

# What we heard: Barbur Transit Center

Outtakes from West Portland TC Plan community events Spring 2019

The Barbur Transit Center (BTC) is a key site in the West Portland Town Center area due to its central location, proposed light rail station, size and ownership. At community events held for the West Portland TC Plan in April and June 2019 community members were asked about their hopes, ideas and concerns for this area, including the BTC site.

Below is a summary of what we heard from the community related to the future of the BTC site.

## A different future for BTC

The community could see a different future for the BTC site. They articulated what they would like to have on this site in service to the community and those shopping, studying or traveling by transit in and through the area.

People could envision a multi-story development with commercial, residential and community uses supported by and supportive of transit, community spaces and new ways of getting around. Opinions on parking and how much of it to have were mixed, though many noted that structured parking would be an efficient element for this site.

Desired **commercial services** included:

- Halal store
- Daycare
- Game shop
- Family friendly businesses
- Food carts
- Hairdresser
- Office space
- “Portland Mercado”-style market - with ethnic shops, food stores, and restaurants; Swahili cultural store and venue
- Movie theatre

Desired **community uses** and spaces included:

- Plaza (with splash pad)
- Boys n' Girls club
- Community center (with gathering spaces for large events)
- Farmer's market
- Emergency hub



Desired **community services** included:

- Restrooms
- Bike repair station
- Recycling center
- Police call box

Desired **mobility infrastructure** included:

- More and improved bike parking
- Bikeshare, electric scooters, bike valet
- Electric vehicle charging station
- Mobility hub (a strategic mix of all these plus bus and rail transit)

### **Getting to and traveling around the BTC site**

The community shared that the ability to comfortably and safely access this site and area was just as or more important than what is developed there. Also, the quality of the experience traveling to and around the site is important if we want people to really support businesses in the area, use transit broadly and consider making some trips on foot or by bike. The concern about roadway facilities and vehicular traffic volumes and speed as a barrier to access the BTC (and in TC generally) was near unanimous.

Ideas for what needed to be improved and how included:

- Sidewalks on more streets leading to transit center and wider sidewalks;
- tree lined street/promenade, emergency call box, less steep access paths, car speed enforcement and better lighting would make accessing transit center crossing more comfortable.
- Narrow Barbur to shorten crossing distance, pedestrian and cyclist waiting areas, lengthen crossing times, add pedestrian lead time to the signal and have automatic pedestrian signal without having to press button for it.
- Covering/capping I-5 adjacent to the BTC
- Providing signage to call out and provide way-finding to the BTC I-5 pedestrian bridge.

Ideas to improve the I-5 pedestrian bridge itself included:

- Art on the walls created by local youth
- more and better lighting
- wider walkways
- higher (but transparent) barriers for sound.