

# NORTH PORTLAND IN MOTION

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #7

**When:** January 31, 2023, 6 – 8 pm

**Where:** Virtual Meeting on Zoom

### **Attendees:**

Jonna Lynn Bransford (Resident, University Park)  
Aaron Brown (Oregon Walks, St Johns)  
Paul Buchanan (Portsmouth Neighborhood Association)  
Kali Glenn-Haley (Resident, University Park)  
Jesse Neilson (Resident, Kenton)  
Carol Tricoche, (St Johns Boosters)  
Rebecca Small (Friends of Columbia Park, Kenton)  
Jennifer Vitello (Cathedral Park Neighborhood Association)  
Libby Winter (WTS, Arbor Lodge)

### **Absent:**

Stephanie Blair (St Johns Center for Opportunity)  
Jennie Cambier (University of Portland)  
Nic Cota (Bike Loud, Overlook)  
Brett Duesing (Resident, St Johns)  
Ally Holmqvist (Bicycle Advisory Committee)  
Pat Jewett (Resident/NP Greenway, St Johns)  
Lauren Smith Plinski (PCC)  
Ethan Stuckmayer (Resident, St Johns)  
Liz Smith (St John's Boosters)

### **Staff:**

Mike Serritella, Zef Wagner, Corrine McQueen (PBOT)

### **Meeting Purpose**

- To discuss and generate program ideas to support walking, biking, and transit use in North Portland

## MEETING SUMMARY

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mike welcomed the group and shared the project timeline showing where we are at and what's coming up for North Portland in Motion.

## UPDATES ON TIER 1 & TIER 2 PROJECT REFINEMENT

Mike updated the group on the North Portland in Motion project refinement process. After receiving feedback from the last Online Open House, the team used community input, a needs analysis, traffic safety data, demographic information, and funding and feasibility considerations to refine and prioritize project ideas.

At the November 15, 2022, Community Advisory Group meeting, the team brought updates on the refinement and prioritization of projects and received additional comments and feedback on our initial ideas. These initial ideas were further vetted by an internal working group of City of Portland bureau partners and TriMet in early February 2023. In the next update, PBOT staff plan to share the list of prioritized projects for North Portland in Motion.

## PRESENTATION ON PROGRAM IDEAS

Beyond infrastructure projects, the North Portland in Motion plan will include a list of program and policy recommendations. Programs can include shared elements or approaches to project implementation, as well as strategies to address community needs that are beyond traditional infrastructure projects.

Mike briefly shared about each of the 11 program ideas. These ideas ranged from ways to reduce costs and barriers to biking and transit for lower-income households, to ways to support small businesses and commercial districts, to strategies to increase tree canopy and green space.

## GROUP DISCUSSION: PROGRAM IDEAS

After Mike's presentation on the 11 program ideas, the group shared their preferences for joining breakout rooms for small group discussion. PBOT staff Mike Serritella and Zef Wagner facilitated each breakout group.

### BREAKOUT GROUP SESSION #1

#### **Comments from breakout group focusing on Small Business/Main Street Support; Community Placemaking and Public Spaces** *(facilitated by Mike)*

- When doing outreach around parking-plazas PBOT can/should create some kind of 'bureaucracy resource guide' – even for things outside of PBOT's specific function to help businesses know what resources are available. This could include information from Prosper, BDS, etc.
- PBOT should strive for a clear stewardship agreement for plazas with clear roles and potentially funding associated with it. They should also clarify guidance to ensure "publicness" of the public street plazas so that they aren't privatized by an adjoining business.
- Issues with resources/amenities being vandalized/stolen (i.e plants, planters, chairs, etc.)
- PBOT should work with Prosper or another entity to purchase the US Bank site in Downtown St Johns to make a bigger plaza and public market – that would also include closing N Philadelphia to automobile traffic.

#### **Comments from breakout group focusing on Trees and Green Spaces; Parks Trails, and Multi-Use Paths; Transit Improvements** *(facilitated by Zef)*

- Columbia Park, Annex, and Aquatic Center
  - Need to serve the Aquatic Center once its location is determined

- Big sidewalk gap between Willamette Blvd and Lombard St along Woolsey Ave
- Lots of play areas in the Annex, but no good bike parking near entrances
- Tree planting locations
  - Willis Blvd has very big ROW with big furnishing zones, but surprisingly few trees. Would be great to target that area for tree planting and change the character of the street.
  - Willamette Blvd
  - Portsmouth and Ainsworth streets
  - Friends of Trees is getting settlement money for tree planting in North Portland, around \$500k. Would be good to provide guidance for them.
- Marked crosswalks and stop signs around Parks at logical access points
  - Northgate Park, Columbia Park, etc.
  - Kenton Park has no sidewalks around the edges of the park, especially on the Argyle side
  - Shootings in Kenton Park from people driving from Argyle into the park—no barriers to prevent it
  - Pier Park needs crossings

## **BREAKOUT GROUP SESSION #2**

### **Comments from breakout group focusing on Parking Management; ADA Accessibility; Affordable Housing and Transportation** *(facilitated by Zef)*

- Parking management might make sense around Interstate (permits), but definitely not around St Johns (vacant storefronts, not enough demand, don't want to discourage people going to St Johns)
- Lots of affordable housing going in around Cathedral Park area down the hill from St Johns, would be good to promote Biketown
- Lots of smaller affordable housing around Arbor Lodge and Kenton areas
- Housing developments in New Columbia, St Johns near Pier Park and Columbia Blvd
- More information about North Portland greenways/bikeways in the welcome packets to people moving to neighborhood

### **Comments from breakout group focusing on Traffic Calming; Safe School Zones; Neighborhood Wayfinding** *(facilitated by Mike)*

- Wayfinding / Plazas:
  - Try to forge a better connection (wayfinding) between the St Johns Plaza and the farmers market / library.
  - Experiment with periodic car-free programming on N Lombard Street – especially in the summertime
- Traffic Calming:
  - Folks are interested in more permanent, heavy-duty traffic calming tools (including barrels, pinchpoints, concrete medians, etc.) – we want the message to “WE MEAN BUSINESS”
- Parks/Green Spaces:
  - Coordinate with the new Aquatic Center – make sure there's good access for people walking and biking
  - Emphasize bike parking and access to neighborhood parks
  - Try and add new trees on streets with large medians where we can get big canopy (i.e. N Willis)

## NEXT STEPS

Two more CAG meetings will be held in early 2023. Future CAG meeting topics will include design concepts, implementation strategy, and policy and program recommendations to be included in North Portland in Motion. There will be an opportunity for the public to review the draft plan in the spring of 2023. After the public comment period for the draft plan, PBOT will develop the final plan and schedule a date to bring the plan to Portland City Council.