City on track to meet baseline renovation goals but will fall short of other aspirations

The City is on track to meet baseline requirements it set out to achieve for the renovation. For example, the project will meet goals to eliminate water intrusion, upgrade seismic performance to be consistent with a new building, and replace most building systems.

The City didn’t identify trade-offs to reach beyond the project baseline requirements. In the areas of accessibility, sustainability, and historic preservation the project will fall short of aspirations.

Prior to the renovation, the City reported more than 800 unaddressed accessibility barriers.

The City anticipates barriers will remain in parts of the building not included in the renovation, but has not yet quantified or reported on the number of remaining barriers.

The City anticipates achieving LEED certification at the Gold Level for the renovation.

The City pursued exemptions for three other policy requirements: Bird-Friendly, Ecoroof, and Green Technology. In addition, there was no evidence the project met Salmon Safe and Space Allocation requirements.

Retaining the historic status of the Portland Building was one of the reasons why the City pursued renovation over other options.

To address the building’s water leaks, the City chose an exterior design that substituted the original building materials, which will result in the building’s delisting from the National Register of Historic Places.

The opportunity to revisit decisions has passed, but there are still compliance actions for the City to take. We make recommendations related to the Americans with Disabilities Act and historic preservation requirements.

Visit our website for the full audit report: www.portlandoregon.gov/auditservices/portlandbuilding