



Memorandum

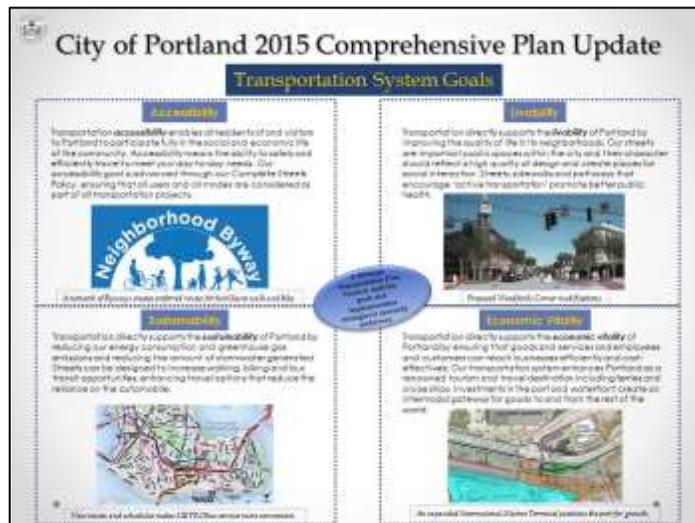
Planning and Urban Development Department

Planning Division

To: Chair Boepple and Members of the Planning Board
From: Christine Grimando, Senior Planner
Date: February 5, 2016
Re: Comprehensive Plan Update
Meeting Date: February 9, 2016

In July 2015, the Planning Board was briefed on the initiation of a process to update Portland's Comprehensive Plan. The State's consistency finding on our current Plan expired in early 2014 (At the time of Portland's original certification of its Comprehensive Plan, in 2003, there was no expiration date for Comprehensive Plans), which means that our current Plan is valid and still in effect, but that the consistency status of it with the State's Growth Management Act is "unknown." It behooves the City comply with this mandate with an updated Comprehensive Plan as soon as possible, and to that end the City contracted with Greater Portland Council of Governments last summer to begin this process. Below is a summary of activities through the fall and winter to date.

Open Houses. Two four hour open houses were held in September. On September 17th at City Hall, and on September 24th at Deering High School. These events were comprised of a plethora of stations, with posters and handouts providing information on current City policies and major initiatives. Subject areas corresponded to those of the Comprehensive Plan: economic development, waterfront resources, transportation, housing, etc. (example of an open house poster is shown in Figures 1)



Staff from various divisions attended to speak with those in attendance, answer questions, and hear feedback wherever possible.

Neighborhood Associations. Staff has met with four neighborhood organizations to date: Munjoy Hill Neighborhood Organization, the Bayside Neighborhood Association, The Stroudwater Village Association, and the Western Promenade Neighborhood Association. We've offered to meet with all of them on request, and will continue to make ourselves available to the associations throughout the process, as well as communicate with them regularly as related events arise.

Survey. An online survey was open from November 23rd through January 22nd, and notice of it made in press releases, on the City's website, an article in the Portland Press Herald, via flyers in the computer carrels at the downtown branch of Portland Public Library, on the Time and Temperature flashing sign, discussion of it on CTN's *City Desk*, among other outlets. The response was robust, with a total of 2,105 responses received. We're excited to process the responses to the extensive range of questions, including many open ended questions. This gives us the opportunity to view responses by topic area, as well as by neighborhood (respondents were asked to identify the neighborhood they lived and/or worked in).

While the Open Houses, the survey, and outreach to neighborhood groups and other stakeholder groups has taken place in recent months, Greater Portland Council of Governments has been compiling and analyzing the required data for the plan, including housing and population trends, assessment of open space, historic and archeological resources, economic conditions, and others, and has generated draft "Inventory and Analysis" appendices chapters for several of these. This large quantity of information forms a critical foundation for the body of the plan.

This winter and spring will involve analyzing the survey results and then reporting out to the community on the feedback we've received, as well as producing a first full draft of the plan. Both the survey and a draft will be brought back to the Board for a future workshop for review and discussion.