

Hello Mayor and Commissioners,

I am Heidi Hart, and I am a renter in the Buckman neighborhood. I am testifying to urge you to both approve the Housing Needs Analysis and include Inner Eastside for All as a strategy in the Housing Production Strategy.

I love the neighborhood I live in, and I want more people in Portland to be able to live in neighborhoods like mine. My neighborhood has complete streets, greenways, and all kinds of housing types, from single family homes to large apartment buildings and everything in between. I have grocery stores, restaurants, and shops within walking distance, and I am a 10 minute bike ride and 10 minute transit ride from downtown. I live in a 10 unit apartment building on a side street, and the street in front of my apartment is very low traffic. A family who lives down the street puts cones down for their kids to play in the middle of the street on nice days. My street is very well shaded by mature trees.

Most of the housing density in my neighborhood is historical because this area was downzoned in the 80s. My 60s apartment building is not on an arterial, and would not be able to be re-built today. Immediately next to me is a single family home that has been vacant for the over 3 years I have been living here, and it is falling apart. If it was redeveloped, it could only have a maximum of 4 units, which is unlikely to happen because of the high land values. That lot should be a no-brainer street-scale apartment building! Currently no one lives there, and no one could live there without a monstrous amount of money being poured into it. We need our land use decisions in our inner neighborhoods to be creating new opportunities for people of all household configurations, ages, and incomes to live in places that enhance their well-being. We need bold changes to make that happen.

Thanks,  
Heidi Hart