

# HOUSING The Portland Observer

## Hundreds Of Citizens Participate In Livability Open Houses

More than 700 people turned out for Metro's recent series of six open houses on growth management and transportation issues. The open houses were held around the region to get specific feedback about what citizens want - and don't want - in their communities as the region grows.

The open houses provided an opportunity for citizens to help regional and local policymakers formulate decisions about growth management and transportation issues affecting livability.

Citizens reviewed land-use and transportation strategies designed to accommodate anticipated growth and talked with their Metro and local elected officials and staff. In addition, an innovative public opinion survey technique, dubbed "public pulse," was used to gather participants' opinions on draft regional transportation policies, as well as on Phase I of the Regional Framework Plan.

"We're delighted with the response we had to the open house series," said Metro Councilor Susan McLain, who serves as chair of the Council's Growth Management Committee. "The questions and comments we heard indicate that citizens understand the tradeoffs in maintaining livability and that they want to participate in the decision-making process."

About 550 citizens participated in the public opinion system, which is not a scientific survey. Participants were asked to consider a list of potential strategies for improving regional growth management and transportation concerns. Results of the survey include:

Growth management strategies - participants' comments indicated a belief that more efficient land use in the metropolitan region could be achieved. Four growth management strategies received the most agreement out of seven potential scenarios.

- 64 percent encouraged accommodating growth through mixed-use developments (residential and commercial) in one building
- 58 percent think that vacant lots should be filled in with new homes, duplexes or apartments.

- 57 percent of respondents would allow more granny flats (small rental units in existing homes).
- 57 percent indicated that new homes on smaller lots (such as 5,000 square feet) would be acceptable.

Transportation improvement strategies - Participants ranked potential strategies to improve transportation in the metropolitan region. They listed four strategies as most important to them, out of a total of 11 possible strategies.

- 77 percent favored adding sidewalks and other pedestrian facilities.
- 77 percent said adding traffic signals and left turn lanes to improve intersections is their preferred strategy.

• 74 percent believe that transportation improvements should include adding more transit services such as light rail, buses, and park and ride.

- 71 percent said it was desirable to bring home, work and shopping closer together.

Citizens are recognizing the important connection between land-use and transportation planning, as indicated by the electronic survey results. Those results showed that people want to bring home, work and shopping closer together and want to encourage mixed-use residential and commercial developments in one building. Some of the central issues under discussion in Phase I of the Regional Framework Plan concern developing street and road designs that integrate transportation and land-use needs.

"These open houses have been an important step in helping this region's citizens better understand the

connections in land-use and transportation decisions," said Councilor Dan Morissette, chair of Metro's Transportation Planning Committee. "We have far to go in helping people become more aware of upcoming important regional decisions, but the feedback from these open houses is extremely helpful."

In addition to the electronic survey, open house participants read written materials, examined displays related to buildable land within the urban growth boundary, looked at maps related to greenspaces and watersheds, and discussed their ideas on the recently released discussion drafts of transportation policy recommendations. Citizens also were encouraged to use comment boards to express their opinions about land-use and transportation issues.

Regional and local elected officials were available at each open house to discuss how strategies might affect residents, both in their own

community and region-wide.

"The participation in these open houses was very encouraging, and it was a tremendous opportunity for people to continue to tell their regional and local elected officials what they want for their future livability," said Metro Executive Officer Mike Burton.

"But those open houses aren't enough. Until we reach the rest of the 1.2 million people in the region who don't attend these public forums, our work is not over," Burton said. "Metro has a responsibility to manage growth, but citizens must help us shape the changes we are going to make."

Comments from citizens who attended the open houses will be used by Metro councilors to help make upcoming regional growth decisions, such as those related to the charter-mandated Regional Framework Plan, urban reserves, the urban growth boundary and the Regional Transportation Plan.

### Civil Rights Experts Participate In Oregon Fair Housing Conference

The 12th Annual Oregon Fair Housing Conference will be held Monday, May 6, 1996 from 8:30 am to 6:00 pm at the Oregon Convention Center. This annual statewide conference, one of the largest gatherings devoted to housing rights in the country, will feature prominent civil rights experts from across the nation.

Forums and workshops, scheduled throughout the day, will cover an extensive variety of housing concerns.

This year's morning keynote speaker is Beth Pepper, Attorney at Law. Ms. Pepper is the Director of the Baltimore Office of Stein and Schonfield, which specializes in the legal representation of people with

disabilities. The luncheon speaker will be Okainer Christian Dark, who recently joined Portland's United States Attorney's office as an Assistant U.S. Attorney to work on the development of the new Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit.

Conference topics include: Tips for First-Time Home Buyers; Elder/Senior Housing Issues; Reasonable Accommodations for People with Disabilities and Update on Fair Housing Enforcement.

Full day conference registration is \$70.00; half-day registration is \$40.00. A limited number of scholarships are available. Contact Donna Shackelford (503) 248-3617 or Janet Hawkins at (503) 248-3707 for more information.

### King Neighborhood Clean-Up Day

District #2 of the King Neighborhood Association is sponsoring a King Neighborhood Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 11th.

If you live, work or own property in the King Neighborhood you can dispose of trash, yard debris and tires from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the NE Precinct (NE 6th and Killingsworth).

There is a \$6.00 disposal fee for 2 yards/40lbs limit and a \$3.00 disposal fee for less than 2 yards/40lbs.

Disposal fees must be paid in cash! Trash must be bagged and kept separate from yard debris and tires.

Yard debris must be less than 5 feet and bundled with twine for easy unloading. Tires should be separated

from trash and yard debris.

Neighborhood residents and volunteers will clean-up street trash in targeted neighborhood areas.

They will meet at the Northeast Precinct Parking Lot, 449 NE Emerson by 8:30 a.m. on the morning of Saturday, May 11th and are asked to bring trucks and gloves, if they have them.

Residents and volunteers are also welcome to eat at the King Neighborhood Community BBQ from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The BBQ is free and will also be at the NE Precinct.

Anyone interested in volunteering should call Jamae Hilliard, District #2 President at 282-3249.

### Please Come

AND TALK TO US ABOUT A NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD on the vacant lots on NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. between NE Skidmore and NE Going.

What are your concerns?  
What will it look like?

The Developers And Architects Want To hear From You!

You are invited to a community meeting to share your ideas Before the design and site plans are finalized. Give us your input.

Monday, May 6th. At 6:30 P.M.

Lutheran Inner City Ministries Community Center  
4219 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Refreshments Will Be Served!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:

Northeast Community Development Corporation At 282-5482

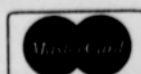
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