# Metro Development Readiness Assessment

### Metro Policy Advisory Committee

Becky Hewitt, Project Director March 22, 2023



### Introductions / Agenda







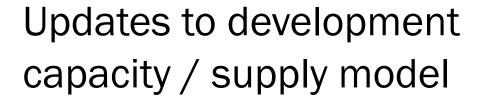


### Today's Agenda

- Overview of the Project
- Overview of Development Readiness Analysis
  - Past Urban Growth Boundary Expansion Areas
  - Metro Town Centers & Corridors
- Q&A

### Metro Residential Readiness Project

Research and analysis to guide Metro's 2024
Urban Growth
Management Decision





**Development Readiness** 



Population & Development Trends



Housing Filtering & Market Functions



Gentrification & Displacement Risk



Office-to-Residential Conversion Potential



Middle Housing Potential



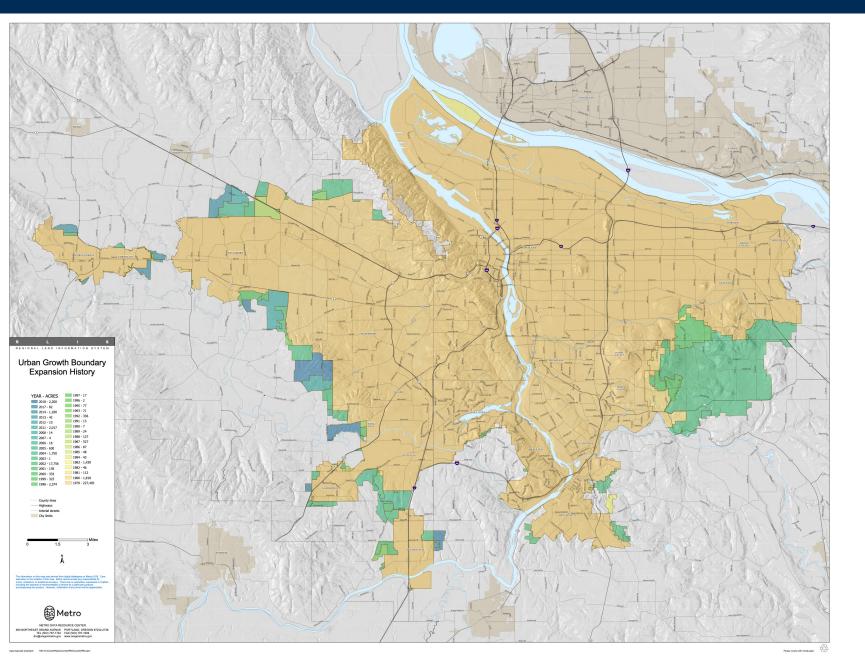
**Existing Housing Needs** 

### Development Readiness Analysis

- Goal is to illuminate the circumstances under which housing and employment land development has or hasn't happened in past UGB expansion areas
- Identify typical barriers to mixed-use development in urban locations inside the UGB

# Urban Growth Boundary Expansion Areas

### Metro UGB Expansions Over the Years



Focus on major UGB expansions in:

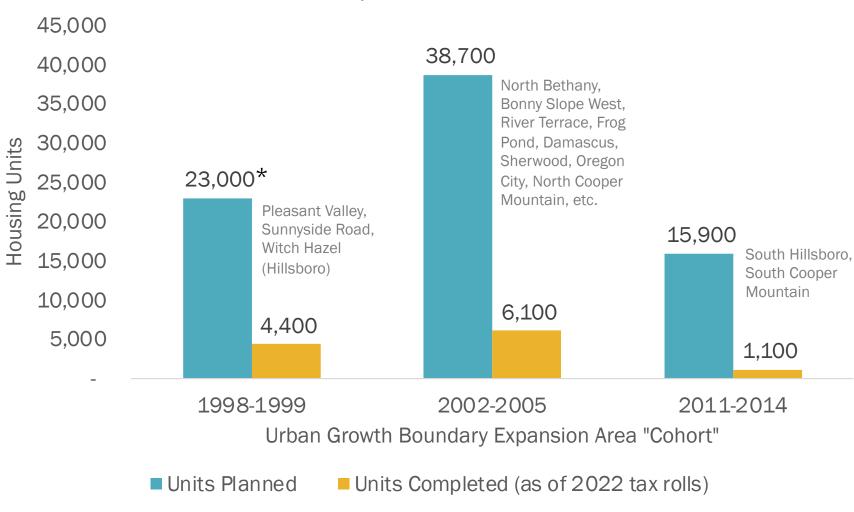
- 1998-1999
- 2002-2005
- 2011-2014
- 2018

"Where are they now?" approach for each "cohort"

Data sources: Metro historical UGB expansion area boundaries, tax lot data, employment data (QCEW), CoStar

### Housing Production in UGB Expansions Has Lagged Targets





Sources: Units planned: Metro UGB History; Deliveries: ECONorthwest analysis of 2022 RLIS tax lot data. Note that tax lot data tends to lag construction completions, sometimes by up to a year.

<sup>\*</sup> Units planned may include portions of Wilsonville's Villebois, which is not included in estimated units completed.

### Take-aways: Key factors that influence development outcomes



Parcel size and developability



Market alignment



Infrastructure serviceability, costs, and funding plans



Governance & local leadership

### Key Factors: Parcel Size & Developability

#### What's the issue?

- Rural residential parcels are challenging:
  - Existing residents often oppose urbanization
  - Less cost-effective to consolidate and develop
  - Harder to achieve scale for master planning
  - Not well suited for employment uses
- Resource constraints can limit development potential, fragment buildable land

- Urban reserves less reliance on exception land
- Developers consolidating site control to allow bigger master planned developments

### Key Factors: Market Alignment

#### What's the issue?

- Demand for housing in many areas (maybe stronger on west side)
- Commercial & employment more challenging
  - Some areas not well-suited for employment uses(e.g., not flat enough to cost-effectively develop with larger employment uses, far from major transportation facilities).
  - Commercial generally follows residential—need enough customers to support new businesses.

- Early involvement by developers in planning for expansion areas (prior to and following UGB decisions)
- Expanding where the demand is for a given land use

### Key Factors: Infrastructure

#### What's the issue?

- Infrastructure is a substantial expense in nearly all expansion areas
- Topography and physical conditions increase cost and difficulty of building infrastructure
- Making initial investments to enable development requires proactive support and creative funding/financing mechanisms
- Major industrial & employment development often can't front infrastructure costs

- Early infrastructure assessment and planning (prior to and following UGB decisions)
- Bringing in areas that are easier to serve
- Proactive role by cities in establishing funding mechanisms & advancing critical early infrastructure projects
- Experienced, well-capitalized land developers who can take on bigger on-site infrastructure investments

### Key Factors: Governance

### What's the issue?

- Cities play a key role in advancing development
- Lack of clarity about which city is responsible creates challenges
- Pro-active planning moves the process faster

- Updated process and requirements for City involvement in expansions
- Cities being pro-active about planning and infrastructure

### Timing Considerations: UGB Expansion Areas

- Planning, adoption of development regulations, establishing a viable infrastructure funding strategy take time given need for community and stakeholder engagement
- Other steps (annexation, infrastructure programming, etc.)
   generally follow planning, take additional time
- Development applications usually can't proceed until other pieces are in place
- Recessions or other market disruptions can delay things further

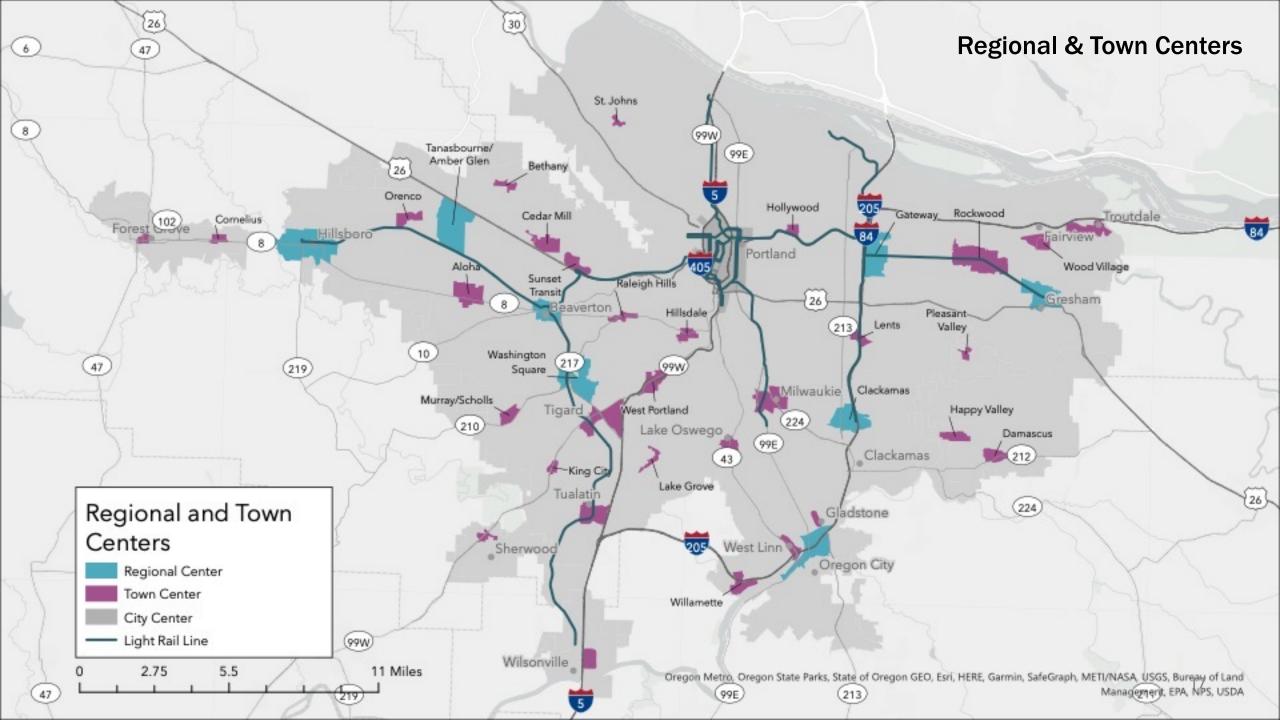
### Conclusions: UGB Expansion Areas

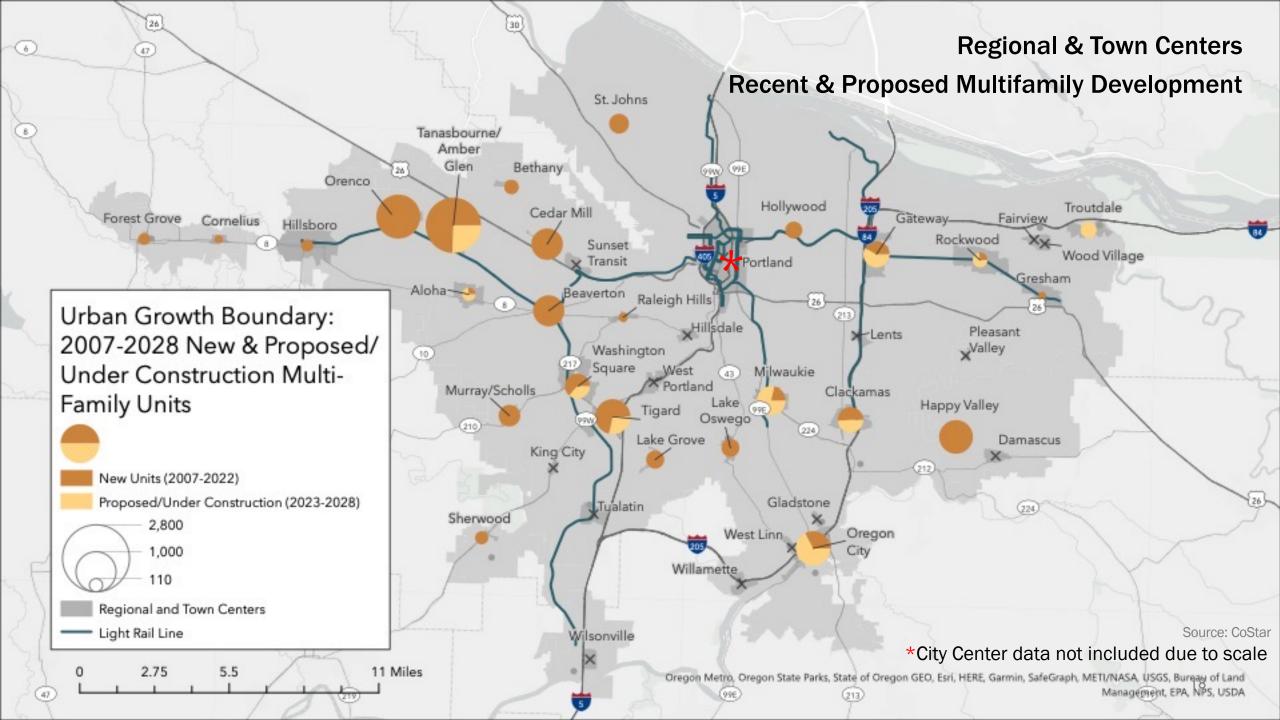
- Changes to rules and process are helping
- Developer interest and participation supports development readiness
- Pro-active City leadership can move development forward faster
- Metro can guide growth, but can't create a market where it doesn't exist or overcome topographic, ownership, or resource barriers to development

## State of the 2040 Centers

### 2040 Centers: Key Questions

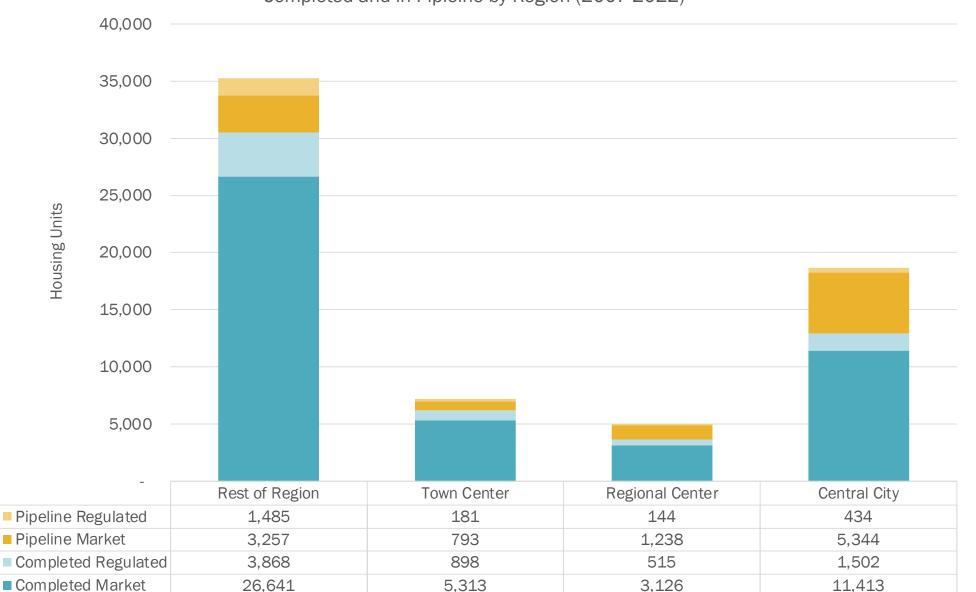
- Residential development trends in 2040 Centers
- What are the common regulatory, procedural, and market barriers to residential development in 2040 centers?





### City Center and Other Areas





Strong residential development in Central City, especially 2007-2017

Source: CoStar. May exclude some development where year built data is unavailable. Note: "Rest of Region" is all areas within the Metro UGB that are not part of a Regional Center, Town Center, or the Central City.

## 2040 Regional & Town Centers: Observations

Common Barriers	What Has Helped?
Lack of amenities, older auto- oriented development pattern –	Strong public investment (e.g., TIF) Historic downtowns / walkable
need for investment in public realm	street networks
Older suburban development	Code updates
regulations (e.g., high parking & landscaping requirements, etc.)	Streamlined regulations
	Reduced parking requirements
Rents too low to support vertical	Development incentives (e.g.,
mixed-use or podium development	VHDZ)
Market demand for parking	Light rail, on-street parking











Los Angeles Portland Seattle Boise