

Dear City Council,

I am writing in full support of the proposed Shelter to Housing Continuum Project (S2Hc). I also urge the city council to extend the Housing State of Emergency and consider the amendments proposed by Portland Neighbors Welcome, namely allowing sanctioned Outdoor Shelters in appropriate, approved sites in Open Space zones and in the right-of-way (ROW), and dropping the requirement for vehicles to have costly sewer connections.

Recently, I discovered that the Joint Office of Homeless Services, on behalf of the City of Portland and Multnomah County is seeking proposals for alternative shelters to assist those experiencing unsheltered homelessness. While I think that is a wonderful idea, it will not reach its full potential without first passing the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project (S2HC). We can have many innovative, fantastic ideas for shelters, villages, etc. But without having places to locate them, it will be all for naught. Let's not have a zoning code get in the way of the creativity of our community. Let's pass the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project and let our city code be a part of the solution rather than the problem.

Please pass the Shelter to Housing Continuum Project and extend the Housing State of Emergency.

Thank you,
Madilyn Hotchkiss