

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners:

I urge you to approve the Housing Needs Analysis and direct the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability to plan for upzoning the Inner Eastside, from 12th to 60th Ave and from Fremont Street to Powell Boulevard. This project should be part of the City's Housing Production Strategy.

It's critical that we allow higher-density, mixed-use development in this part of the City (i.e., “four floors and corner stores”). That type of development will allow many more Portlanders to live in a high-opportunity neighborhood, with access to plentiful jobs and amenities. Upzoning the Inner Eastside will also help the City meet its climate goals, as residents will need to drive less (or not at all) to reach their daily destinations.

Building more housing is popular. A [recent poll](#) conducted by the Pew Charitable Trust found that 75% of respondents favored building more apartments near offices, stores, or restaurants (all abundant in the Inner Eastside). This kind of mixed-use density has a precedent the City— Northwest Portland. There, a vibrant mix of mid-rise apartments, shops, and office space creates a flourishing urban fabric that affords many Portlanders a high-quality of life. It's time to extend that opportunity to a greater swath of our city.

Upzoning the Inner Eastside will also provide economic benefits, as increased housing supply affords more options to Portlanders at all income levels. Greater housing supply also makes public subsidies like rental vouchers and rapid rehousing program stretch farther. These benefits will provide a significant boost to our efforts to address the ongoing homelessness crisis.

Portlanders are clamoring for more housing options in high-opportunity areas. Upzoning the Inner Eastside is a common-sense step to make that vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Anders Hart