

October 17, 2011

Portland City Council
Mayor Sam Adams
Commissioner Nick Fish
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Randy Leonard
Commissioner Dan Saltzman

AUDITOR 10/18/11 AM 9:49

Re: Title 17 Update and Restructuring Report
Members of the Council:

I had intended to testify in person today but the change of hearing schedule has made that impossible. I did, however, want to provide you with my suggestions about this agenda item

I understand and appreciate the reason for this Title 17 Update and Revision work and support your adoption of the report.

My concern is that, once again, an important part of City code is changed in bits and pieces without any apparent consideration of whether or not it can provide cohesive language and direction to implement a clear city transportation investment policy.

Some specific areas mentioned in Title 17 but not appropriate for that work:

Redefinition of sidewalks and pedestrian way code, some of which was written in 1994.

Local Improvement Districts reflect a very limited methodology that does not provide a flexible or deliverable approach in many, many cases. It is time to redefine the way in which LIDs can be used in a partnership approach.

Development of a multi-modal transportation plan for the City that connects transportation investments in a working multi-model system and includes transit.

Creation of a transportation system handbook, explaining the differences between public and private parts of the system as well as explaining specific maintenance expectations for property owners for public investments like sidewalks and street trees.

Please consider providing guidance to the Portland Bureau of Transportation to include this Transportation Investment and Strategies Policy development as part of their annual work plan and recognize the need for new general fund support to begin work.

Thank you.

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