



City of Portland
Bureau of
**Planning and
Sustainability**

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Dear Health Partner:

As you know, the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is undertaking the Portland Plan, an update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. We understand that the Portland Plan's relation to health issues has been of keen interest to you. While budget issues have tempered the city's ability to currently pursue a major health/planning initiative, we wish to inform you of an upcoming opportunity for you or your agency to engage in health/planning issues in an upcoming Portland Plan pilot project.

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is undertaking a study of the SE 122nd Avenue area in the Powellhurst-Gilbert neighborhood. This study will explore many planning and urban development issues in this developing neighborhood. Issues to explore include the design of new and infill development, transportation and connectivity issues, food access, and opportunities for creating a more walkable and convenient "20-minute neighborhood" by enhancing local-serving retail and services in the neighborhood along this key corridor. ***Unlike planning studies which consider issues based primarily on growth management, urban design, transportation, or economic perspectives, the 122nd Avenue Study will investigate these issues also from the perspective of creating a healthy community through potential changes in the built environment.*** The opportunity to consider issues from a health perspective is afforded in part by a grant from the Northwest Health Foundation Kaiser Permanente Fund.

The study is currently getting underway. The process will include neighborhood walks and other public participation events this summer and into the autumn to gain an understanding of community stakeholders' perspectives. A technical advisors group of city and regional agency staff has been formed and met in May 2009. ***In addition, we also wish to convene a health partners working group to advise project staff on health-specific issues to consider in the planning process, and to provide feedback, evaluation, and advice on study proposals for land use, development design, and other issues as they emerge during the process. We hope your organization will participate on this group.*** Our goal is to integrate best practices in the study/planning stage rather than conduct an evaluation at the end of a process. Your expertise and input is sought to share research and best-practices on the health-environment relationship, brainstorm elements of a healthy community that can be applied in this context, review and comment on recommendations and proposals, and identify potential implementation measures and partners. We anticipate regular working group meetings (monthly or bi-monthly as needed) and participation in community events as your availability allows.

An introductory meeting of the health partners working group is set for ***June 23, 2009, 9:00 – 10:30 AM, at 1900 SW 4th Avenue, 7th Floor.*** Follow-up meetings over the course of the 12-18 month project will be determined later this year.

Please contact Barry Manning, project manager, by June 9, 2009 to confirm your interest and participation in the 122nd Avenue Pilot Study health partners working group. If you believe that another staff member from your organization is a more appropriate fit for this project, please pass this invitation along as appropriate.

We look forward to hearing from you and working together on this pilot project.

Sincerely,

Barry Manning, *Project Manager*