

Hello,

My name is Jennifer Shuch - I am a Northeast Portland resident and VP of the Portland: Neighbors Welcome board. I am writing today to urge the Planning Commission to support **strengthening strategy C-1** in the Draft Housing Production Strategy report: *Study multi-dwelling zoning changes in inner centers and corridors*.

Portland is in the midst of a housing crisis - even as vacancy rates rise in some parts of the city, people are still struggling to afford rent. In addition, the city is not meeting its goals around shifting mode share away from cars and toward transit and active transportation. In large part, this is because right now, the city's zoning regulations do not align with its stated values.

Upzoning the Inner Eastside, an area of town with access to jobs, transit, infrastructure, parks, and high-quality schools, **is essential if the City wants to make meaningful progress toward its housing and climate goals**. The City should not only commit to studying this but to staffing it as a formal project, with adequate resources to ensure that this initiative does not just end with a report nobody gets to see.

Upzoning the Inner Eastside is not just a pie-in-the-sky fantasy put forward by a bunch of planning nerds. **Portland: Neighbors Welcome has been working for several months to conduct outreach and solicit feedback on this idea**. We built a diverse coalition of housing, transportation, and climate organizations, held multiple events including an Inner Eastside for All bike ride through Southeast Portland with Bike Loud, and met with neighborhood associations throughout the Inner Eastside. Our aim in doing this was to start a dialogue about what our city could look like, and how we could provide more housing options to suit the needs of diverse groups.

We imagine a city where people who want to live without a car can choose to do so, where there is an adequate supply of land on which dense housing at all affordability levels can be built, where people aren't kept out of high-opportunity neighborhoods and forced to commute long distances because they can't afford a million dollar home, where small local shops and cafes can thrive off of major arterials, and where quiet is not a luxury that only comes with homeownership. **We believe this is possible for Portland, but only if the City commits to doing more than studying it.**

Portland has led the way for other cities through its embrace of bold housing policies, like the Residential Infill Project and the broad legalization of ADUs. We have the opportunity to lead once again by breaking away from past patterns of segregation and moving toward a healthier, greener, and more equitable city.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Jennifer Shuch
Portland: Neighbors Welcome