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July 12, 2011

Mayor Adams and Portland City Council
Portland City Hall
1121 SW 4th Avenue
Portland OR 97204

Subject: Amended and Restated Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Plan

Dear Mayor Adams and City Commissioners:

At a public meeting on June 28, 2011, the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission voted unanimously in support of the proposed Amended and Restated Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Plan as recommended in Portland Development Commission Resolution No. 6883.

In doing so, the Planning and Sustainability Commission:

- 1. Finds that Amended and Restated Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Plan conforms with the adopted City of Portland Comprehensive Plan.**
- 2. Recommends that the Portland City Council adopt the Amended and Restated Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Plan.**

The proposed Amended and Restated Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Plan extends the boundaries of the existing plan area by encompassing areas to the west along main streets such as Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and NE Alberta Street, and also key employment areas and emerging neighborhood business nodes. To the west, the amended plan area includes properties on the south side of N Lombard Street that were not included in the original boundary, and extends to the west along N Lombard into the St. Johns town center area. The expansion falls within areas for which the City has adopted plans, and will allow these areas to access economic resources needed for revitalization and development.

In considering the Amended and Restated Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Plan, the Planning and Sustainability Commission heard compelling testimony from several key community stakeholders, including those that participated in the N/NE Economic Development Initiative process. These community members indicated that the public involvement process was inclusive and thoughtful, overcoming past perceptions about urban renewal, and believe that the proposed amendments will ultimately improve conditions for existing residents and long-time community members.

The Commission also received testimony from community members in the central northeast Portland area, including Central Northeast Neighbors, Inc., Portland International Business District, Roseway Neighborhood Association, and Rose City Park Neighborhood Association. This testimony generally



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called for a broader study to determine the need and most appropriate location for future urban renewal efforts, and asked that urban renewal tools be considered for this area to address blight and economic conditions. The Commission heard the plight of longtime residents and businesses that have waited for access. Through the lens of Equity, the PSC will measure the success for long-term residents and businesses.

The Planning and Sustainability Commission appreciates the opportunity to hear the proposed amendments and thanks you for considering our recommendations.

Sincerely,



Andre' Baugh, Chair
Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

