

THE PORTLAND PLAN

A Comprehensive Plan for Portland in 2040

September 2007

The Portland Plan will guide the growth and development of Portland over the next 30 years. It will serve as Portland's updated Comprehensive Plan and include updates to the city's Central City Plan, City-wide Economic Development Strategy, and Sustainability/Global Warming policies.

The Portland Plan will build upon the broad outreach and engagement generated in the recent visionPDX project which highlighted Portlanders' core values about community. The Portland Plan will continue to engage the public regarding policy choices and strategies. In the best Portland tradition, the Portland Plan will address the most pressing issues facing our community, articulate the fundamental future aspirations of our residents and set out actions to be taken to realize our dreams.

Portland has a long and successful tradition of shaping its future through thoughtful planning and deliberate action. In addition to good planning our success is owed to deliberate actions taken by a variety of public and private partners to implement plans over time. In national rankings, Portland continually is amongst the most desirable cities in which to live. Local surveys show that Portland residents appreciate and value the attributes that result from our collective efforts to plan and build. However, our core plans no longer give adequate guidance to implementers about *how* and *where* to make the next round of significant new investments in infrastructure and programs.

Here are some of the challenges we now face as a community:

- substantial new **growth in population and employment** – Metro predicts a million new residents and about 850,000 jobs, though some anticipate higher numbers;
- the press of **global climate change** and the resulting need for Portland, like all major cities, to dramatically reduce our “carbon footprint”;
- the likely continued accelerated pace of **technological change** and **globalization of the economy**, requiring Portland to think strategically about what efforts are necessary to best position ourselves for continued prosperity;
- the **changing make-up of Portland's people** (age, race, ethnicity, cultural traditions and family status) and the need to acknowledge and celebrate our diversity and to deal with the **present and growing social and economic inequities** amongst groups within the city's population.

Advantages of a Consolidated Portland Plan:

- **Communication:** Many separate planning initiatives are confusing for the general public, potential partners and decision-makers.
- **Integrated efforts:** The public expects effective working relationships between groups (e.g. Bureaus, Commission offices, local jurisdictions, etc.). Strong relationships will leverage action more effectively and may allow the City to be bolder and come closer to achieving the outcomes needed to address the big issues cited above.
- **Outcomes:** We can create a common set of measures – or, at least, a common system of measurement – to know whether we’re achieving success and to report these annually to decision-makers and the public alike.

Creating the Plan:

Under the direction of the Mayor and Council and with the advice and counsel of the Portland Planning Commission, the Portland Plan will produce the following basic elements:

1) 3-D Map of Future Portland (Urban Form Plan):

The Citywide Urban Form Plan will be one of three elements of the updated Comprehensive Plan. It will provide a single diagram of desired city development—including land use and building form, transportation and park and watershed systems. Like the Metro Region 2040 Growth Concept, it will provide a shared picture of the city’s future that all bureaus can follow in carrying out both their regulatory and infrastructure responsibilities, resulting in a more integrated response.

2) Citywide Systems Plan (Public Facilities Plan):

The Citywide Systems Plan (CSP) is a coordinated public infrastructure plan for the next 20 years. The CSP will update the City’s public facilities plan (a state requirement) in a manner consistent with the community’s urban form map and visionPDX. The geographic scope is Portland’s Urban Services Boundary.

The CSP consists of five infrastructure systems, each with several sub-systems. The systems are: *water, sanitary and storm water, transportation, parks, and civic*. The CSP may also describe the City’s long-term interest in affordable housing. The CSP will provide a significant projects list (with rough cost estimates and general locations) and a financial strategy.

3) Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies:

The Goals and Policies guide the development and redevelopment of the city. They include direction for the city in implementing the state goals and guidelines as well as the

way the city will implement the regional goals. In addition to the development goals and policies, they include our approach to community involvement and coordination with other metropolitan governments.

4) Central Portland Plan:

The Central Portland Plan is the “Comprehensive Plan” for the center of Portland. It will update the Central City Plan of 1988, and is much more detailed than the Comprehensive Plan. This reflects the City and Regional priority on continued development of the center of Portland. Currently, this planning effort is slightly ahead of the other plans. Staff is completing an assessment of current conditions, trends; examples include economic development/job growth, transportation, housing, land use regulations, development capacity, and urban design.

5) Economic Development Strategy:

Fundamental to a vibrant city is the economy. A long-range economic development strategy that implements and dovetails with the Portland Plan objectives and a set of tools that PDC and others can use for short-term implementation on a citywide basis will be developed.

Key Milestones:

- **March 2008:** Approval of work plan, including work elements mentioned above, public involvement approach and major issues/choices to be addressed.
- **Spring 2009:** Propose major policy choices to Planning Commission and Council.
- **Spring 2010:** Recommend specific plan adoptions and appropriate implementation strategies.
- **Throughout:** Public engagement methods and opportunities (stakeholder and community group sessions; telephone surveys; media, workshops; web; etc.).

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