

## Community Engagement Input Session August 6, 2012

**Background:** On August 6, 2012, Mayor Adams and Commissioner Fritz co-hosted an input session designed to provide community participants with an opportunity to provide input into the City’s State and Federal Legislative Agendas. Community members’ comments were captured during the meeting on flip charts. Those comments are transcribed below. All participants were asked to identify their top three issues after the input session was completed to get a general sense of the group’s priorities at this session. This list reflects the group’s prioritized issues, in descending order that were voted on by meeting participants.

ISSUE	VOTES
<p><b>Relief from EPA LT2 regulations for Portland’s Water System</b> New York City has been able to initiate EPA re-examination of the regulation. Entire Portland City Council should strongly support this effort. Compliance will force expensive changes for Bull Run, increase water rates and will bring radon into peoples’ homes through the water.</p>	16
<p><b>Cell Towers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Protection from cell towers in neighborhoods</li> <li>▪ Amend Telecom Act, at the federal level, to give increased authority to local officials</li> <li>▪ At state level—make towers subject to land use hearings.</li> <li>▪ No cell towers in neighborhoods</li> <li>▪ Increase fees for cell companies to install towers</li> </ul>	11
<p><b>Pass a “No Idling” law:</b> State of Oregon and Portland City Council should prohibit entertainment motor coaches from idling along the street for hours at a time. Other states and cities have adopted this type of requirement.</p>	9
<p><b>Support for Somali organizations:</b> Increase Somlai-Bajuni graduation rates</p>	7
<p><b>Clarify coverage for autism:</b> Clarify existing law to make it easier for parents with children on the autism spectrum to access the coverage for autism therapies to which they are entitled.</p>	6
<p><b>Break Dependency on Fossil Fuels:</b> Portland should lead the way on breaking our dependency on fossil fuels by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Opposing the use of Portland for coal exports</li> <li>▪ Opposing the use of natural gas as a bridge to energy independence</li> <li>▪ Creating an RPS for natural gas utilities to reduce the use of natural gas (North Carolina is a good example to follow)</li> <li>▪ Changing the way we encourage people to invest in producing renewable energy by paying them for the energy they produce vs. the current tax credit approach. This is more cost effective.</li> <li>▪ Fixing the federal tax credit—need a seamless local-to-federal system that pays people to produce energy vs. uses tax credits</li> <li>▪ Directing funding for renewable energy to all who can produce it and allow them to sell energy to the grid</li> </ul>	6
<p><b>Increase revenue for all public services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase municipal funding and state funding for public services</li> <li>▪ Need a new funding model for transportation—gas tax is no longer adequate</li> </ul>	6

ISSUE	VOTES
<p><b>Complete residential streets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This will take state and city help</li> <li>▪ Ensure access for people with disabilities and the elderly</li> <li>▪ Funding street completion now is up to property owners; many elders and people with disability can't afford this.</li> </ul>	5
<p><b>Community improvements requested for Latino community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fix unimproved streets and provide sidewalks to increase pedestrian access and safety</li> <li>▪ Adopt zoning to keep businesses that attract delinquent behavior and drug use away from low-income neighborhoods; e.g., adult business at Cully and Killingsworth</li> <li>▪ Increase access to transit and transportation services</li> </ul>	4
<p><b>Down zone Eastmoreland neighborhood:</b> Apply R5 zoning (minimum of 5000 sq. ft. lots) in Eastmoreland</p>	4
<p><b>ESL Funding:</b> Maintain funding for English as a Second Language (ESL)</p>	4
<p><b>Become an "Age-friendly" City:</b> Portland should lead in becoming an "age-friendly" city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand "fair housing" and the equitable distribution of housing.</li> <li>▪ Change state building codes to support the development of "age-friendly" housing</li> <li>▪ Aging population is increasing due to aging of baby-boom generation; plan to use the valuable resource these people represent</li> <li>▪ Look to other cities and states that already are pursuing "age-friendly" strategies</li> <li>▪ New strategies are needed to fund housing</li> </ul>	3
<p><b>License Bicycles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Require bike riders to pay one fee for one or more bikes</li> <li>▪ Require all cyclists to have proof of insurance</li> </ul>	3
<p><b>Increase Minimum Wage:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wages disparities are increasing; increase the minimum wage.</li> <li>▪ Find a way to deal with wage theft</li> </ul>	3
<p><b>Cleanup rusting ships in Columbia River:</b> Who will clean up the 200 rusting boats/ships currently in the Columbia River? Why does the public often have to pay?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Make owners accountable for salvage</li> <li>▪ Clean up the river</li> <li>▪ Go after marine insurance companies and make them pay</li> </ul>	2
<p><b>Expand access to dental services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expand kids' dental insurance</li> <li>▪ Have dental clinics at schools</li> <li>▪ Water fluoridation</li> </ul>	2

ISSUE	VOTES
<b>Insure Bicyclists:</b> The City of Portland should insure all bicyclists with a \$500 deductible	2
<b>Change Gas Tax Law:</b> Allow gas tax revenue to be used to purchase land to get it out of the permanent School Fund and manage these lands for environmental protection vs. school revenue	2
<b>Expand Vandalism/Graffiti Statute:</b> Amend ORS 164.365 to make vandalism and graffiti of public art and historical objects a Class C felony	2
<b>Adequately fund the Oregon Dept. of Revenue (ODOR):</b> Provide adequate funding to allow the ODOR to collect delinquent taxes; e.g. new computer system and additional staff	1
<b>Support walking/biking:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support improved conditions for walking and biking</li> <li>▪ Oppose bike licensing, as it would discourage biking</li> <li>▪ Require the design of senior housing to support access for walking/biking</li> </ul>	1
<b>Continue senior property tax discount</b>	1
<b>Create additional funding source for Tri-Met:</b> Payroll tax and fare box receipts are not adequate to fund public transit	1
<b>Beer tax:</b> Increase point-of-sale beer tax and use for more law enforcement training and education.	1
<b>Have a citizen serve on the OLCC board</b>	1
<b>Air Quality:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Especially in NW Portland</li> <li>▪ DEQ needs to be better funded to enforce the laws</li> <li>▪ Make businesses stop polluting</li> </ul>	1
<b>Paid Sick Leave:</b> Ensure that more people have access to paid sick leave	1
<b>No “Fracking” in Oregon:</b> Pass a law in prohibiting “fracking” [“hydraulic fracturing” to produce natural gas] in Oregon.	0
<b>Columbia River Crossing (CRC):</b> Stop and rethink the CRC project, as it ties up too many resources that are needed elsewhere in the community.	0
<b>Save schools and parks</b>	0
<b>Oppose tear down and replacement of existing homes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong schools and availability of affordable housing are linked</li> <li>▪ Oppose tearing down a \$300K home to build two \$800K homes</li> <li>▪ Locks young families out of the neighborhood</li> </ul>	0
<b>OLCC:</b> Review business licenses and change fees	0
<b>TriMet Board election:</b> Shift to selecting board members through democratic election	0