

Chapter 1

Land Use

REGIONAL FRAMEWORK PLAN

CHAPTER 1

LAND USE

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Chapter 1 Land Use

Introduction

The Metro Charter requires that Metro address growth management and land use planning matters of metropolitan concern. This chapter contains the policies that guide Metro in such areas as development of centers, corridors, station communities, and main streets; housing choices; employment choices and opportunities; economic vitality; urban and rural reserves; management of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB); urban design and local plan and policy coordination.

This chapter also addresses land use planning matters that the Metro Council, with the consultation and advice of the Metro Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), determines will benefit from regional planning, such as affordable housing.

A livable region is an economically strong region. This chapter contains policies that support a strong economic climate through encouraging the development of a diverse and sufficient supply of jobs, especially family wage jobs, in appropriate locations throughout the region. The policies in this chapter are also a key component of the regional strategy to reduce per capita greenhouse gas emissions from light-duty vehicle travel.

(Amended by Ord. No. 14-1346B.)

Six Outcomes, Characteristics of a Successful Region

It is the policy of the Metro Council to exercise its powers to achieve the following six outcomes, characteristics of a successful region:

1. People live, work and play in vibrant communities where their everyday needs are easily accessible.
2. Current and future residents benefit from the region's sustained economic competitiveness and prosperity.
3. People have safe and reliable transportation choices that enhance their quality of life.
4. The region is a leader in minimizing contributions to global warming.
5. Current and future generations enjoy clean air, clean water and healthy ecosystems.
6. The benefits and burdens of growth and change are distributed equitably.

(Added 12/16/10, Metro Ord. 10-1244B.)

Performance Measures and Performance Targets

It is also the policy of the Metro Council to use performance measures and performance targets to:

- a. Evaluate the effectiveness of proposed policies, strategies and actions to achieve the desired Outcomes;
- b. Inform the people of the region about progress toward achieving the Outcomes;
- c. Evaluate the effectiveness of adopted policies, strategies and actions and guide the consideration of revision or replacement of the policies, strategies and actions; and
- d. Publish a report on progress toward achieving the desired Outcomes on a periodic basis.

(Added 12/16/10, Metro Ord. 10-1244B.)

The Metro Code provisions, the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, a background discussion and policy analysis for this chapter are included in the Appendices of this plan.

Policies

The following section contains the policies for land use. These policies are implemented in several ways. The Metro Council implements the policies through its investments in planning, transportation and other services. The Council also implements the policies by adopting and occasionally revising Metro's functional plans for local governments. The functional plans themselves are implemented by the region's cities and counties through their comprehensive plans and land use regulations.

1.1 Compact Urban Form

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.1.1. Ensure and maintain a compact urban form within the UGB.
- 1.1.2. Adopt and implement a strategy of investments and incentives to use land within the UGB more efficiently and to create a compact urban form.
- 1.1.3. Facilitate infill and re-development, particularly within Centers, Corridors, Station Communities, Main Streets and Employment Areas, to use land and urban services efficiently, to support public transit, to promote successful, walkable communities and to create equitable and vibrant communities.
- 1.1.4. Incent and encourage elimination of unnecessary barriers to compact, mixed-use, pedestrian and bicycle-friendly and transit-supportive development within Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets.
- 1.1.5. Promote the distinctiveness of the region's cities and the stability of its neighborhoods.
- 1.1.6. Enhance compact urban form by developing the Intertwine, an interconnected system of parks, greenspaces and trails readily accessible to people of the region.
- 1.1.7. Promote excellence in community design.
- 1.1.8. Promote a compact urban form as a key climate action strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(RFP Policy 1.1 amended 12/16/10, Metro Ord. 10-1244B; Policy 1.1.4 amended Ord. 14-1464B.)

1.2 Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.2.1. Recognize that the success of the 2040 Growth Concept depends upon the success of the region's Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets as the principal centers of urban life in the region. Recognize that each Center, Corridor, Station Community and Main Street has its own character and stage of development and its own aspirations; each needs its own strategy for success.
- 1.2.2. Work with local governments, community leaders and state and federal agencies to develop an investment strategy for Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets with a program of investments in public works, essential services and community assets, that will enhance their roles as the centers of urban life in the region. The strategy shall:
 - a. Give priority in allocation of Metro's investment funds to Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets;

- b. To the extent practicable, link Metro’s investments so they reinforce one another and maximize contributions to Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets;
 - c. To the extent practicable, coordinate Metro’s investments with complementary investments of local governments and with state and federal agencies so the investments reinforce one another , maximize contributions to Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets and help achieve local aspirations; and
 - d. Include an analysis of barriers to the success of investments in particular Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets.
- 1.2.3. Encourage employment opportunities in Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets by:
- a. Improving access within and between Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets;
 - b. Encouraging cities and counties to allow a wide range of employment uses and building types, a wide range of floor-to-area ratios and a mix of employment and residential uses; and
 - c. Encourage investment by cities, counties and all private sectors by complementing their investments with investments by Metro.
- 1.2.4. Work with local governments, community leaders and state and federal agencies to employ financial incentives to enhance the roles of Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets and maintain a catalogue of incentives and other tools that would complement and enhance investments in particular Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets.
- 1.2.5. Measure the success of regional efforts to improve Centers and Centers, Corridors, Station Communities and Main Streets and report results to the region and the state and revise strategies, if performance so indicates, to improve the results of investments and incentives.

1.3 Housing Choices and Opportunities

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.3.1. Provide housing choices in the region, including single family, multi-family, ownership and rental housing, and housing offered by the private, public and nonprofit sectors, paying special attention to those households with fewest housing choices.
- 1.3.2. As part of the effort to provide housing choices, encourage local governments to ensure that their land use regulations:
 - a. Allow a diverse range of housing types;
 - b. Make housing choices available to households of all income levels; and
 - c. Allow affordable housing, particularly in Centers and Corridors and other areas well-served with public services and frequent transit service.
- 1.3.3. Reduce the percentage of the region’s households that are cost-burdened, meaning those households paying more than 50 percent of their incomes on housing and transportation.
- 1.3.4. Maintain voluntary affordable housing production goals for the region, to be revised over time as new information becomes available and displayed in Chapter 8 (Implementation), and encourage their adoption by the cities and counties of the region.

- 1.3.5. Encourage local governments to consider the following tools and strategies to achieve the affordable housing production goals:
 - a. Density bonuses for affordable housing;
 - b. A no-net-loss affordable housing policy to be applied to quasi-judicial amendments to the comprehensive plan;
 - c. A voluntary inclusionary zoning policy;
 - d. A transferable development credits program for affordable housing;
 - e. Policies to accommodate the housing needs of the elderly and disabled;
 - f. Removal of regulatory constraints on the provision of affordable housing; and
 - g. Policies to ensure that parking requirements do not discourage the provision of affordable housing.
- 1.3.6 Require local governments in the region to report progress towards increasing the supply of affordable housing and seek their assistance in periodic inventories of the supply of affordable housing.
- 1.3.7 Work in cooperation with local governments, state government, business groups, non-profit groups and citizens to create an affordable housing fund available region wide in order to leverage other affordable housing resources.
- 1.3.8 Provide technical assistance to local governments to help them do their part in achieving regional goals for the production and preservation of housing choice and affordable housing.
- 1.3.9 Integrate Metro efforts to expand housing choices with other Metro activities, including transportation planning, land use planning and planning for parks and greenspaces.
- 1.3.10 When expanding the Urban Growth Boundary, assigning or amending 2040 Growth Concept design type designations or making other discretionary decisions, seek agreements with local governments and others to improve the balance of housing choices with particular attention to affordable housing.
- 1.3.11 Consider incentives, such as priority for planning grants and transportation funding, to local governments that obtain agreements from landowners and others to devote a portion of new residential capacity to affordable housing.
- 1.3.12 Help ensure opportunities for low-income housing types throughout the region so that families of modest means are not obliged to live concentrated in a few neighborhoods, because concentrating poverty is not desirable for the residents or the region.
- 1.3.13 Consider investment in transit, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and multi-modal streets as an affordable housing tool to reduce household transportation costs to leave more household income available for housing.
- 1.3.14 For purposes of these policies, “affordable housing” means housing that families earning less than 50 percent of the median household income for the region can reasonably afford to rent and earn as much as or less than 100 percent of the median household income for the region can reasonably afford to buy.

(RFP Policy 1.3 updated 9/10/98, Metro Ord. 98-769; Policies 1.3, 1.3.1 through 1.3.7. updated, Metro Ord. 00-882C; RFP Policies 1.3.1 through 1.3.4, updated 2/05; RFP Policy 1.3 updated 4/25/07, Metro Ord. 06-1129B; amended 12/16/10, Metro Ord. 10-1244B; Policy 1.3.2 amended by Ord. No. 14-1346B.)

1.4 Employment Choices and Opportunities

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.4.1 Locate expansions of the UGB for industrial or commercial purposes in locations consistent with this plan and where, consistent with state statutes and statewide goals, an assessment of the type, mix and wages of existing and anticipated jobs within subregions justifies such expansion.
- 1.4.2 Balance the number and wage level of jobs within each subregion with housing cost and availability within that subregion. Strategies are to be coordinated with the planning and implementation activities of this element with Policy 1.3, Housing Choices and Opportunities and Policy 1.8, Developed Urban Land.
- 1.4.3 Designate, with the aid of leaders in the business and development community and local governments in the region, as Regionally Significant Industrial Areas those areas with site characteristics that make them especially suitable for the particular requirements of industries that offer the best opportunities for family-wage jobs.
- 1.4.4 Require, through the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan, that local governments exercise their comprehensive planning and zoning authorities to protect Regionally Significant Industrial Areas from incompatible uses.
- 1.4.5 Facilitate investment in those areas of employment with characteristics that make them especially suitable and valuable for traded-sector goods and services, including brownfield sites and sites that are re-developable.
- 1.4.6 Consistent with policies promoting a compact urban form, ensure that the region maintains a sufficient supply of tracts 50 acres and larger to meet demand by traded-sector industries for large sites and protect those sites from conversion to non-industrial uses.

(RFP Policy 1.4 updated 10/26/00, Metro Ord. 00-879A; and Policies 1.4.1 and 1.4.2 added 12/05/02, Metro Ord. 02-969B-06; Policies 1.4.1 through 1.4.2 updated and 1.4.3 and 1.4.4 added 2/05.)

1.5 Economic Vitality

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.5.1 Include all parts of the region in the region's economic development, including areas and neighborhoods which have been experiencing increasing poverty and social needs, even during periods of a booming regional economy.
- 1.5.2 Recognize that to allow the kinds of social and economic decay in older suburbs and the central city that has occurred in other larger and older metro regions is a threat to our quality of life and the health of the regional economy.
- 1.5.3 Ensure that all neighborhoods and all people have access to opportunity and share the benefits, as well as the burdens, of economic and population growth in the region.
- 1.5.4 Support economic vitality throughout the entire region, by undertaking the following steps:
 - a. Monitoring regional and subregional indicators of economic vitality, such as the balance of jobs, job compensation and housing availability.
 - b. Facilitating collaborative regional approaches which better support economic vitality for all parts of the region if monitoring finds that existing efforts to promote and support economic vitality in all parts of the region are inadequate.
- 1.5.5 Promote, in cooperation with local governments and community residents, revitalization of existing city and neighborhood centers that have experienced disinvestment and/or are

currently underutilized and/or populated by a disproportionately high percentage of people living at or below 80 percent of the region's median income.

1.6 Growth Management (Repealed, Ord. 10-1244B, 12/16/10)

(RFP Policy 1.6 updated 10/26/00, Metro Ord. 00-879A; RFP Policy 1.6 updated 2/05; RFP Policy 1.6 repealed 12/16/10.)

1.7 Urban and Rural Reserves

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.7.1 Establish a system of urban reserves, sufficient to accommodate long-term growth, that identifies land outside the UGB suitable for urbanization in a manner consistent with this Regional Framework Plan.
- 1.7.2 Collaborate with Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington Counties and Neighbor Cities to establish a system of rural reserves to protect agricultural land, forest land and natural landscape features that help define appropriate natural boundaries to urbanization, and to keep a separation from Neighbor Cities to protect their identities and aspirations.
- 1.7.3 Designate as urban reserves, with a supply of land to accommodate population and employment growth to the year 2060, those lands identified as urban reserves on the Urban and Rural Reserves Map in Title 14 of the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan.
- 1.7.4 Protect those lands designated as rural reserves on the Urban and Rural Reserves Map in Title 14 of the Urban Growth Management Functional Plan from addition to the UGB and from re-designation as urban reserves at least until the year 2060.
- 1.7.5 In conjunction with the appropriate county, cities and service districts, develop concept plans for urban reserves prior to their addition to the UGB. Provide technical, financial and other support to the local governments in order to:
 - a. Help achieve livable communities and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
 - b. Identify the city or cities that will likely annex the area after it is added to the UGB.
 - c. Identify the city or cities or the service districts that will likely provide services to the area after it is added to the UGB.
 - d. Determine the general urban land uses, key local and regional multi-modal transportation facilities and prospective components of the regional system of parks, natural areas, open spaces, fish and wildlife habitats, trails and greenways.
- 1.7.6 Twenty years after the initial designation of the reserves, in conjunction with Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties, review the designated urban and rural reserves for effectiveness, sufficiency and appropriateness.

(RFP Policy 1.7 updated 10/26/00, Metro Ord. 00-879A, RFP Policy 1.7 updated 2/05; RFP Policy 1.7 updated Ord. 10-1238A, 09/08/10; Policy 1.7.5 amended Ord. 14-1364B.)

1.8 Developed Urban Land

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.8.1 Identify and actively address opportunities for and obstacles to the continued development and redevelopment of existing urban land using a combination of regulations and incentives to ensure that the prospect of living, working and doing business in those locations remains attractive to a wide range of households and employers.

- 1.8.2 Encourage, in coordination with affected agencies, the redevelopment and reuse of lands used in the past or already used for commercial or industrial purposes wherever economically viable and environmentally sound.
- 1.8.3 Assess redevelopment and infill potential in the region when Metro examines whether additional urban land is needed within the UGB, and include the potential for redevelopment and infill on existing urban land as an element when calculating the buildable land supply in the region, where it can be demonstrated that the infill and redevelopment can be reasonably expected to occur during the next 20 years.
- 1.8.4 Work with jurisdictions in the region to determine the extent to which redevelopment and infill can be relied on to meet the identified need for additional urban land.
- 1.8.5 Initiate an amendment to the UGB, after the analysis and review in 1.8.3, to meet that portion of the identified need for land not met through commitments for redevelopment and infill.

(RFP Policy 1.8 updated 2/05.)

1.9 Urban Growth Boundary

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.9.1 Establish and maintain an urban growth boundary to limit urbanization of rural land and facilitate the development of a compact urban form.
- 1.9.2 Consider expansion of the UGB only after having taken all reasonable measures to use land within the UGB efficiently.
- 1.9.3 Expand the UGB, when necessary, from land designated Urban Reserves unless they cannot reasonably accommodate the demonstrated need to expand.
- 1.9.4 Not to expand the UGB onto lands designated Rural Reserves at least until the year 2060.
- 1.9.5 Consult appropriate Neighbor Cities prior to addition of land to the UGB in their vicinity.
- 1.9.6 Add land to the UGB only after concept planning for the land has been completed by the responsible local governments in collaboration with Metro unless participants cannot agree on the plan and addition of the land is necessary to comply with ORS 197.299.
- 1.9.7 Provide the following procedures for expansion of the UGB:
 - a. A process for minor revisions.
 - b. A complete and comprehensive process associated with the analysis of the capacity of the UGB required periodically of Metro by state planning laws.
 - c. A process available for expansion to accommodate non-residential needs between the state-required capacity analyses.
 - d. An accelerated process for addition of land to accommodate an immediate need for industrial capacity.
- 1.9.8 Use natural or built features, whenever practical, to ensure a clear transition from rural to urban land use.
- 1.9.9 Ensure that expansion of the UGB enhances the roles of Centers, Corridors and Main Streets.
- 1.9.10 Determine whether the types, mix and wages of existing and potential jobs within subareas justifies an expansion in a particular area.

- 1.9.11 Conduct an inventory of significant fish and wildlife habitat that would be affected by addition of land, and consider the effects of urbanization of the land on the habitat and measures to reduce adverse effects, prior to a decision on the proposed addition.
- 1.9.12 Use the choice of land to include within the UGB as an opportunity to seek agreement with landowners to devote a portion of residential capacity to needed workforce housing as determined by the Urban Growth Report adopted as part of the UGB expansion process.
- 1.9.13 Prepare a report on the effect of the proposed amendment on existing residential neighborhoods prior to approving any amendment or amendments of the urban growth boundary in excess of 100 acres and send the report to all households within one mile of the proposed UGB amendment area and to all cities and counties within the district. The report shall address:
 - a. Traffic patterns and any resulting increase in traffic congestion, commute times and air quality.
 - b. Whether parks and open space protection in the area to be added will benefit existing residents of the district as well as future residents of the added territory.
 - c. The cost impacts on existing residents of providing needed public services and public infrastructure to the area to be added.

(RFP Policy Nos. 1.9.1 thru 1.9.4 updated to 1.9.1 thru 1.9.3, 10/26/00, Metro Ord. 00879A; RFP Policy 1.9.3 regarding Measure 26-29 updated 5/15/03, Metro Ord. 03-1003; RFP Policies 1.9 through 1.9.3 updated 2/05 and RFP Policies 1.9.4 through 1.9.11 added 2/05; RFP Policy 1.9.12 added 9/29/05, Metro Ord. 05-1077C, Exb. B, Amend. 3; and RFP Policy No. 1.9 updated 09/08/10, Metro Ord. 10-1238A, § 2.)

1.10 Urban Design

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.10.1 Support the identity and functioning of communities in the region through:
 - a. Recognizing and protecting critical open space features in the region.
 - b. Developing public policies that encourage diversity and excellence in the design and development of settlement patterns, landscapes and structures.
 - c. Ensuring that incentives and regulations guiding the development and redevelopment of the urban area promote a settlement pattern that:
 - i) Links any public incentives to a commensurate public benefit received or expected and evidence of private needs.
 - ii) Makes biking and walking the most convenient, safe and enjoyable transportation choices for short trips, encourages transit use and reduces auto dependence and related greenhouse gas emissions.
 - iii) Provides access to neighborhood and community parks, trails, schools, walkways, bikeways, and other recreational and cultural areas and public facilities.
 - iv) Reinforces nodal, mixed-use, neighborhood-oriented community designs to provide walkable access to a mix of destinations to support meeting daily needs, such as jobs, education, shopping, services, transit and recreation, social and cultural activities.
 - v) Includes concentrated, high-density, mixed-use urban centers developed in relation to the region's transit system.

- vi) Is responsive to needs for privacy, community, sense of place and personal safety in an urban setting.
- vii) Facilitates the development and preservation of affordable mixed-income neighborhoods.
- viii) Avoids and minimizes conflicts between urbanization and the protection of regionally significant fish and wildlife habitat.

1.10.2 Encourage pedestrian-, bicycle- and transit-supportive building patterns in order to minimize the need for auto trips, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to create a development pattern conducive to face-to-face community interaction.

(RFP Policy 1.10.1 (c)(viii) added 9/29/05, Metro Ord. 05-1077C, Exb. B, Amend. 4; Policy 1.10 amended by Metro Ord. 14-1364B.)

1.11 Neighbor Cities

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.11.1 Coordinate concept planning of Urban Reserves with Neighbor Cities Sandy, Canby, Estacada, Barlow, North Plains, Banks and Vancouver to minimize the generation of new automobile trips between Neighbor Cities and the Metro UGB by seeking appropriate ratios of dwelling units and jobs within the Metro UGB and in Neighbor Cities.
- 1.11.2 Pursue agreements with Neighbor Cities, Clackamas and Washington Counties and the Oregon Department of Transportation to establish “green corridors” along state highways that link Neighbor Cities with cities inside the Metro UGB in order to maintain a rural separation between cities, to protect the civic identities of Neighbor Cities, and to protect the capacity of those highways to move people and freight between the cities.
- 1.11.3 Coordinate with Vancouver, Clark County and the Southwest Washington Transportation Council through the Bi-State Coordinating Committee and other appropriate channels on population and employment forecasting; transportation; economic development; emergency management; park, trail and natural area planning; and other growth management issues.

(RFP Policy 1.11.3 updated 10/26/00, Metro Ord. 00-879A; RFP Policy 1.9 updated 2/05; and RFP Policy 1.11 updated 09/08/10, Metro Ord. 10-1238A, § 2.)

1.12 Protection of Agriculture and Forest Resource Lands. (Repealed, Ord. 10-1238A, 09/08/10, § 2)

(Policies 1.12.1 through 1.12.4 updated 9/22/04, Metro Ord. 04-1040B-01; RFP Policy 1.12 updated 2/05; and repealed Metro Ord. 10-1238A, § 2.)

1.13 Participation of Citizens

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.13.1 Encourage public participation in Metro land use planning.
- 1.13.2 Follow and promote the citizen participation values inherent in the RFP and the Metro Citizen Involvement Principles.
- 1.13.3 Encourage local governments to provide opportunities for public involvement in land use planning and delivery of recreational facilities and services.

1.14 School and Local Government Plan and Policy Coordination

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.14.1 Coordinate plans among local governments, including cities, counties, special districts and school districts for adequate school facilities for already developed and urbanizing areas.
- 1.14.2 Consider school facilities to be “public facilities” in the review of city and county comprehensive plans for compliance with the Regional Framework Plan.
- 1.14.3 Work with local governments and school districts on school facility plans to ensure that the Urban Growth Boundary contains a sufficient supply of land for school facility needs.
- 1.14.4 Use the appropriate means, including, but not limited to, public forums, open houses, symposiums, dialogues with state and local government officials, school district representatives, and the general public in order to identify funding sources necessary to acquire future school sites and commensurate capital construction to accommodate anticipated growth in school populations.
- 1.14.5 Prepare a school siting and facilities functional plan with the advice of MPAC to implement the policies of this Plan.

(RFP Policy 1.14.2 updated 11/24/98, Metro Ord. 98-789; RFP Policy 1.14.2 updated 12/13/01, Metro Ord. 01-929A; RFP Policy 1.14 updated 2/05.)

1.15 Centers (Repealed, Ord. 10-1244B, 12/16/10)

(RFP Policy 1.15 added 12/05/02, Metro Ord. 02-969B-06; RFP Policy 1.15 updated 2/05; RFP Policy 1.5 repealed 12/16/10.)

1.16 Residential Neighborhoods

It is the policy of the Metro Council to:

- 1.16.1 Recognize that the livability of existing residential neighborhoods is essential to the success of the 2040 Growth Concept.
- 1.16.2 Take measures, in order to protect and improve the region’s existing residential neighborhoods, by:
 - a. Protecting residential neighborhoods from air and water pollution, noise and crime.
 - b. Making community services accessible to residents of neighborhoods by walking, bicycle and transit, where possible.
 - c. Facilitating the provision of affordable government utilities and services to residential neighborhoods.
- 1.16.3 Not require local governments to increase the density of existing single-family neighborhoods identified solely as Inner or Outer Neighborhoods.

(RFP Policy 1.16 added 12/05/02, Metro Ord. 02-969B-06, pursuant to Measure 26-29, enacted by the Metro Area voters on 5/21/02.)