Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Innovation. Collaboration. Practical Solutions.

Equity Discussion

Education and Youth Success PEG

November 19, 2012

Draft Comprehensive Plan Goal: Portland's System of Centers

Portland is built on an interconnected system of centers and corridors anchored by the Central City. These places of focused growth provide employment density and residential diversity that contribute to Portland's high standard of livability. They provide increased access to local services, amenities, transit, and major infrastructure investments that support healthy and diverse communities.

Context:
This draft goal advances a concept from the Portland Plan in which mixed-use centers (such as Hollywood, St Johns or Gateway) are places in which services, activity and growth are concentrated. This concept envisions "complete neighborhoods" that include a variety of housing options; grocery stores and other commercial services; quality public schools; public open spaces, gathering places and recreational factilities; affordable active transportation options and civic amenities. The Portland Plan sets an objective that by the year 2035, "Eighty percent of Portlanders live in a complete neighborhood with safe and convenient access to the goods and services needed in daily life."

Questions for Discussion:

1. What assumptions are built into this draft goal?

2. Assuming that Portland's future growth is concentrated in mixed-use centers, what does this mean for…
    a. Public schools within centers?
    b. Public schools outside of centers (i.e., in lower density residential areas)?

3. How might policies advancing this goal affect communities of color?
    a. What do we know today?
    b. What *additional information* do we need to better understand the implications of this goal and implementing policies and actions?

4. What does "quality public school" mean for you? How would we know whether schools are serving the needs of students of color?

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