



Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 13, 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 5)

On November 18, 2014, the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) will have its first work session to discuss comments received and reactions to the Proposed Draft. During the work session, the PSC will hear from the Community Involvement Committee (CIC) and from City bureaus, and will develop an agenda for subsequent CPU work sessions. This fifth memo summarizes public testimony received through November 10, 2014.

Comment Reporting Update

In testimony summary memos #1-3, comments on economic development and environment/watershed health also included comments predominantly about West Hayden Island. Staff reviewing public feedback on these topics found that the volume of comments concerned predominantly with WHI were overshadowing many of the other economic or environmental concerns being raised by the community, making it more difficult for them to effectively review comments by theme and formulate draft responses. For both of these reasons, we have elected to treat West Hayden Island as its own category. In testimony summary memos #4 and for future memos, comments are only included in these categories, in addition to WHI, if they also very clearly exhibit concern with or support for broader policy themes, and/or give attention to another location.

Summary of Comments Memo 5: July 22 through November 10, 2014

All written comments received between October 28 and November 10 are available at <http://efiles.portlandoregon.gov/webdrawer.dll/webdrawer/rec/7042822/>.

A compiled document of these written comments, as well as comments from the Map App received in the same time range, is available at ftp://ftp02.portlandoregon.gov/BPS/PSC/CPU/testimony_102814-111014_compiled.pdf.

Comments received in writing at the October 28 PSC hearing are available in a compiled document at ftp://ftp02.portlandoregon.gov/BPS/PSC/CPU/written_testimony_102814hearing.pdf.

Comments received in writing at the November 4 PSC hearing are available in a compiled document at ftp://ftp02.portlandoregon.gov/BPS/PSC/CPU/written_testimony_110414hearing.pdf.

Between July 22 and November 10, a total of 1921 public comments were received. Of these, 1174 were submitted via the Map App, 231 in writing and 285 via email. Comments ranged from specific zoning requests to general comments about the City's stated goals and CPU guiding principles. Some of the most frequently-commented on topics at this time include but are not limited to:

- Concerns about current proposals for West Hayden Island, both expressing a desire to keep the island as a nature preserve/open space, and also expressing a desire to utilize the island for economic/industrial development. Comments have asked for clarification of the current proposed map and policy.
- Concerns around and/or support for potential zoning adjustments as a result of Center and Corridor designations and the related Mixed Use Zones Project.
- Recommendations and observations regarding the character of residential neighborhoods, including desire to address large homes and demolitions.
- Insurance that housing remains affordable for low-income residents in all Portland's neighborhoods, and taking targeted actions to prevent current residents from being priced out of their homes.
- Desire to carefully consider the development of green-fields, and to prioritize re-development of brownfields in meeting projected employment land needs.
- Recognition of the need for more middle-income employment opportunities within the city.
- Support for equitable investments in transportation and infrastructure. Many commenters also highlighted the need for infrastructure to adequately support areas that are currently underserved and for areas where significant growth is anticipated.
- Requests for property-specific zoning map or designation changes - especially related to nonconforming uses.
- Requests to extend PSC hearings, specifically with regard to allowing time for neighborhoods and others to review and evaluate the potential impacts of mixed-use zoning and campus/institutional zoning designations.
- Concerns about and/or support for areas designated for down-zoning due to natural hazards, other risks and/or service gaps.

It is important to note that while hard copy letters, emails and all testimony received at PSC (verbal and written) may pertain to any or all of the Comp Plan, most testimony received online through the Map App is focused 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.

In addition, staff have observed that many comments received include questions. When staff comes across these questions, or requests for clarification or additional information, Help Line staff are responding promptly and are keeping a record of these items.

Comment Distribution

Policy Comments by Topic	Comments
Land Use Designations	413
Zoning Map	373
TSP/Transportation	286
West Hayden Island & Hayden Island	169
Urban Design Framework, Centers and Corridors	159
Environment and Watershed Health	141
Community Involvement	104
Economic Development/Industrial	118
Public Facilities	69
Housing	65
Process (inc. requests for hearings extensions)	83
Administration & Implementation ⁱ	66
The Plan & Guiding Principles ⁱⁱ	66

All Comments by Geography (the location of the comment, not necessarily the address of the person making it)	Comments
Southeast	683
North	504 ⁱⁱⁱ
Northeast	342
East	327
West	256
Central City	135

Map App Comments by Category	Comments
Land Use: Centers and Corridors	369
Transportation Systems Plan (TSP)	293
Land Use: Neighborhoods, Parks and Open Spaces	281
Land Use: Jobs and Employment	57
Land Use: Risks and Service Gaps	34
Proposed Infrastructure Projects	28

ⁱ Includes comments relating to Mixed Use Zoning and Campus Institutional Zones and other Task 5 / implementation projects.

ⁱⁱ Includes comments related to the “guiding principles” called out by the plan - prosperity, equity, health and resiliency, and relationships between local, neighborhood, city, regional, and state plans.

ⁱⁱⁱ Due to technical issues involving the importing of MapApp comments, this number may be high. We believe some comments are coming in tagged as a North map feature that should be automatically tagged as something else. This would affect reporting not just for North, but other districts as well. We will continue to revise our reporting to PSC throughout the public comment period, and will update these values as the problem is addressed.