



**City of Portland, Oregon**  
**Bureau of Development Services**  
**Land Use Services**  
FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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## Briefing

# DISCUSSION MEMO

**Date:** November 22, 2023  
**To:** Portland Design Commission  
**From:** Benjamin Nielsen, Design & Historic Review Team  
(503) 865-6519, benjamin.nielsen@portlandoregon.gov  
**Re:** PBOT Street Plazas Program  
Briefing Cover Memo – November 30, 2023

This memo is regarding the upcoming Briefing on November 30, 2023, for the PBOT Street Plaza Program. A copy of PBOT's Powerpoint presentation, which you will see on November 30, is also available for review online:

- <https://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/Record/16475579/>

## I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

PBOT staff are currently working on developing program design toolkit and standards for the Street Plaza Program, which has so far been used to support local business during the pandemic. This briefing will provide the Design Commission an opportunity to ask questions about the further development and standardization of this program, as well as provide observations and guidance on the design toolkit and related standards and guidelines to help develop successful street plazas.

Before right-of-way improvements are deemed "standard" in a design overlay zone, PBOT must receive support from the Design Commission. It is the intention that PBOT staff will return for a future briefing once the program is more developed. Once the toolkit and standards are established for this program, and if the Design Commission supports the included improvements, the Street Plaza Program will be considered a "standard improvement in the right-of-way", and proposals that meet these the relevant standards will be exempt from Design Review.