



THE BUREAU OF **PLANNING  
& SUSTAINABILITY**

## Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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April 23, 2021

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Rubio, Ryan, Hardesty, and Mapps:

In addition to our letter of recommendation dated October 6, 2020, we are pleased to provide testimony in support of the *Design Overlay Zone Amendment (DOZA) Recommended Draft, Volume 3: Portland Citywide Design Guidelines*. The Planning and Sustainability Commission collaborated with the Design Commission throughout our work on DOZA, beginning with the development of the new purpose statement for the Design overlay zone to ensure that both aspects of our work build on the three tenets of the Design overlay zone:

- **Build on context** by enhancing the distinctive physical, natural, historic and cultural qualities of the location while accommodating growth and change;
- **Contribute to a public realm** that encourages social interaction and fosters inclusivity in people's daily experience; and
- **Promote quality and long-term resilience** in the face of changing demographics, climate and economy.

Collaboration continued during the joint public briefing and hearing where 36 people testified in person on October 22, 2019. The Commissions received a total of 168 distinct pieces of testimony, although multiple pieces of testimony were provided by single individuals in a few cases.

Commissions exchanged ideas as we each held work sessions over nine months. Specifically, three of our Commissioners met regularly with three Design Commissioners in a group called the DOZA 3x3 to resolve issues and to learn from each other. Our mission in working together was to ensure that the DOZA proposal was holistic and that City Council was presented a comprehensive set of changes that



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improves the whole design review program. While our Commission deliberated on *Volume 2: Code and Map Amendments*, the Design Commission worked through over 200 amendments to *Volume 3*.

The Planning and Sustainability Commission has unanimously recommended the zoning code and zoning map changes proposed in *DOZA Volume 2*, while the Design Commission unanimously recommended the Citywide Design Guidelines proposed in *DOZA Volume 3*. We believe that the design guidelines recommended by the Design Commission and the design standards recommended by the PSC promote the same outcome, bringing us closer to achieving the goals that Portlanders set in our Comprehensive Plan.

We wish to express our support and enthusiasm for the collaboration with the Design Commission and City staff from both the Bureaus of Planning and Sustainability and Development Services to create a complete set of proposals for DOZA. The cooperation between both Commissions resulted in a product that weighs multiple perspectives and tradeoffs. We strongly believe that the amendments recommended by Design Commission to *DOZA Volume 3: Portland Citywide Design Guidelines* forward changes to the built environment that support Portlanders' values within areas of highest growth, where more people have the opportunity to live, work, and learn.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony and look forward to discussing the proposal with you further. Thank you for considering these important amendments.

Sincerely,



Eli Spevak, Chair  
Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

