



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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April 30, 2012

Mayor Sam Adams and Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1121 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Subject: Education Urban Renewal Area

Dear Mayor Adams and City Commissioners,

At a public hearing held on April 24, 2012 the Planning and Sustainability Commission voted unanimously in support of the Education Urban Renewal Plan (EDURA) as proposed by the Portland Development Commission.

In reaching our decision the Planning and Sustainability Commission finds that the proposed URA is consistent with the adopted City of Portland Comprehensive Plan and recommends that the Portland City Council adopt the EDURA as presented.

The PSC further finds that the proposed URA is supportive of some of the integrated strategies of the recently adopted Portland Plan (2012) and implements the City's Economic Development Strategy (2009).

In considering the EDURA, the Planning and Sustainability Commission discussed the issue of equity at some length and submits to the City Council the following observations:

- The EDURA benefits not only Portland State University but also appropriately Multnomah County and Portland Public Schools. However, in the process it has a small but discernible negative financial impact on each of the other five school districts in Portland.
- To advance the Portland Plan's equity goals, the benefits that Portland Public Schools accrues through redevelopment at Lincoln High School must be shared throughout the school district.
- The Planning and Sustainability Commission is concerned that the possible use of the Affordable Housing set aside for student housing would not be consistent with the goals of the Council policy establishing the set aside nor the housing goals of the Portland Plan.

Equity must involve more than MWESB contracting. We place that responsibility for implementing the Portland Plan's Framework for Advancing Equity in the EDURA on the Portland Development Commission and the Portland Housing Bureau. We ask PDC and the Housing Bureau to report yearly to the Planning and Sustainability Commission on progress toward each of the 12 Portland Plan measures within the EDURA. Without a strong commitment to advancing equity on the part of these key implementing agencies, the district could fail its potential to serve all residents of Portland.



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Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of this new and targeted use of urban renewal in the City and for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,



André Baugh, Chair
Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission



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