



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
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Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission

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May 27, 2014

Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioner Steve Novick

Dear Mayor and Commissioner,

At our May 13, 2014 meeting, Metro Councilor Bob Stacey provided a briefing to the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) about Metro's Climate Smart Communities Scenarios Project (CSC). We understand the CSC goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks to less than half of the levels of 2005. There are expectations for Metro and other regions from the State to allow people to make shorter driving trips and more active transportation via changes in community design.

In preparation for the May 30 joint MPAC/JPACT meeting, the PSC offers our support for options that would prioritize fully building out the region's active transportation infrastructure. While transit investments are critical, active transportation investments are likely to provide greater rates of return in mobility for the relatively modest funds invested and will also generate significant health co-benefits.

The Commission also believes CSC would be greatly strengthened by incorporating a direct nexus with climate adaptation strategies to complement greenhouse gas reduction strategies. Regardless of our success in reducing greenhouse gases in our region, significant negative human health and ecological impacts are likely to occur in our region due to climate change.

Using green infrastructure to address climate change, such as planting trees and interconnected bioswales along transportation corridors, would simultaneously promote active transportation, provide much needed bike and pedestrian safety, sequester carbon dioxide, reduce urban heat island effects, and improve air quality. These co-benefits are not considered in Metro's scenarios because CSC focuses exclusively on CO2 reduction. Including climate adaptation expands the range of transportation alternatives and designs that can and should be considered. Regional policies must, in our opinion, consider these multiple benefits in any climate related program.

Thank you for representing the best interests of our entire community in shaping the preferred approach for Climate Smart Communities.

Sincerely,

Andre' Baugh
Chair

Cc: Metro Councilor Bob Stacey



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