



# SW Corridor Equitable Housing Strategy

**COMMON THEMES ARISE FROM LISTENING AND LEARNING EVENT**

## Residents in the SW Corridor share hopes, aspirations and desires for housing in the SW Corridor

On October 14, 2017, more than 100 community members came together at Markham Elementary School to hear each other's stories, build community and learn about preserving and creating affordable housing in the SW Corridor, as the cities of Portland and Tigard prepare for a new light rail line.

Joining them were community leaders, affordable housing and renter advocates, and elected officials.

Participants were asked, "When light rail arrives, what is your greatest hope or aspiration for housing in the SW Corridor?" Here are some major themes that emerged from their responses:

- People who live here can stay here and benefit from new transit.
- We become more economically and racially integrated and inclusive.
- Funding is invested holistically in the community's vision for housing and transit.
- People of all incomes moving here have new housing choices in the corridor.
- New multi-family housing is built within walking distance of all light rail stations.

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For more information:  
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## Small group discussions focused on renters and homeowners

In groups of 5 to 10 people, neighbors discussed the housing needs and challenges renters and homeowners face in the SW Corridor. People talked about the wish to stay in their homes and the need to create new choices for people moving in. Some themes we heard are summarized below.

### HOUSING NEEDS AND CHALLENGES

#### Renters

- Provide rental assistance, education and more renter protections for those living here now.
- Publicly owned land at every station can be used for building new affordable housing.
- Buy apartment buildings now before speculation and rent increases worsen.
- New apartments should be designed to be accessible for a range of people with disabilities.
- Focus on new family-sized housing.

#### Homeowners

- Legal aid and buyer/seller education is needed to help low-income owners defend against predatory action.
- Explore multi-family ownership for wealth generation opportunities.
- Adapt homes for aging-in-place, create new homeownership options with Universal Design.
- Homeowner stabilization services are needed to address rising housing costs associated with property taxes, utility costs and maintenance/weatherization.

## Next Steps

Project staff and community partners are reviewing these themes and other ideas that were heard at the Listening and Learning event on October 14. The needs and challenges expressed above as well as the hopes and aspirations from the other side will help inform and guide the development of a draft equitable housing strategy.

In February a draft housing strategy will be released for review and discussion. You will find it on our project website at [www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/equitablehousing](http://www.portlandoregon.gov/bps/equitablehousing).

## Questions?

Contact Ryan Curren at [ryan.curren@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:ryan.curren@portlandoregon.gov) or call 503-823-4574

