

# West Portland Town Center Plan

## April 27, 2019 - Community Kickoff Event Summary

### Topics discussed:

1. **Community and Cultural Life.** Our sense of community comes from many sources, including libraries and parks, culturally relevant services, community gathering spaces, strong schools, and places of worship, all of which serve as community anchors.
2. **Affordable Housing.** Everyone needs a healthy and affordable home. Supporting neighbors who are most vulnerable to displacement pressures and planning for more housing options is part of West Portland Town Center Plan.
3. **Businesses and Jobs.** A good living wage job and access to nearby businesses and commercial services are essential to household prosperity and neighborhood vitality.
4. **Community Health.** Our health is affected by many things, including access to parks and open space, safe sidewalks and roads, clean air and water, healthy food, quality healthcare and economic security.

### Themes heard:

**Pride** in the multi-cultural community

**Prevent residential and cultural/social support displacement.** Housing displacement is a major concern. It impacts households and communities (ex. informal community services in established in multi-family housing)

**WPTC needs tailored out-of-the-box housing strategies;** shariah compliant loans, co-ops, family sized-housing, stabilization

**Walkability, safety and traffic congestion** are health equity issues

**People and physical connections.** Diversity is not inclusion, isolation can occur if relationships don't exist across cultural groups. Need improvements to access across the town center area.



**Third spaces are community anchors.** Community is about relationships which requires culturally relevant gathering spaces and services.

**Children and young adults are a priority.** Finding living wage jobs and affordable housing are especially challenging for these groups.

**Food options** that bring people together and provide business opportunities

**Multicultural commercial** hub/marketplace with affordable retail and culturally relevant goods and service (basic necessities and services)

**Jobs and training for low-income residents** come with the new development

### Quotes from participants:

West Portland is a beautiful place that I spend most of my time because of my community. I would like to see more affordable housing, a food market, and a community center.

I want it (West Portland Town Center) to be a real place that naturally draws many people rather than cars to the area, aka, a SW PDX living room like Pioneer Courthouse Square.

I'm proud of growing cultural diversity in our neighborhoods so my son can grow up with greater understanding and appreciation for other cultures and languages. I'm worried about new Portlanders/non-english language speakers not getting their voices heard—they're so often not at the table but are affected most by displacement.

It (West Portland Town Center) needs to become highly walkable, with many things to buy, i.e., produce markets, etc., that cater to neighbors rather than tourists. It needs to become a true urban village. And the land use needs to be efficient, as opposed to empty parking lots and non-place, people of all incomes should be walking, biking and taking transit between home, work, play, shops, dining, etc. Also: need local businesses that hire for our highly diverse community.

That it uplifts and builds for, not over, the communities that it serves.



There will be safe crossings across Barbur Blvd. that make the Town Center more walkable and inviting for shopping and community building. Halal shop, multi-cultural support for school, mosque.

To create a visible, beautiful “center” for the SW Community with welcoming features (benches, gardens, etc.) – close to transit...that is open to all, and enhances community

My hope is that everyone has decent housing, adequate access to healthy food, and efficient transit to school, work, etc.

My hope is for West Portland Town Center to become a community with easy access to all livability requirements with a diverse population of people across income, ethnicity, age, LGBTQ, and any other under-represented folks. And a complete infrastructure to support all.

