

Comprehensive Plan Testimony

This is a comment on the Proposed Draft Citywide Systems Plan

A lot of hard work by a lot of good people has obviously gone into this draft.

As the draft itself notes in Chapter 2, there are significant infrastructure funding gaps (roughly \$3 billion over ten years which you characterize as measured conservatively). This gap would require spending at least 20 to 40 percent more than the City spends currently on major maintenance and capital projects. Frankly, this is not going to happen and you will have to make very tough choices about funding priorities. To your credit, you do not shy away from pointing this out.

To make this document useful, it needs to lay out draft city-wide (not department by department) priorities for infrastructure investment, project-by-project and toss this priority list out for immediate discussion, decision-making and scheduling. Otherwise, this document and all your hard work will simply be an impossible-to-fulfill consolidation of existing City department wish lists useful only for collecting cobwebs in some government agency basement.

Please use this opportunity, in this document, to begin the kind financial management and spending prioritization process Portland has so long neglected and so badly needs.

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