



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 24, 2021

TO: Planning and Sustainability Commission

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Joan Frederiksen, BPS, City Planner

CC: Andrea Durbin, BPS, Director
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Design Commission

SUBJECT: Summary of Proposed Draft West Portland Town Center Plan Public Testimony for August 10 through September 23, 2021

On September 28, 2021 the Planning and Sustainability Commission will hold the second of two hearings on the Proposed Draft of the West Portland Town Center (WPTC) Plan. Prior to each hearing staff will summarize the testimony received to date. This memo is the second such summary.

Background

The WPTC Plan is a long-range land use and equitable community development plan that lays out a vision for a healthy, connected, and resilient town center and proposes actions and tools to prepare and respond to future growth and change and the diverse needs of current and future residents and businesses. The WPTC Plan includes shared community development actions, Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map changes, a new West Portland Multi-cultural



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Plan District in the Zoning Code, a Coordinated Growth Strategy, and recommended priorities for infrastructure.

The Proposed Draft reflects extensive community input including feedback received during open house and workshop events, focus groups, and online surveys in project phases 1 and 2 and from online surveys and emails in phase 3 (Discussion Draft). In the current Proposed Draft phase, a WPTC Plan MapApp is serving to extend visual information about the plan and increase ease of public feedback. All testimony/comments received to date can be viewed through the [online testimony reader](#).

Schedule

The PSC will receive oral and written testimony at public hearings on September 14 and 28, 2021. The September 28 date will be a joint hearing with the Design Commission, who will be making a recommendation on the WPTC Character Statement.

The PSC will have WPTC Plan work sessions on October 26, November 9 and November 30, with potential for additional work sessions to be determined. The October 26 work session will include time for a panel of representatives from WPTC Plan partner community based organizations, an opportunity to hear from City bureaus and initial round of discussion on PSC reactions to the Proposed Draft and testimony received. Prior to each work session, staff will prepare and send a memo with recommend discussion topics based on comments received and PSC input.



Summary of Comments
Memo 2: August 10 through September 23, 2021

All of the comments received to date can be viewed on the [online testimony reader](#).

In the August 10 through September 23 time frame, 24* public written comments were received via the MapApp. In addition, 8 individuals testified at the September 14 hearing. Written comments ranged in nature from specific zoning requests or objections for private properties to general comments about the Plan’s overall goals and objectives. Some of the themes included but are not limited to:

- Concerns around and/or support for proposed zoning map changes.
- Concerns around lack of safe roadway infrastructure for people powered transportation options, and impacts of increases in traffic volumes and cut-through traffic.
- Need to prioritize and front-load transportation improvements to catalyze the proposed town center vision.
- Support for closure of the centrally located I-5 ramps.
- Comments on specific roadway projects.
- Need for stronger commitments to transportation projects and studies of related challenges in the area.
- Need for better transit service and its connection to providing options beyond private automobiles.
- Impacts of infrastructure and development changes on trees, which are a climate change resilience resource.

Written Comments by Category to date

Map App Comments by Category	Comments
Comprehensive Plan or Zoning Map changes	12
Zoning Code changes	3
Infrastructure or Transit Needs	18
Climate	5
Housing Affordability	2
Character Statement	2
Parks, Open/Green Spaces	3
Parking	8
Trees	5
Other	1

* Number reflects adjustment for duplicates. 28 entries have been received with 4 being duplicates.

