



Portland City Council:

As the Northwest Parking District Stakeholder Advisory Committee, our mission is to advise the City on transportation and parking issues in northwest and support a full range of transportation options within the context of neighborhood livability and economic vitality with the goal of efficiently managing parking and reducing reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.

To that end, we would like to offer this testimony in support of *Northwest in Motion*, a plan for improving active transportation and transit options in the Northwest District and surrounding area in the next five years and beyond. By making walking, biking, and riding transit safer, more comfortable, and more efficient options in the district, this plan will help us achieve our goals of reducing single-occupant vehicle demand for scarce roadway space and parking supply, freeing up that space for residents and businesses who truly need it and have no other options.

The *Northwest Parking District Management Plan*, adopted in July 2013, is our guiding document and primarily focuses on managing parking supply and demand in the district using a variety of management practices including meters, permits, shared parking programs, and the development of a limited number of new off-street parking spaces. We recognize the need to provide more and better transportation options as a strategy to reduce demand for parking. Our revenue allocation plan requires that 51 percent of net meter revenue generated in the NW District be spent on projects and programs within the NW District that are consistent with our goals.

To provide better project guidance, the SAC joined PBOT in funding Northwest in Motion over the last several years. The result of that work clearly lays out priorities for projects and programs in a way that clarifies the desired use of a portion of the net meter revenue, as well as other funding dedicated to the Northwest in Motion area such as Transportation System Development Charges and Fixing Our Streets. At the same time, the plan offers flexibility in the timing and level of investment in these projects and programs, giving us the ability to continue to guide the allocation of funding and advise the City on the ongoing implementation of the plan. The *Northwest in Motion* planning team consulted with us throughout the process and we were able to help craft the plan in a way that meets our goals. We appreciate having an approved set of projects and programs going forward for the expenditure of a portion of our net meter revenue, and we look forward to working with PBOT on plan implementation.

We would like to especially emphasize our support for the projects and programs in *Northwest in Motion* focused on pedestrian and transit improvements. One of the best things about Northwest is how walkable it is, and this does a great deal to reduce demand for parking as people can walk to nearby destinations or to access transit. However, the walking environment has steadily worsened over the years, with insufficient pedestrian street lighting and difficulty crossing busy roads being some of the most concerning issues. *Northwest in Motion* contains projects that will add pedestrian crossings and also calls for an ongoing pedestrian lighting improvement program. We also know that public transit service in the NW District can be hard to access and too often has speed and reliability issues that make it an unattractive option. By addressing the worst transit delay issues and improving bus stops, more people will be able to choose transit rather than driving.

We also want to note that *Northwest in Motion* rightly identifies the long-needed reconstruction of NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave from Lovejoy Street to Vaughn Street as a major priority for the City and recommends it to be added to the Transportation System Plan list of Major Projects. We support this recommendation, as it is our highest priority and we have dedicated a significant amount of funding specifically toward this project. We urge City Council and PBOT to consider funding this critical project when major maintenance funding such as Capital Set-aside or Build Portland become available. NW 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave serves many critical roles for this part of the City—not only is it a small-business main street, it is also a route for goods delivery, an emergency response route for the hospital, and a major transit corridor serving an area with a high concentration of affordable housing. We think this project is well worth the investment and is urgently needed.

To close, we again want to express our support for *Northwest in Motion* and urge you to adopt this Resolution.