



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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April 2, 2012:

Mayor and City Council:

On behalf of the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC), I am pleased to forward the Portland Plan - Recommended Draft. The plan provides a structure for interagency coordination, a framework for improving the equity of public services and investments, and three strategies that outline the work we need to do to make Portland prosperous, educated, healthy and equitable.

The Portland Plan is a different kind of plan. Unlike many plans, instead of starting with where to place infrastructure, it started with understanding how Portlanders are doing today and asking what they will want and need in the future. This grounds the plan and gives it greater longevity.

Research showed that while Portland is reducing carbon emissions, has many walkable neighborhoods and one of the highest bike commuting rates in the nation, significant inequities persist. Portland's population is becoming more diverse, but African-Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, immigrants and Portlanders with disabilities all experience significant educational and economic disparities, among others. There are also geographic disparities, for example in East Portland, transportation improvements and school facilities and services have not kept pace with population growth. For these reasons, the Portland Plan includes A Framework for Equity. The Framework for Equity provides direction for changing the way the city and partners work: how we make decisions, where we invest and how we engage with Portlanders. This framework is about closing the gaps.

The members of the PSC recognize that resources are limited. While we know that fiscal restraint is necessary, we do not want financial concerns to blunt our aspirations or inhibit innovation that will benefit the city in the long-term. The Five-Year Action Plan, while ambitious, includes actions that will result in multiple benefits. It also brings together numerous agency partners and by aligning City and partner actions, we can do more with less money.

The plan provides a guide for revising and focusing the yearly City budget process. There are 12 measures of success in the plan that we should measure our progress against. Each year, the actions in the budget can be evaluated according to these measures. Each year, we should ask ourselves if the proposed actions, investments and programs in the budget help us meet our shared measures of success.



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1900 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 7100, Portland, OR 97201 | phone: 503-823-7700 | fax: 503-823-7800 | tty: 503-823-6868

The Portland Plan was developed through an inclusive process and it reflects the ideas and aspirations of the thousands of Portlanders who helped create it. During the Portland Plan process, staff did not rely on typical public involvement processes to solicit input. Instead, staff went to hundreds of community meetings to meet people where they normally gather and changed the format of public events in response to community recommendations. Many public information materials were translated into four foreign languages and grants to improve outreach were provided to the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization, Latino Network, NAYA, Urban League of Portland and Center for Intercultural Organizing. Credit is due to the all-volunteer Community Involvement Committee that guided staff and the PSC through this process.

I look forward to the hearing on April 18, and look forward to working with you to implement the Portland Plan.

Regards,



Andre' Baugh
Chair
Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

