



Overlook Neighborhood Association

2209 N Schofield St
Portland, OR 97217

April 15, 2008

Design Commission
1900 SW Fourth Ave, Suite 5000
Portland, OR 97201

Re: Proposed North Interstate Corridor Plan

The following comments were unanimously approved by the Overlook Neighborhood Association on April 15, 2008. They are designed to highlight some of the key issues and concerns shared by the neighborhood regarding the rezoning of the Interstate Corridor.

The proposed changes in the Interstate Corridor have the potential to bring drastic changes to our neighborhood. It is a great challenge to successfully incorporate higher-density, transit-supportive development into a neighborhood that, while having a vibrant mix of uses, is primarily a single-family residential neighborhood. The design review process and design guidelines will be critical for encouraging development that is successful and positive for current and future residents as well as businesses.

While the proposed amendments to the Community Design Guidelines are generally good in addressing the challenges of incorporating new developments and establishing transitions between zoning, we are concerned that more guidance is needed east of Interstate Ave. Strong design review will be crucial in this area where very large new developments will be moving into an area that consists largely of single-family homes. While details are provided in Sections F and G of the Amendments to the Community Design Guidelines for Montana Avenue and the I-5 edge, there are no other specifics provided for this area. We would also like to express our support for the strengthening the cultural significance of Interstate Avenue's iconic neon signs as a way of preserving our neighborhood's unique history.

The Overlook Neighborhood Association has a strong track record in the design review process and we look forward to further involvement. As a model for future development, this is an important project for the city. Without proper consideration it also has the potential to negatively impact the neighborhood feel and uniqueness of the Interstate corridor. We appreciate your consideration in helping to make it as successful as possible.

Thank you,

Eric Gale

Chair, Overlook Neighborhood Association