

MPAC Worksheet

Agenda Item Title : National Housing Solutions for Greater Portland

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Purpose/Objective

In recent years, the region has recognized a need for regional coordination of policies and investments around affordable housing. At Metro, this work has been guided by our regional Equitable Housing Initiative and Report in 2014 – and has resulted in the passage of the 2018 Affordable Housing Bond and the 2020 Supportive Housing Services measure, as well as regional support for Oregon HB 2001 for missing middle housing, and HB 2003 for housing production strategies, both passed by the Oregon Legislature in 2019.

Despite this progress, access to housing opportunity and stability remains an urgent priority for many families and communities across greater Portland. Furthermore, emerging and longstanding national challenges, including COVID-19, the economic crisis, and a new civil rights movement urging reimagined policies in racial justice, all point towards the need for continued housing policy solutions at the federal level.

The Portland Metro area is well-known nationally for our regional coordination and collaboration. Over the years, this regional approach has strengthened our economic development competitiveness, and has established the Portland region as a leader in influencing federal transportation policy and receiving federal transportation funds. When we coordinate as a region to articulate and advocate for our shared housing priorities, we are more likely to ensure that any potential federal action on housing will serve our communities' needs here in greater Portland as well as across the nation. We also make it easier for our federal delegation to understand and respond to our needs, without any conflicting messaging.

Working with area jurisdictions and community partners, Metro staff have developed a draft outline for principles and priorities for national housing solutions, as a tool to advance regional understanding of federal housing policy and opportunities for coordinated action. Staff are seeking feedback from MPAC members to inform the refinement and application of this new work.

Recommended national housing priorities include:

- Strengthen Fair Housing policies
- Protect people from economic evictions and foreclosures
- Stabilize extremely low-income households
- Construct and create more affordable homes
- Address homelessness with supportive housing
- Prioritize homeownership for families of color

Action Requested/Outcome

The action requested is feedback and discussion. These policy questions will be posed:

- How is your community or jurisdiction impacted by housing issues relevant to national policies?
- Would your community or jurisdiction use this document as a tool for education and policy lobbying?
- What recommendations do you have for Metro staff to improve this material and engage regional partners in national housing policy work?

What has changed since MPAC last considered this issue/item?

N/A. This is the first time this material has been presented to MPAC.

What packet material do you plan to include?

Draft Housing Solutions for Greater Portland principles and priorities document, dated 9/10/2020