

Centers and Corridors Typology

Existing Policy Direction Related to Variation in Function and Density

Portland Comprehensive Plan

2.18 Transit-Supportive Density

Through the community planning process, establish average minimum residential densities of 15 units per acre within one-quarter mile of existing and planned transit streets, Main Streets, town centers, and transit centers. Establish average minimum residential densities of 25 units per acre within one-half mile of light rail stations and regional centers. Establish minimum floor area ratios for non-residential development at light rail centers of 0.5:1. Where these densities are not realistic or desirable due to existing, well-established development patterns or environmental constraints, use other methods to increase densities such as encouraging infill through accessory units in single-family zones or increased density on long-vacant lots.

Metro Functional Plan

Title 6 – Central City, Regional Centers, Town Centers and Station Communities

3.07.640 Activity Levels for Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets

A. Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets need a critical number of residents and workers to be vibrant and successful. The following average number of residents and workers per acre is recommended for each:

1. Central City - 250 persons
2. Regional Centers - 60 persons
3. Station Communities - 45 persons
4. Corridors - 45 persons
5. Town Centers - 40 persons
6. Main Streets - 39 persons

Metro 2040 Growth Concept

Excerpts from 2040 Growth Concept Summary (does not serve as adopted policy)

Centers

- The **central city** is the largest market area, the region's employment and cultural hub and **accessible to millions of people**.
- **Regional centers** serve large market areas outside the central city, connected to it by high-capacity transit and highways and are **accessible by hundreds of thousands of people**.
- Connected to each regional center, by road and transit, are smaller **town centers** with local shopping and employment opportunities within a local market area and accessible to **tens of thousands of people**.

Main Streets and Neighborhood Centers

Main streets typically serve neighborhoods and may develop a regional specialization - such as antiques, fine dining, entertainment or specialty clothing - that draws people from other parts of the region.

Station Communities

Station communities are nodes of development centered around a light-rail or high-capacity transit station that feature a high-quality pedestrian environment. They provide for the highest density outside centers. Station communities encompass an area approximately one-half mile from a station stop.

Corridors

Corridors are not as dense as centers, but are located along good quality transit lines. They provide a place for increased densities and feature a high-quality pedestrian environment and convenient access to transit. Typical developments along corridors include rowhouses, duplexes and one- to three-story office and retail buildings. While some corridors may be continuous, narrow bands of higher intensity development along arterial roads, others may be more nodal, that is, a series of smaller centers at major intersections or other locations along the arterial that have high quality pedestrian environments, good connections to adjacent neighborhoods and good transit service. As long as increased densities and a range of uses are allowed and encouraged along the corridor, many different development patterns - nodal or linear - may meet the corridor objective.