



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 18, 2014
TO: Planning and Sustainability Commission
FROM: Eric Engstrom, Principal Planner
CC: Susan Anderson, Director; Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner
SUBJECT: Summary of Comprehensive Plan Public Testimony (Memo 1)

On September 23, 2014 the Planning and Sustainability Commission will hold the first of several hearings on the Proposed Draft of the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. Prior to each hearing, staff will summarize the testimony received to date. This memo is the first such summary.

Background

The Comprehensive Plan is the City's new long-range land use plan that will prepare for and manage expected population and employment growth, and coordinate major public investments over the next 20 years. This new plan also builds on dozens of plans adopted since the 1980 Comprehensive Plan, including the Portland Plan, Climate Action Plan, Portland Economic Development Strategy, Parks 2020 Vision, East Portland Action Plan, Watershed Management Plan, among others.

The Proposed Draft includes four components, which together guide land use and infrastructure investment decisions in Portland:

1. Goals and Policies
2. A set of maps
3. List of Significant Projects
4. Portions of the Transportation System Plan (TSP) – Transportation policies (included in the Goals and Policies), street classifications (upcoming) and street plan maps (upcoming).

The Proposed Draft reflects extensive input from Portlanders. It builds on Working Drafts Parts 1 and 2, which were published in 2013. Between September of 2012 and October of 2014, staff organized and participated in over 400 community presentations, neighborhood meetings, workshops, and other events providing direct opportunities for the community to share feedback and input. In addition, the Map App garnered an unprecedented range and volume of public input.

The Proposed Draft also reflects the ongoing review from the Community Involvement Committee and input from eight Policy Expert Groups that were comprised of both agency and community stakeholders.

Over the summer, our Comprehensive Plan Hotline (503-823-0195) fielded calls from over 1000 people – answering questions about various aspects of the proposal. This summer and fall, the District Liaison Program has also been hosted “office hours” at various times and locations to answer questions from the community, and ensure that people who want to provide testimony to the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) are prepared to do so. For more information on the plan development process, please review the information on process and public involvement on the community involvement on the Comp Plan webpage at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/59294>.

Schedule

The PSC will receive oral and written testimony at public hearings on September 23, October 14, October 28 and November 4. On November 18, the PSC will have its first work session to discuss comments received, reactions to the Proposed Draft, hear from City bureaus and develop an agenda for subsequent work sessions in January through March 2015. Staff will provide the Commission with a summary of comments received on the Thursday before each hearing. Prior to the November 18 work session, staff will recommend topics for subsequent work sessions, and include a “consent list” of staff-recommended changes that may not need in-depth discussion.

Summary of Comments

Memo 1: July 22 through September 16, 2014

All of the written comments received between July 22 and September 16 are available at <http://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/6968053/>.

In the July 22 to September 16 time frame, a total of 884 public comments were received. Of these, 755 were submitted via the Map App, 31 in writing and 98 via email. Comments ranged in nature from specific zoning requests for private properties to general comments about the City’s stated goals and objectives. Some of the most frequently-commented on topics at this time include but are not limited to:

- Concerns around and/or support for potential zoning adjustments as a result of Center and Corridor designations and Mixed Use Zones Project.
- Recommendations and observations regarding the character of residential neighborhoods, including desire to address demolitions.
- Desire to carefully consider the development of green-fields, and to prioritize re-development of brownfields in meeting projected employment land needs.

It is important to note that while hard copy letters, emails and all testimony received at PSC (verbal and in writing) may pertain to any or all of the Comp Plan, most testimony received online through the Map App is restrained to feedback on specific map features: The Transportation System Plan (TSP) Project List; Proposed Infrastructure Projects; and Land Use changes regarding Centers and Corridors; Jobs and Employment; Risks and Service Gaps; and Neighborhoods, Parks and Open Spaces.

Comments by Category

Policy Comments by Topic	Comments
Economic Development/Industrial	63
Environment and Watershed Health	52
Urban Design, Centers and Corridors	32
Residential, Demos and Parking	29
Housing	12

Map Comments by Geography (the location of the comment, not necessarily the address of the person making it)	Comments
Southeast	460
North	314
Northeast	184
Central City	102
West	97
East	28

Map App Comments by Category	Comments
Transportation Systems Plan (TSP)	238
Land Use: Centers and Corridors	229
Land Use: Neighborhoods, Parks and Open Spaces	214
Land Use: Jobs and Employment	27
Proposed Infrastructure Projects	21
Land Use: Risks and Service Gaps	14