



Office for
Community Technology

September 11, 2014

City of Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
1900 SW 4th Ave
Portland, OR 97201-5380

Re: Inclusion of broadband in Portland's Comprehensive Plan

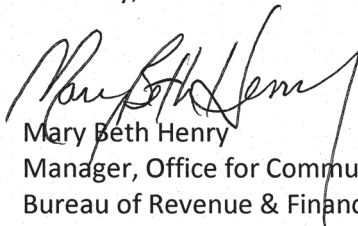
Dear Commissioner,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Portland's draft Comprehensive Plan. The Office for Community Technology champions public policy and technology investments in communications and utility infrastructure. OCT appreciates the Planning and Sustainability Commission's support of the Broadband Strategic Plan unanimously adopted by City Council in 2011 and inclusion of broadband in the Portland Plan. The Broadband Strategic Plan recognizes that high-speed affordable broadband to every home and business represents basic infrastructure for Portland in the twenty-first century. It means jobs, education, health care, and access to services across the digital divide - all key components of a sustainable city.

The Office for Community Technology understands the importance of the Comprehensive Plan in setting the course for Portland's physical development over the next twenty years. Therefore, upon reviewing the draft Comprehensive Plan and in consultation with the City Attorney's Office, the Office for Community Technology strongly encourages the Commission to incorporate the following into the Comprehensive Plan, "Explore regulatory improvements to facilitate providing high performance, affordable broadband connectivity to every business and residence in the city."

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critical document for Portland's future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of assistance, or if you wish to discuss our recommendation further.

Sincerely,



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