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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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December 2, 2019

Mayor Ted Wheeler
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Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Commissioners:

The Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) is pleased to forward our recommendations for the minor update to the 2035 Transportation System Plan (TSP). The TSP is the City's 20-year plan for transportation policies and investments. It serves as the transportation element of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The TSP provides a critical framework for the City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector and achieve its climate goals.

The Recommended Draft includes proposed amendments to the 2035 TSP as recommended in the following Council adopted plans: The Enhanced Transit Corridors Plan, The Growing Transit Communities Plan, and PedPDX. The proposal amends existing policies, updates street classifications for Pedestrian, Bicycle, Emergency Response, and Design, amends a subset of existing projects and adds new projects to the financially unconstrained major projects lists, and updates the TSP's supporting chapters. The update to the TSP maintains consistency with the recently adopted 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and complies with State planning requirements.

On November 29, 2019, the PSC held a public hearing and took testimony from several interested stakeholders including SW Trails, Friends of Green Loop, and BikeLoudPDX. A majority of written and oral testimony focused on major projects such as the Red Electric Trail and Green Loop.

The PSC followed testimony with discussion. This included an amendment proposed by a PSC commissioner to change the bicycle classification designation on Sandy Blvd from SE Washington St. to NE 122nd Ave. from City Bikeway to Major City Bikeway to better align the modal classifications of the street with the priorities of Policy 9.6 of the Comprehensive Plan. The PSC voted 8-0 to approve this amendment.

In our recommendation, we also want to highlight metrics provided in a briefing from BPS staff at the November 12, 2019 PSC meeting regarding the role of transportation in reaching our climate goals. Forty-two percent of emissions in Portland come from the transportation sector. And while Portlanders are buying fewer gallons of gasoline today than in 1990, transportation sector emissions are now 8



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percent higher than 1990 levels, largely because our vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per person has remained flat in that same time frame (and population has increased). Reducing VMT is a key to both achieving our climate action goals and to improving our transportation system overall. This highlights the urgent need for the walking, cycling, and transit projects and classifications in this update.

The PSC then voted 8-0 to recommend approval of the staff proposal with the following amendments and modifications.

The PSC Recommends:

1. City Council adopt the TSP Update Recommended Draft as amended by the PSC.
2. If City Council adopts the Southwest in Motion plan, the plan's recommended amendments to the TSP should be included as part of this TSP Update.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the review of the TSP update and for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Katherine Schultz
Chair

Cc: Chris Warner, Director, PBOT
Andrea Durbin, Director, BPS
Bob Kellett, Transportation Planner, PBOT
Julie Ocken, PSC Coordinator, BPS

