



November 12, 2018

Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

Commissioner Amanda Fritz

Commissioner Nick Fish

Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Dear Mayor and Commissioners:

The Street Trust urges the adoption of the Central City in Motion plan. The 18 projects recommended in the plan deserve your support because:

- They implement adopted City policy.
- They will increase the use of walking, biking, and transit.
- People will love them.

#### City Policy

The resolution adopting the plan outlines an amazing body of policy adopted by the City Council. These policies are intended to grow employment of all kinds, increase housing, respond to market demand for urban living, reduce infill pressure in neighborhoods and rollback greenhouse gas emissions. Together they evoke a thriving city that leads the nation in economic opportunity, housing choice, growth management, transportation safety and response to climate change. None of these policies are worth anything if they are not supported by investments in walking, biking, and transit.

It is time to move from great policy to great projects. It is not physically possible to support the growth proposed for the central city without shifting transportation choices to walking, biking, and transit. By allocating approximately 1 percent of city streets to non-autos, Central City in Motion projects will significantly increase the capacity of the transportation network.

#### Increase walking, biking and use of transit

We can shift transportation choices if we make walking, biking and transit the easy choice, the convenient option, the affordable alternative, the safe way to go for most of our transportation needs. The Central City in Motion projects will chip away at the barriers to choosing alternatives to driving.

The Street Trust encounters all sorts of people in its work. Some are willing to travel out of direction, weather the discomfort of riding in traffic and test their patience to get to where they need to go by walking, biking or transit. Some have no choice but to do so. These are the

people who are keeping the city moving by reducing cars on the road. They should be appreciated, but not taken for granted. Many more people say they would choose to walk if accessibility were guaranteed; choose to bike if they felt safe; choose to take transit if it did not take so darn long. Central City in Motion projects will fix unsafe crossings. They will build a limited but legible protected network for bicycles. And they will give transit the priority it deserves to reduce delays. These projects will expand transportation choices to people of all ages, abilities and comfort levels. The Street Trust is confident these investments will lead to more walking, biking, and transit trips.

#### People will love them

Portland-area residents are increasingly dissatisfied with our transportation system. In response to an open-ended question in a late 2017 poll, homelessness was the top concern followed by traffic congestion, affordable housing, roads/infrastructure, and taxes. In addition, as we are able to acquire most of the stuff we need and conduct more and more business online, the economic underpinning of a city--proximity--is eroding. An exceptional experience **for people** will maintain the value of our city. Investments in walking, biking, and transit will get cars off the road **and** make our city a memorable, hospital place designed for people.

People who have experienced the degradation of walking, biking and riding transit by traffic in recent years and those who have moved here expecting that alternatives to driving would be superior are frustrated and disappointed. Central City in Motion projects will help align our streets with our policies and rhetoric. They will bring relief and even joy to the act of getting where you need to go. We think motorists will also come to appreciate the separation of modes these projects will promote because no one likes being confused about how a street is intended to work.

#### Next Steps

Business and property owners who may be affected by these projects have expressed a desire for more information. The Street Trust supports the development of project plans that will increase certainty around the timeline for projects, when affected parties will be consulted and what tools are available to address their concerns. These schedules will also help us hold the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) accountable for completing these projects.

We would also support a roadmap for funding the projects. As a destination for the region, improvements to the central city benefit a lot of people, but PBOT should be transparent to ensure that investments in Central City in Motion to not consume a disproportionate share of transportation resources.

Sincerely,



Jillian Detweiler  
Executive Director