



Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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December 4, 2020

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Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

The Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) enthusiastically offers our support for the 13th Amendment to the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Plan (Interstate Plan), currently scheduled to come before Portland City Council on December 16, 2020. The PSC was briefed on November 10, 2020, on this item, held a public hearing on November 24, 2020, and voted unanimously to recommend that City Council adopt this amendment to further the goals set out in Portland's *Comprehensive Plan*.

The proposed amendment increases the maximum indebtedness of the Interstate Plan, making available an additional \$67 million in tax increment funding. The Portland Housing Bureau and Prosper Portland are prioritizing investments in affordable housing and economic development, with a focus on projects and programs that will benefit Portland's Black community, people of color, and long-term and former members of North and Northeast Portland. The PSC strongly supports these priorities and encourages the Portland Housing Bureau and Prosper Portland to continue to coordinate with the N/NE Housing Oversight Committee and the N/NE Community Development Initiative Oversight Committee on the implementation of these priorities.

Overall, the 13th Amendment is in conformance with Portland's *Comprehensive Plan*. In particular, the increased funding helps implement the Comprehensive Plan's Guiding Principles on Economic Prosperity and Equity, and the Goals and Policies of Chapter 5 Housing and Chapter 6 Economic Development. The increased investment in new affordable rental housing and home ownership opportunities, in conjunction with the N/NE Preference Policy, will help reverse the legacy of displacement that has disproportionately affected Black households in North and Northeast Portland. New community economic development initiatives enabled by the amendment, such as the envisioned Cultural Business Hub, will foster economic prosperity among communities and individuals that have not equitably benefited from job creation, business development, and other economic opportunities in the city.



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It is vitally important for the City to continue to directly address the legacy of previous planning and urban renewal efforts that have disproportionately and negatively impacted Black households and businesses in North and Northeast Portland. We strongly urge the City Council to adopt this amendment to the Interstate Plan. Thank you for considering our recommendation.

Sincerely,



Eli Spevak
Chair

