



Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

7688 SW Capitol Highway, Portland, OR 97219 (503) 823-4592

www.swni.org

January 2, 2015

Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission
Comprehensive Plan Update
1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 7100
Portland, OR 97201

Re: PSC Comprehensive Plan Testimony on the Transportation Chapter of the
Comprehensive Plan and TSP Update

Dear Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission:

Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc. (SWNI) submitted comments on Portland's draft Comprehensive Plan on September 5, October 31 and November 21, 2014. SWNI's Transportation Committee and Board of Directors continue to study the draft and submit the following additional comments on the transportation chapter of the comprehensive plan and the TSP update, based on SWNI Transportation Committee motions approved by the SWNI Board on December 17, 2014, in bold below.

The first motion is directed toward Goal 9H and Policy 9.58 regarding cost-effectiveness. While we understand the need for the City to carefully manage its budget, the Plan must recognize the unique character and challenging topography of the western neighborhoods pattern area and other goals such as Goal 9A that envision a system that is complete, interconnected, multimodal, and fulfills daily needs for people and businesses citywide.

SWNI requests that any consideration of costs and benefits in the transportation chapter of the Comprehensive Plan account for issues such as lengthy gaps and deficient conditions in the existing bicycle and pedestrian network, topography, terrain, lack of connectivity and lack of stormwater management system that will add to costs of transportation projects but also provide benefits outside of the transportation realm (environment, public health, connectivity to key destinations, etc.). The primary pedestrian network needs to be accessible to people of all ages, needs, and abilities.

The second and third motions reflect our concerns that there is limited opportunity for the public to comment on the criteria that PBOT will use to prioritize transportation projects citywide (other than the words in Policy 9.58) and the results of that analysis that are expected to be published on January 30, 2015 with a hearing on February 24 and comments due March 13, 2015. That short six week timeline is not adequate for meaningful input by neighborhood associations and organizations such as SWNI that

must follow public involvement guidelines of your own Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

SWNI requests that the Planning and Sustainability Commission and PBOT allow at least 90 days following the date of publication of each complete draft TSP document that has not yet been available for public comment (project evaluation and selection criteria, transportation hierarchy, citywide parking strategy and street classifications) for accepting public comments on the proposals.

SWNI requests additional hearings before the Planning & Sustainability Commission for the TSP Update this spring to allow the public to comment on the proposals.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments in support of meaningful public engagement in this draft of the Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,



Sam Pearson
President, Southwest Neighborhoods, Inc.

Cc: Mayor Charlie Hales
Commissioner Steve Novick
Leah Treat, Director, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Eric Engstrom, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Joan Fredericksen, Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
Art Pearce, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Courtney Duke, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Peter Hurley, Portland Bureau of Transportation
Roger Averbeck, SWNI Transportation Committee Chair