

# PedPDX

PORTLAND'S CITYWIDE PEDESTRIAN PLAN





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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OLE TREE  
HILTON

Hand icon and the number 12, indicating a pedestrian crossing signal.







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## ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

The City of Portland complies with all nondiscrimination, Civil Rights laws including Civil Rights Title VI and ADA Title II. To help ensure equal access to City programs, services and activities, the City of Portland will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities. Call 503.823.5282, TTY 503.823.6868 or Oregon Relay Service: 711 with such requests, or visit <http://bit.ly/13EWaCg>



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## **PEDPDX MISSION**

Through PedPDX, the City of Portland affirms walking as a fundamental human right and the most fundamental means of transportation. PedPDX ensures walking is a safe, accessible, and attractive experience for everyone in Portland by putting pedestrians at the forefront of City policy, investments, and design.



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# **PEDPDX VISION**

Portland is a great  
walking city for all.



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# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



PedPDX is Portland's Citywide Pedestrian Plan. It prioritizes sidewalk and crossing improvements, along with other investments to make walking safer and more comfortable across the city. The plan identifies the key strategies and tools we will use to make Portland a great walking city for everyone.

# What is PedPDX?

## Why is Walking Important?

Everybody is a pedestrian. Walking (with or without the aid of a mobility device) is part of each of our everyday lives whether we think about it or not. Making walking a safe and attractive choice for all, and increasing the number of people walking in Portland, can help us address many issues important to Portlanders:

- **Equity** - Pedestrian safety and access is an equity issue. In Portland, inadequate pedestrian infrastructure and traffic safety concerns disproportionately impact low-income communities and people of color, where housing cost-burdened Portlanders are increasingly concentrated.
- **Health** - There is a strong link between walking activity and individual and public health outcomes. Walking can positively impact the physical and mental health of people of all ages, from children to older adults.
- **Environment** - Nearly 40% of all local carbon emissions come from transportation sources. Shifting our transportation patterns from driving to environmentally sustainable modes such as walking, biking, and public transit plays a major role in minimizing climate impacts.
- **Managing Growth and Congestion** - Portland's population is growing and will continue to grow. While the demands on our transportation system are increasing, space within city streets is not. Successfully absorbing growth means moving more people in the same amount of space. Sidewalks have the capacity to move more people than many other forms of transportation.
- **Livability** - Walkable urbanism is the foundational element for great neighborhoods and cities. Walking is more than just a mode of transportation and provides a way for people to interact with the city in a different way.



# What is the State of Walking in Portland?

Portland has a reputation for walkability. The City crafted one of the country's first Pedestrian Master Plans in 1998 and has set national precedent with its "pedestrian first" transportation strategy for people movement.

However, there is much more we can do to make Portland a great walking city. The experience of walking varies widely across the city. Despite consistent investment in the pedestrian network, significant gaps and shortcomings remain. The 1998 Pedestrian Master Plan has served inner Portland well, but has often struggled to provide adequate guidance for areas such as East Portland and Southwest Portland that present environmental challenges and right-of-way constraints.

An incomplete pedestrian network limits the city's ability to absorb growth and meet the livability needs of residents, including safe walking access to public transit and essential services. Portland experiences anywhere from five to nineteen pedestrian fatalities on our streets in

a given year. Even one is too many. While pedestrian trips account for nearly 9% of all trips taken citywide, 31% of all traffic fatalities in Portland involve people walking, meaning that pedestrians are suffering a disproportionate number of traffic deaths.

PedPDX reflects changes to pedestrian policy and design best practices that have emerged since the original Pedestrian Master Plan was adopted. These include an emerging understanding of transportation equity and a Vision Zero approach to pedestrian safety. PedPDX will help ensure that the City continues to lead the way in walkability, and will allow Portland to absorb growth in a sustainable way that encourages residents to walk, whether for commuting, shopping, going to school, or recreation.





# PedPDX Mission, Vision, Goals & Objectives

## PedPDX Mission

Through PedPDX, the City of Portland affirms walking as a fundamental human right and the most fundamental means of transportation.

PedPDX ensures walking is a safe, accessible, and attractive experience for everyone in Portland by putting pedestrians at the forefront of City policy, investments, and design.

## PedPDX Vision

Portland is a great walking city for all.

## PedPDX Goals

- **Equitable + Inclusive:** Make Portland walkable and accessible for all, no matter who you are or where you live.
- **Safe + Secure:** Make walking in Portland safe and secure for everyone.
- **Comfortable + Inviting:** Provide a comfortable, inviting, and connected pedestrian network that supports walkable neighborhoods and strengthens community.
- **Healthy People + Environment:** Increase walking for transportation and recreation in Portland as a means of achieving improved health outcomes for all people and for the environment.

# PedPDX Objectives



## HISTORIC UNDERINVESTMENT

Prioritize **investment in areas with the greatest historic underinvestment** in pedestrian infrastructure and with historically under-served populations to reduce disparities in access to safe pedestrian facilities.



## CONNECT TO DAILY NEEDS

Complete and maintain a Pedestrian Priority Network that encourages walking for people of all ages, cultures, and abilities, and **connects people to their essential daily needs**.



## FUNDING

**Commit to funding** pedestrian network improvements in the Pedestrian Priority Network.



## VISION ZERO

Support the City's Vision Zero commitment to **eliminate traffic-related deaths and serious injuries**.



## PUBLIC SAFETY

Protect the **public safety and personal security** of people walking.



## JOYFUL EXPERIENCE

Make walking in Portland **a joyful experience** that helps people connect with their community.



# The Pedestrian Priority Network

The Pedestrian Priority Network (Figure 2) is the system of Portland streets and paths that provide pedestrian connections to key transit and land use destinations. Each of the streets within the network is given a pedestrian classification that reflects the level of demand for pedestrian movement on that street.

Directly reflecting community input from the PedPDX Citywide Walking Priorities Survey, only the sidewalk and crossing needs identified on the Pedestrian Priority Network are included in the PedPDX prioritization framework.

**PEDESTRIAN PRIORITY NETWORK**  
*City of Portland*

- Major City Walkway
- City Walkway
- Neighborhood Walkway
- Ped District

0 2.5 5 Miles

**Central City**  
**See Inset Map**

**PRIORITY NETWORK**

- City Walkway
- Neighborhood Walkway
- Major City Walkway

0 1 2 Miles



# Prioritizing Needs

Why do we prioritize? Everywhere we look, we see places that need to be improved to provide a safe, inviting, and accessible pedestrian network. The PedPDX needs analysis identifies approximately **350 miles of missing walkways** and **3,500 marked crossing gaps** on our busy arterial and collector streets. Given the enormity of sidewalk and crossing needs across the city, PedPDX directs resources to locations with the greatest need first.

PedPDX identifies priority locations for pedestrian investment within the Pedestrian Priority Network using

a data-based approach. A data-based approach helps ensure we are directing limited resources to the greatest needs first and allows us to provide a proactive, programmatic approach for addressing pedestrian infrastructure needs. Sidewalk and crossing needs located within high priority locations are identified as top tier needs and prioritized for capital improvements.

The PedPDX prioritization framework will guide pedestrian investments. It is based on the factors Portland residents say are most important to them:

- Equity
- Safety
- Pedestrian Demand



Figure 3: Citywide responses to the PedPDX Walking Priorities Survey question: “What Kinds of Places are Most Important to Improve for Walking in Portland?”

# The PedPDX Implementation Toolbox

The PedPDX Implementation Toolbox is the programmatic work plan to advance the vision and mission of PedPDX. The Toolbox is based on citywide feedback from the PedPDX Walking Priorities Survey, focus groups with underrepresented Portlanders, the PedPDX pedestrian safety analysis, the PedPDX

Community Advisory Committee, the City of Portland Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Portland Commission on Disabilities. It is organized by strategies and actions, and will guide the work of the City's pedestrian-related programs and activities.

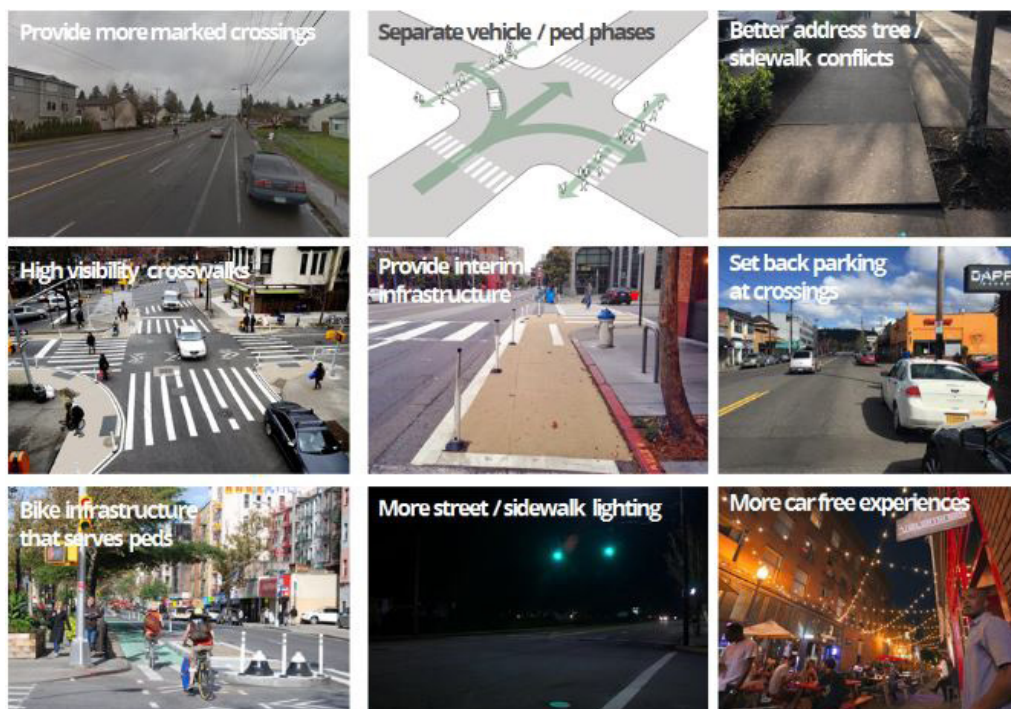


Figure 4: Examples of actions and tools that are presented in the PedPDX Implementation Toolbox.

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