

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 15, 2021

TO: Planning and Sustainability Commission

FROM: Eric Engstrom, BPS, Principal Planner

Joan Frederiksen, BPS, City Planner

CC: Andrea Durbin, BPS, Director

Cassie Ballew, BPS, City Planner - Urban Design

Design Commission

SUBJECT: Summary of Proposed Draft West Portland Town Center Plan Public Testimony for

August 10 through October 14, 2021

On October 26, 2021, the Planning and Sustainability Commission will hold a panel discussion and the first of a series of work sessions on the Proposed Draft of the West Portland Town Center (WPTC) Plan. Prior to each meeting staff will summarize the testimony received to date. This memo is the third 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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1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100, Portland Oregon, 97201 | phone: 503-823-7700 | tty: 503-823-6868

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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 received oral and written testimony at public hearings on September 14 and 28, 2021. The September 28 date was a joint hearing with the Design Commission to review and recommend amendments to 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 an 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. A separate memo for the October 26 meeting has been prepared.





Summary of Comments Memo 3: August 10 through October 14, 2021

All of the comments received to date can be viewed on the online testimony reader.

Since the last testimony summary memo, and in the September 24 through October 14 time frame, 22 new public written comments were received via the MapApp. In addition, one individual testified at the September 28 hearing.

To date, 56* total comments have been received and nine individuals have testified since August 10, 2021. A table of comment topics follows on the next page. Some of the themes in the comments included, but are not limited to:

- Concerns around and/or support for proposed zoning map changes.
- Support for the proposed anti-displacement, community building, health, and affordable housing strategies
- Support for the racial equity and affordable housing goals
- Concerns around lack of safe roadway facilities for people walking, biking or rolling in the area and the impacts of increases in traffic volumes and cut-through traffic.
- Concerns around uncertainty of future infrastructure funding commitments needed to support growth, as well as need to prioritize transportation improvements to catalyze the TC vision.
- Support for closure of the centrally located I-5 ramps.
- 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.
- Interest in seeing more noise abatement adjacent to the Interstate 5 corridor
- Concerns about availability and compatibility of vehicular parking for future uses

^{*} Number reflects adjustment for duplicates. 61 entries have been received with 5 being duplicates.





Written Comments by Category to date

Map App Comments by Category	Prior	New	Total
	Comments	Comments	Comments
Infrastructure or Transit Needs	18	17	35
Comprehensive Plan or Zoning Map changes	12	14	26
Housing Affordability	2	12	14
Parking	8	3	11
Trees	5	5	10
Parks, Open/Green Spaces	3	5	8
Zoning Code changes	3	3	6
Climate	5	1	6
Equity		6	6
Health		4	4
Multicultural / multicultural hub		4	4
Character Statement	2	1	3
Commercial affordability / uses		2	2
Other	1	17	18



