

PORTLAND PLAN**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE E-NEWS***from the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability*

Issue # 4

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The **Comprehensive Plan Update E-news** is a monthly e-newsletter with updates about the City of Portland's Comprehensive Plan Update. You are receiving this because you expressed an interest in the project and/or you are on the Portland Plan e-mail distribution list. If you do not wish to receive this e-newsletter in the future, please feel free to unsubscribe by clicking the "opt out" button at the bottom of this email.

**Project Overview: Parking Study, CPU Working Draft, Industrial Lands and Watershed Health Working Group****Parking Study and Public Forum Update**

Last month we shared with you about the emergence of apartment buildings with little or no parking along main street corridors and frequent transit lines in inner neighborhoods. Neighbors are concerned about the impact this new construction and additional cars may have on their community.

In response, the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability has conducted a series of studies to determine the facts about community impacts.

The results of these studies are now available for the community to review, and the public is welcome to comment at an upcoming [forum](#) with the Planning and Sustainability Commission on November 13.

Community Forum with the Planning and Sustainability Commission

New Apartments and Parking
 Tuesday, November 13, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
 1900 SW 4th Ave, Room 2500
Public testimony welcome

[Read the studies.](#)**Comprehensive Plan Update Working Draft Taking Shape**

With the support of and input from the Policy Expert Groups, staff are drafting policies

[Networks PEG Meeting](#)

Nov 28

[Watershed Health and Environment PEG Meeting](#)

Dec 5

[Infrastructure Equity PEG Meeting](#)

Dec 13

[Residential Development and Compatibility PEG Meeting](#)

Stay Involved

All Portlanders are invited to participate in the Comprehensive Plan Update. There are a variety of ways to be engaged based on your level of interest, including:

News and Updates blog

The [News and Updates](#) blog is your best source for project news and announcements. We'll be updating this page frequently with project news, agendas for upcoming meetings, draft proposals and other information.

Policy Expert Group meetings

All Comprehensive Plan Update Policy Expert Group meetings are open to the public. Check out the calendar on our [website](#) for up-to-date meeting information.

RSS feeds

If you use an RSS reader, like Google Reader, BlogLines or My Yahoo!, you can subscribe to the Comprehensive Plan

Update's RSS feeds and automatically receive

for the Comprehensive Plan Update and compiling them into a working draft, which will be shared with the community in late December. As the project team assembles the different chapters of the working draft and considers the best way to organize the information, plans are being made for outreach events in early 2013.

These events will be situated around the city and during weekday and weekend hours to make them accessible for as many Portlanders as possible. The large workshops or fairs will include breakout sessions for deeper discussions around specific topic areas, which are emerging as the working draft takes shape.

In addition to the policies contained in the Comprehensive Plan Update Working Draft, the community will be asked for feedback on several "scenarios" that illustrate how population growth could be concentrated in different parts of the city, based on community preferences and performance against measures such as carbon emissions; vehicle miles traveled; proximity to parks, transit and amenities; and watershed health, for instance.

Stay tuned for more information about the working draft and the community events. Specific dates for each will likely be published in the next Comprehensive Plan Update E-news.

Industrial Lands and Watershed Health Working Group

Members of the Economic Development and Watershed Health and Environment PEGs are joining to form a new working group, in order to discuss issues related to both industrial land supply and watershed health.

Portland's newly adopted [Economic Opportunities Analysis](#) projects a 720-acre shortfall of industrial land. The options identified to meet the projected shortfall are limited because the City of Portland is largely built out and essentially land locked. The options currently under consideration include more efficient use of industrial land, clean up of brownfields, rezoning golf courses for industrial use, and limiting the amount of additional land protected for environmental reasons. Each of these options comes with respective benefits and costs, including financial, social and environmental.

At its first two meetings on [November 19 and December 12](#), the group will develop a common understanding of the importance of the confluence of the Columbia and Willamette rivers from both industrial and environmental perspectives, and begin to explore new directions to meet multiple goals. For more information call (503) 823-7700.

Planning for the Unthinkable

In the recent aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Portlanders were reminded of the importance of building resilient communities and having emergency preparedness plans at the community scale. We also realized the importance of coordinated efforts from all levels of government, nonprofits, businesses and individual volunteers who responded to the needs of a community during and after a natural disaster.

Recently, members of the Comprehensive Plan Update team staffed a table at the 2012 ResilienceNW conference, sponsored by Citizen Corps, the Red Cross and FEMA. The conference featured more than 60 classes presented by 40 industry experts,

who shared their knowledge and experiences about emergency preparedness, disaster planning and recovery with business owners, medical responders and regional and local



updates about the project. We offer three RSS feeds to stay informed: all project updates, just the news and just the calendar.

Request a presentation and discussion

Neighborhood, business, interest-based and community groups may host a Comprehensive Plan Update presentation and discussion. Call Marty Stockton at (503) 823-2041 to schedule.

Workshops, open houses and other events

Public workshops and/or open houses are planned for 2013. You might also see us at a community event near you.

Write, visit or call

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leaders. The individual sessions covered a variety of topics, including basic business continuity, organizational emergency preparedness, advanced medical response, long-term recovery management and the need to address disaster preparedness through long-range planning.

Planning for natural disasters was a major topic of concern for Portlanders during the development of the Portland Plan. At the Planning and Sustainability Commission hearing held at David Douglas High School, a bloc of testifiers focused on the need to prepare the community for an earthquake, flood and other kinds of disasters. Consequently, related actions were included in the final document.

At the ResilienceNW conference, staff presented attendees with maps and summary sheets related to resiliency and emergency preparedness that will inform the Comprehensive Plan Update. They also had discussions with and gathered new contact information from attendees interested in engaging in the Comprehensive Plan Update process in the future.



Policy Expert Groups: October Meeting Summaries

The City has formed eight Policy Expert Groups (PEGs) to help develop, review and provide comments to City staff on the Comprehensive Plan Update. Each PEG is meeting monthly from June 2012 to approximately June 2013. If you would like to learn more, full meeting notes can be found on the [Comprehensive Plan Update website](#).

What did PEG members discuss in their recent meetings? Read highlights below.

Community Involvement

The PEG did additional work on the draft goals and policies to guide community involvement for the Comprehensive Plan Update project. The revisions honed in on language that supports broader inclusion of all communities in Portland and articulates the value and necessity for robust, equitable and transparent community involvement in order to be a great city. Staff will revise the working draft document, incorporating the PEG's ideas and revisions. Members were encouraged to send the [Community Involvement PEG survey link](#) to their networks for greater distribution and increased feedback. Results of the survey will be reported in upcoming meetings.

Economic Development

PEG members reviewed and provided feedback on the proposed economic development policies. Comments focused on the expansion of industrial brownfield programs, noting that industrial lands face the greatest challenges in costs and uncertainty as well as pressure to develop sites for other purposes. However, the group expressed support for a wide range of program options because the return on public investment is high.

Education and Youth Success

Staff presented demographic information for each of Portland's six school districts. Members talked about how demographic trends directly and indirectly affect school enrollment, operations, budget and resiliency in the short- and long-terms. The group also discussed how City decisions, such as land use and housing policy, affect school districts and individual school enrollment, and how school district decisions, such as enrollment boundary changes, transfer policies and school reconfigurations, affect issues concerning the City.

Infrastructure Equity

At the October meeting staff made a presentation to the group on infrastructure service levels from four City bureaus (Water, Environmental Services, Transportation and Parks). The PEG then broke into four smaller groups in order to begin discussing service gaps and community impacts. At their next meeting, the PEG will pick up this conversation with an emphasis on gentrification risk.

Neighborhood Centers

The October discussion focused on the relationship between where housing is located and where job growth is occurring, while emphasizing jobs as a key component of complete neighborhoods. Based on this discussion, BPS staff are looking to include a performance measure that looks at travel time to jobs, not just proximity to transit. The PEG also wants to look at the range of implementation tools that can be used to guide growth, achieve equitable investment in commercial development and jobs across the entire city, and to place this growth in a regional context.

Networks

This PEG began by following up on their discussion about the green infrastructure network, focusing on stormwater management and habitat enhancement. There is support for green infrastructure where multiple objectives can be achieved, the goal to go green should not compromise other functions, e.g. the movement of goods. City staff made presentations on the Cully Main Street Corridor and Local Street Plan and the Street by Street (formerly Out of the Mud) program. Key themes: the City needs to “walk its talk” and apply flexible street standards to its own projects; broad and inclusive community involvement will be needed to gain support for Street by Street projects; and funding options, including urban renewal, need to be explored.

Residential Development and Compatibility

The October meeting focused on policy options for two issues: 1) density allowances in single-dwelling areas; and 2) considerations for placement of multi-dwelling designations. The group discussed the pros and cons of allowing development in single-dwelling neighborhoods at higher density than envisioned by the Comprehensive Plan designations. The discussion centered on whether policy should be more explicit regarding development allowances in these areas in order to provide more certainty about new development and to be more context-sensitive. The group also discussed policy for placement of multi-dwelling land use designations, including the infrastructure and service levels needed to serve such areas.

Watershed Health and Environment

The group generally supported policies to address cumulative environmental impacts (positive and negative) on a citywide basis and those that identify focus areas by watershed. The PEG wants the City to look at the whole watershed, not just significant natural resource areas, and noted that the environmental overlay zones are not sufficient to address the cumulative impacts of urbanization on watershed health. Members asked that policies call for ongoing monitoring of watershed conditions and trends, and for the City to use best available information in decision-making and programmatic updates (adaptive management). The PEG also discussed the importance of how data and targets could help communicate where policies and efforts are headed but cautioned against relying on complex models and data-intensive approaches in City planning projects. They would like to see the City have strong policies in place and use data to support common sense decisions.

Equity Group

This group will be discussing the City’s equity commitment and initiative and explore how to apply it to the Comprehensive Plan Update. The group brainstormed topics around racial equity to discuss in greater depth, including data and metrics, gentrification and displacement, school closures and other issues. They also explored

implementation and deployment, better practices and other needs. They also explore ways to build in mechanisms to ensure that policies are implemented in ways that improve equity outcomes.

The Office of Equity and Human Rights will be working with every PEG in the month of November so there will not be an Equity Group meeting in November. The next meeting will be on December 12. Please join us if you are interested!

News from the



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