MEMO

To: Historic Resources Commission
From: Michelle Marx, PBOT Pedestrian Coordinator
Date: November 30, 2020

RE: December 7, 2020 Briefing, Pedestrian Design Guide

Intent of Briefing

To acquaint the Commission with the in-progress update to the Portland Pedestrian Design Guide, including the purpose and intent of the document, key content to be included, and issues that will be addressed as part of the update.

Key Issues/Questions for the Commission

Of particular interest to the Commission is the ongoing staff-level discussion regarding ground-level sidewalk width requirements from the Pedestrian Design Guide to accommodate pedestrian demand and street tree requirements, and established building façade lines. Michelle will brief the Commission on initial staff level discussion of this issue and solicit initial Commission input. This is a preliminary briefing to introduce the project and the issue, and Michelle will return to the Commission in early 2021 with staff recommendations. The Pedestrian Design Guide update will continue through 2021, with the sidewalk corridor section updated by June 2021.

Background:

PedPDX, the 20-year update to Portland's 1998 Pedestrian Master Plan, was adopted by City Council in June 2019. Council directed the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) in the adopting resolution to update the 1998 Pedestrian Design Guide to reflect the recommendations of PedPDX. The Pedestrian Design Guide implements the policies and pedestrian classifications adopted within the Pedestrian Master Plan, translating those into a coherent set of standards for pedestrian facilities. It establishes sidewalk design criteria, including requirements for minimum sidewalk widths and street corner design at crossings. All pedestrian facilities designed and constructed in Portland by City-led capital projects and by private development must conform to these standards. Largely impacting private frontage

improvements, the Pedestrian Design Guide provides a critically important mechanism for leveraging privately-funded pedestrian improvements.

The Pedestrian Design Guide is one of the most critical tools for implementing the policies and objectives in the City's Pedestrian Master Plan. Updating the Pedestrian Design Guide, as directed by City Council, will effectively codify the policies and objectives in the newly adopted PedPDX into clear design requirements and provide clarity to the development community regarding the impact that the newly adopted PedPDX will have upon the City's frontage improvement requirements.

The current scope of work includes developing full chapter content for sidewalk corridor requirements as a component of the Pedestrian Design Guide, including but not limited to:

- Updating width requirements for each of the three zones of the sidewalk (furnishing zone, pedestrian through zone, and building frontage zone) as related to each of the pedestrian street types and pedestrian district overlays identified in PedPDX in order to adequately accommodate pedestrian demand and public realm design objectives.
- Reconciling the physical relationship between pedestrian and bicycle facilities when bicycle facilities are provided at sidewalk level behind the curb
- Coordinating updated furnishing zone width, design, and maintenance requirements with Urban Forestry and BES.
- Identifying the potential impact of updated building and furnishing zone widths on sidewalk cafes and other elements and activation in the public right-of-way