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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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October 8, 2012

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

Subject: Central City 2035 Concept Plan

Dear Mayor Adams and City Commissioners,

The Planning and Sustainability Commission is pleased to forward our recommendations on the Central City 2035 Concept Plan. We support the policies and urban design directions laid out in this plan as the first step in updating the 1988 Central City Plan. The Central City 2035 planning project is intended to help preserve our existing assets and guide us on a path to a truly livable, sustainable city center.

At a September 11, 2012 public hearing on the plan, the Commission received a range of testimony generally supportive of the Concept Plan. Participants in the process testified in favor of the extensive work that had been done. Other comments were focused on transportation issues, specifically bicycling mode share goals and implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan.

After the public hearing on September 11, 2012, City staff compiled a final memorandum with recommended staff changes which was presented to the commission at a public meeting on September 25, 2012. The amendments reflected comments received from the commission and the public at large. After review the Commission supported the changes and supports work that will be done in the following phases to address all the concerns which were discussed.

On September 25, 2012 the Planning and Sustainability Commission unanimously voted to forward the Central City 2035 Concept Plan to City Council for adoption by resolution. The Commission strongly supports the Concept Plan and the strategic vision of a center of innovation and exchange it lays out for the Central City. This plan supports and is consistent with the N/NE Quadrant Plan which the Commission is also forwarding to City Council for adoption as a separate agenda item.



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The Planning and Sustainability Commission recommends that Council adopt the Resolution which:

1. Will adopt the Central City 2035 Concept Plan as non-binding City policy for the Central City;
2. Direct completion of the long-range quadrant planning work outlined in the Central City 2035 Concept Plan; and
3. Direct staff to submit to City Council by June 2015 an ordinance that adopts the final Central City 2035 Plan and amends the Portland Comprehensive Plan and Map and Zoning Code and maps in conformance with the Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of these plans and for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Andre Baugh
Chair
Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

