

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability  
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

## Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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February 2, 2012

Dear Susan,

The intent of this letter is to provide Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) staff with formal direction on how to proceed with the revisions to the Proposed Draft Portland Plan (Proposed Draft). The revisions will result in the Recommended Draft Portland Plan (Recommended Draft). The Recommended Draft will be forwarded to the City Council for final review and approval.

The Proposed Draft was developed through a multi-year community-wide effort that included three phases of extensive public involvement.<sup>1</sup> The Proposed Draft was released for public review and comment on October 18, 2011. The public comment period on the Proposed Draft ran from October 18 to December 28, 2011.

To collect public comment on the plan, the PSC held three public hearings throughout the community on November 8, 15 and 29, 2011. On behalf of the PSC, BPS staff received more than 170 letters of public testimony. The public comment period was extended at the request of several neighborhood associations and was open from October 18 to December 28, 2011, BPS staff also forwarded transmitted all comment letters that arrived after the close of the comment period, but prior to the distribution of comments to the PSC on January 5, 2011.

On December 13, 2011 and January 10 and 24, 2012, the PSC discussed the themes and issues from public testimony as well as issues that PSC members noted in their own reading of the plan.

This letter contains information on the next steps the PSC will take with respect to the Portland Plan and directions for staff to heed as they revise the plan.

### NEXT STEPS

1. After staff completes the revisions, as directed below, the PSC will review the text of the Recommended Draft prior to its transmittal to City Council.
2. The PSC will write a letter to accompany the Recommended Draft. The letter will highlight issues the PSC considered most critical or important for the City Council during their review of the Recommended Draft.

<sup>1</sup> Detailed information on the Portland Plan public involvement process can be found online at [www.pdxplan.com](http://www.pdxplan.com) on the public participation page.



## **DIRECTION FOR REVISING THE PROPOSED DRAFT PORTLAND PLAN**

The directions to staff provided below reflect the Planning and Sustainability Commission's deliberations throughout our review of the Proposed Draft Portland Plan.

### **1. Disability**

- a. Review the plan to identify areas where accessibility issues and the concerns expressed by and for persons with disabilities can be addressed.
- b. Work with the Portland Commission on Disability, the Portland Housing Bureau, the Office of Equity and Human Rights and others to revise the document.
- c. Review photographs in the plan and revise photos to ensure that Portlanders of all ages and abilities are included in the document.
- d. Consider incorporating accessible units in the amenity bonus provisions of the zoning code. As part of that consideration, investigate whether other jurisdictions have found such bonuses result in an appreciable increase in accessible units.

*See related comments under Economic Prosperity and Affordability.*

### **2. Resiliency, Emergency and Hazard Planning**

- a. Recognize actions or policies that relate to the Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP) process and planning efforts currently underway at the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and add actions or policies as appropriate
- b. Add additional text to the introduction that addresses the concept of resiliency and describe how the Portland Plan components contribute to Portland's resiliency.
- c. Include discussion of climate adaptation as a component of resiliency.
- d. Add an action or policy that addresses Portland's neighborhood emergency teams.
- e. Address gathering spaces in more detail as part of discussion of Neighborhood Hubs and tie gathering spaces to hazard response.

### **3. Multigenerational City**

- a. Develop additional text that highlights the actions and policies that support the needs of an aging population and will make Portland a great place to live for Portlanders of all generations.
- b. Recognize and utilize the resource of our senior population and additional information about senior services in Portland.

### **4. East Portland**

- a. Add additional text that highlights issues in East Portland, as well as recent investments and efforts to continue that investment over time and the relationship of those investments to plan objectives and priorities. Include an index of East Portland actions.

### **5. Introduction**

- a. Revise the introduction of the plan to provide more information on basic public services, such as sewer, water, police, fire, and parks. Work with the infrastructure and service bureaus to ensure that appropriate policies and actions, if applicable, are added to the integrated strategies.
- b. Add narrative explaining how the different strategies work together. For example, clearly assert the economic contribution of parks, natural areas, and



ecosystems services. Similarly, explain how job growth can bring resources to the community to help achieve other goals, such as environmental restoration and transportation system improvements.

- c. Develop an action that directs the City to develop an evaluation approach that can be used to determine how to consider equity impacts of infrastructure investments and programs and levels of service.
- d. See direction under items 1, 2 and 3.

#### **6. Equity Framework**

- a. Add text that explains how the Equity Framework will guide the implementation of all the strategies.
- b. See direction under items 1, 2 and 10.

#### **7. Thriving Educated Youth**

- a. Review the specific actions recommended by Multnomah Youth Commission representatives, such as sustaining and expanding the Youth Pass program and supporting the Multnomah Educational Service District Outdoor School for inclusion in the plan.
- b. Explore opportunities for establishing a position for a youth commissioner on the Planning and Sustainability Commission and coordinate with the Multnomah Youth Commission.
- c. Address police-youth relations and youth safety in the plan.

#### **8. Economic Prosperity and Affordability Strategy**

- a. Revise language to clarify that the traded sector strategy is not about emphasizing the growth of multinational firms over Portland firms; to clarify what kind of firms fit into the different traded sector clusters.
- b. Add a sentence explaining the implications of being a "target industry" because there is a risk of diluting efforts if we have too many target industries.
- c. Convene a meeting with business stakeholders, such as the Portland Business Alliance, Working Waterfront Coalition, Port of Portland and the Columbia Corridor Association to follow-up on their comments and discuss options.
- d. Consider amending the policy section of the traded sector section of the plan, so that a broader array of businesses has the opportunity to become target industries. Policy 4 of the Business Cluster Growth section (p.38) already supports partnerships to foster other expanding sectors.
- e. Strengthen small business stability and support systems in the economic prosperity and affordability strategy.
- f. Integrate information about transportation systems into the Urban Innovation section of the Economic Prosperity and Affordability strategy.
- g. Revise the housing policies and actions in the plan to better align with the Portland Housing Bureau's new strategic plan.
- h. Identify a lead agency for an effort to encourage the development of market rate accessible housing and to ensure that a greater proportion of new housing is accessible.

*See related comments Disability.*

#### **9. Healthy Connected City**



- a. Consider adding or amending action(s) to more clearly prioritize sidewalk improvements. If added, clarify what trade-offs will be necessary to accomplish that priority.
- b. Add text to the plan that explains the benefits and synergies between the Economic Prosperity and Affordability strategy and the Healthy Connected City strategy. (Note: This revision could also be addressed in the introduction.)
- c. Include a specific explanation of the business case for green infrastructure, in terms of avoided costs (projects such as Tabor to the River) and as a complement to traditional pipe infrastructure upgrades).
- d. Revise text to recognize the importance of protecting the environment for future generations and adding text that recognizes the intrinsic value of nature.
- e. Add additional text focused on the relationship between health and active transportation.
- f. Provide a clear definition of active transportation and describe the benefits of active transportation for personal, community and environmental health. It would also include references to bike, transit and pedestrian-related actions in the plan (same as 12/12/11 recommendation).
- g. Add text that describes the relationships among major bikeways, civic corridors and neighborhood greenways.
- h. Clarify the purpose of the diagram on p. 76.
- i. Provide information about how the ideas shown on the diagram may be implemented.
- j. Address the role of historic resources and community character and the need for an historic resources inventory.
- k. Add text changes that recognize that transportation is a component of The Intertwine.
- l. Add better describing how bicycles will connect into hubs safely.
- m. Amend the streetcar corridor planning action to emphasize that one of the corridors should serve an area outside of the Central City.
- n. Improve the definition of a "complete neighborhood" and describe the relationship between complete neighborhoods and active transportation.
- o. Place greater emphasis on the financial challenges we face in meeting our active transportation goals (i.e., the need to develop new funding sources or additional funding sources for active transportation infrastructure investments in light of declining gas tax revenues).

#### **10. Implementation, Community Involvement and Local Actions**

- a. Include text that highlights the potential role of community-driven action plans like the East Portland Action Plan.
- b. Recognize the history and role of community organizations, like neighborhood associations and others,
- c. Identify paths for community members and nongovernmental organizations to participate and use language that is accessible to a diverse audience.
- d. Add text that directs the City to revise the budget process to reflect the Portland Plan goals and provide guidance on prioritization of public investment in the face of competing demands.
- e. Add text that specifies when the plan will be evaluated and revised.
- f. Write text revisions or add an action that more clearly expresses the relationship between the Framework for Equity and Implementation.
- g. Retain the descriptions of the five Portland districts: Central Portland, Western Neighborhoods, Eastern Neighborhoods, Inner Neighborhoods and River and

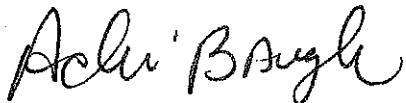


Industrial, but remove the illustrative local actions. Provide information about how communities can be involved in implementing the plan (see items described above).

### 11. Action Item Review Criteria

- a. Review each existing and proposed action for compliance with the checklist of criteria listed below. Each action should meet at least three criteria. If an action does not meet at least three of the criteria, it should be amended or removed from the plan.
  - i. When implemented, will the action help achieve goals in more than one of the Portland Plan action areas?
  - ii. Does the action have clear, specific deliverables and measurable outcomes?
  - iii. Does the action integrate and leverage existing resources?
  - iv. Is there a bureau or partner agency that is willing implement the action? Does the action align with their strategic plan?
  - v. Does the action have positive equity impacts? (see "Making Equity Real on p. 10 of the Portland Plan).
  - vi. Is it likely and possible the action can be started and/or completed in the next five years?
  - vii. Does any action that meets criterion c (integrate and leverage resources) also meet criterion e (equity impacts)?
- b. After initial revisions are complete, consider the revisions in light of the following questions:
  - i. Do we have enough dependable actions that we know will get the job done?
  - ii. Are we satisfied with the level at which each of the nine action areas were addressed?

Thank you,



André Baugh  
Chair, Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission



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