



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 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 October 29, 2021

On November 9, 2021, the Planning and Sustainability Commission will hold a work session on the Proposed Draft of the West Portland Town Center (WPTC) Plan. Staff has summarized testimony received to date before each prior PSC meeting. The deadline to submit public testimony to the PSC closed on Friday, October 29. This memo is the fourth and final 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



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actions, Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Map changes, a new West Portland Multi-cultural 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 public was invited to submit testimony through October 29, 2021 at 5p.m.

On October 26, the PSC hosted a panel discussion with representatives from WPTC Plan partner community-based organizations and partner agencies.

The PSC will have WPTC Plan work sessions on November 9 and November 30, with potential for additional work sessions to be determined.



Summary of Comments

Memo 4: August 10 through October 29, 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 October 15 through October 29 time frame, 12 new public written comments were received via the MapApp.

To date, 68* 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 actions and tools in the plan
- 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. 73 entries have been received with 5 being duplicates.



Written Comments by Category to date

Map App Comments by Category	Prior Comments	New Comments	Total Comments
Infrastructure or Transit Needs	35	4	39
Comprehensive Plan or Zoning Map changes	26	3	29
Housing Affordability	14	10	24
Parking	11	2	13
Parks, Open/Green Spaces	8	4	12
Trees	10	1	11
Zoning Code changes	6	2	8
Equity	6	2	8
Multicultural / multicultural hub	4	3	7
Climate	6	1	7
Health	4	2	6
Commercial affordability / uses	2	3	5
Character Statement	3	1	4
Other	18		18

