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## Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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June 20, 2018

Mayor Ted Wheeler and Members of Portland City Council  
Portland City Hall  
1221 SW Fourth Ave  
Portland, OR 97204

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC), we ask that you adopt the Enhanced Transit Plan (ETC) and the recommendations to advance ETC projects to implementation as part of Metro's pilot program.

As part of the recently adopted Transportation System Plan the PSC worked with PBOT staff to identify a refinement plan called Enhanced Transit Corridors. The purpose of the study was to “identify corridors needing higher transit capacity to accommodate projected growth and to support TSP outcomes including prosperity, equity, safety and climate.” The description also directed PBOT to “focus on frequent transit corridors within the City where projected population and employment growth and associated demand is expected to overwhelm the ability of conventional transit service to meet demand.” In other words, focus attention where congestion is likely to impede the efficient and reliable movement of transit and take bold action to “enhance” transit performance and capacity. Finally, the description called for the development of a list of projects to submit to the Regional Transportation Plan and to the next update of the TSP, including at least one significant project in East Portland. This plan and list of projects do just that.

The criteria and measures PBOT used to identify Enhanced Transit Corridors and prioritize projects includes the following:

- Future Growth
- Equity
- Transit Ridership
- Transit Performance Measures, including Transit Speed, Dwell Time and Reliability/Delay

The Commission was briefed on the plan on April 10 of this year. At the meeting, we discussed and agreed with the urgency of this plan and voted to recommend adoption by Council. During the briefing, we touched on the need to make transit a reliable and attractive means of travel, especially in areas far away from the center of the City and where so many of our residents must live due to the rising cost of housing. We urge, that special attention continue to be given to equity and the unique needs of East Portland.



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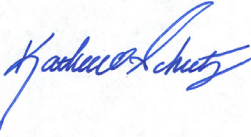
Overall, we are pleased that many recommended projects are located east of 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and that at least one project, 122<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, is actively being developed by PBOT staff. We are equally excited that several projects that serve East Portland are recommended for submission to the Regional Enhanced Transit Concept Pilot program.

We are also pleased with the spirit of partnership between the City, TriMet and Metro in developing together a strong New Transit Vision for the Regional Transportation Plan. It includes ETC as a central element. Plus it advances other important ideas such as the need for more attractive options for long distance transit travel.

The PSC understands that one of the key challenges of the day is to make space in the right-of-way for the modes of transportation we want to emphasize. It is well known that unless we get smarter and serious in our allocation of limited space, we won't succeed in shifting people's travel behavior away from driving to active transportation and transit. This plan is a welcomed addition to our existing efforts to create a more multimodal healthy and connected city.

On behalf of the PSC, we ask that the Council adopt the Enhanced Transit Corridors Plan.

Sincerely,



Kat Schultz  
Chair

