to strengthen and align the positions within each bureau.
- Coordinate smart cities projects addressing air quality and other equity priorities.

Portland is recognized internationally for its innovative planning and sustainability solutions. While this work has brought recognition and tourism, more importantly it has provided residents and businesses with a better connected and more equitable and prosperous city.

BPS is a bureau unique in structure and offerings. The staff are innovative leaders who convene cross-bureau and community-wide efforts. We urge you to ensure more stable and long-term funding for BPS and for the future of long-range planning and sustainability programs in Portland.

Sincerely,



Katherine Schultz
Chair

