

NEWPORT PENINSULA URBAN DESIGN PLAN¹

Findings:

Newport's historic peninsula district is the heart of the city. The City of Newport anticipates that population, employment growth, and increased tourism on the peninsula, combined with automobile-dependent development, will negatively affect the quality of life and lifestyle, as well as the physical character of the historic core of the city. The peninsula's ability to accommodate change requires careful attention to urban design in order to preserve and strengthen the inherent qualities which have guided Newport's development to date. These summary findings are more fully developed in the Newport Peninsula Urban Design Study, which is incorporated herein as a background reference document and provides substantial evidence for these findings, policies, and implementation strategies. It is our key finding that is necessary to both stimulate and guide development in order to graciously incorporate change and preserve the peninsula as a wonderful place to live. Consequently, the following policies are adopted for the peninsula.

Policies:

1. Preserve the beautiful natural setting and the orientation of development and public improvements in order to strengthen their relationship to that setting.
2. Enhance new and redeveloping architectural and landscape resources to preserve and strengthen the historic and scenic character and function of each setting.
3. Improve the vehicular and pedestrian networks in order to improve safety, efficiency, continuity, and relationships connecting the peninsula neighborhoods.
4. Coordinate with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) highway projects which are compatible with and responsive to these policy objectives and design districts implementing said policies.
5. Improve cohesion of each neighborhood subject to design district overlay by enhancing its function, character, and relationship to its natural setting and orientation.
6. Preserve and strengthen the ability of peninsula institutions to continue as centers

¹ Chapter added by Ordinance No. 1677 (July 6, 1993).

of employment.

7. Improve the built environment in order to strengthen the visual appearance and attractiveness of developed areas.
8. Strengthen the peninsula's economic vitality by improving its desirability through improved appearance, function, and efficiency.
9. Preserve and enhance the existing housing supply. Encourage the increase of affordable housing in Newport.
10. Adopt up to six urban design districts on the peninsula for the purpose of implementing said policies in a manner consistent with the purpose of implementing said policies in a manner consistent with the character and function of each area as further defined herein.

Implementation:

The urban design policies may be implemented by additional specific policies related to these objectives in the transportation system play, especially as these may relate to integration of pedestrian, vehicular and bicycle environments and networks, parking, and coordination with ODOT.

These policies may also be implemented by specific development/zoning code amendments requiring integration of key policy elements into development plans. Such policies may include a system of incentives to achieve density, height, pedestrian orientation, and scenic enhancement.

The key implementation for these urban design policies specifically authorized by this amendment shall be the creation of urban design districts. The purpose of each design district shall be to preserve and enhance the function and character of each district area. Design districts shall be considered as refinement plans and adopted as zoning and development code overlays. The character and function of the six urban design districts is as follows:

1.) City Center District (including U.S. Highway 101 Corridor).

A. City Center

The City Center area shall be characterized by Twentieth Century Commercial and Vernacular style structures. This area will be the most intensively developed commercial node on the peninsula. It will be enhanced as the City Center by development of a transportation network which links this area to all others on the peninsula. The building sites and public rights-of-way are to be

characterized by land efficient parking and views of the Pacific Ocean and Yaquina Bay.

B. City Center North

City Center North shall be characterized by concentrating government buildings into a government center both east and west of U.S. Highway 101. It will serve as a gateway to the peninsula while linking with the Center in both function and character.

C. City Center South

City Center South shall focus on the Pacific Communities Hospital development. Development in this area shall be pedestrian and bicycle oriented, with effective linkages to the City Center and the U.S. Highway 101 Corridor.

2.) Waterfront District.

Historically, this area was the original development site with the City of Newport. Marine dependent industries--timber transport, fishing, etc.--were the first source of livelihood for early settlers and inhabitants and shall continue to be referenced in the design of the area. The Waterfront District shall continue to reflect the working class character of the commercial fishing industry. Appropriately, existing commercial buildings line both sides of Bay Boulevard and are of wood frame construction, clad with stucco, masonry and tin, covered with flat and gable roofs, 1 - 3 stories in height, with zero building setbacks. Many buildings have awnings, and some are built on pilings above the water. Piers project beyond the buildings. The historic character of the area is strong due to numerous intact, original buildings which date from the 1870's through the 1940's, and preservation of these historic buildings should continue to the extent possible. (At the intersection of Hatfield Drive and Bay Boulevard, the addition of contemporary buildings and lack of intact historic buildings has changed the character of the area to the east.) The U.S. Coast Guard Station/Ocean House Hotel Site is note-worthy architecturally as a unique building of the Colonial Revival style within the City of Newport. The location of this building on a bluff above the Waterfront District is an important aspect of its significance and shall be preserved.

3.) Nye Beach District.

The Nye Beach District is significant for the collection of cohesive architectural resources and landscape elements which reflect a working-class neighborhood. The area consists of wood frame buildings, 1 to 2½ stories in height, covered with gable and hip roofs, and clad with clapboard, shingle and/or fire retardant siding. The landscape character of the area is defined by rock walls, terraces, sidewalks, and small front lawns. There are some small scale commercial

buildings within this residential neighborhood which relate directly in building materials, scale, and massing to the character of the area. (Some changes have occurred in the neighborhood, including building alterations such as retardant siding materials and infill of non-compatible buildings on once vacant properties.) The Nye Beach sub-area is most important as a cohesive neighborhood, defined by the character of these vernacular buildings and the building/site relationship. Every effort should be made to integrate the goals of the Nye Beach Study (*Seventh Amendment to the Newport Urban Renewal Plan*) with any new developments in this area for maximum benefit to the city and community.

4.) Upland Residential District.

Quiet area of well-maintained, modern single-family residential homes to be maintained overlooking Yaquina Bay. Sites are characterized by steep slopes and shall be sensitively developed. Existing vegetation, such as shore pines, fir, hemlock, and Monterey Cypress, is important to the character of this area, as well as the entire peninsula, and should be preserved.

5.) East Olive District.

This district consists of mixed use development and the middle school, high school, county fairgrounds, and city/ county maintenance shops. The East Olive District shall redevelop with emphasis on attractive development character and corridor improvements, including efficiently organized vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic, and site planning that emphasizes pedestrian orientation and children's safety.

6.) Oceanfront Lodging/Residential District.

Multi-story buildings of varying heights, including rectangular oceanfront motels of contemporary construction. Occasional views of ocean between buildings to be encouraged. Orientation of visitors to the ocean is to be enhanced by the emphasis of native/naturalized plantings on public and private property. Multi-family residential structures to be encouraged. Single-family homes south of motel area, on bluff overlooking the beach, to be respected by adjacent developments. Parking conflicts to be improved by site planning and new buildings to reflect pedestrian orientation. Beach accesses to be maintained or enhanced. Public open spaces to be encouraged.

Specific Peninsula Implementation Strategies:

Development on the peninsula and in each urban design district may use these additional implementation strategies:

1.) Encourage development of a pedestrian-friendly environment throughout the

peninsula through creation of public open spaces and pedestrian amenities within each of the peninsula's primary sub-areas. Such public places should be supportive of intensive commercial activity centers (such as the City Center), tourist areas (such as the Waterfront and Oceanfront Lodging areas), and orientation to major natural features (such as Yaquina Bay and the Pacific Ocean).

- 2.) Work with the Oregon Department of Transportation to develop the best coast parkway design, responsive to both the City of Newport's commercial development interests and user accessibility requirements. Include U.S. Highway 20, the East Olive entrance, as a major component of the work with ODOT. Coordinate compliance with Oregon's Transportation Rule for improved traffic flow and safety for cars, pedestrians, bicycles, and--where appropriate--transit throughout the peninsula. Further:
 - (a) Develop a strong, local circulation network by forming north-south streets (7th north from Bayley to 15th; and 9th north from Bayley to 12th) parallel to U.S. Highway 101 through the central peninsula area.
 - (b) Preserve the Yaquina Bay Bridge as a beautiful piece of architecture that greatly enhances the Newport Peninsula's entrance from the South.
- 3.) Encourage developer partnerships in implementation of these urban design principles through a system of incentives (e.g., density, height, pedestrian orientation).
- 4.) Use the redesign of U.S. Highway 101 to link the existing City Center with office employment centers and to link the Waterfront with Oceanfront Lodging/Residential and Nye Beach. Strive to fully integrate U.S. Highway 101 improvements into the City of Newport.
- 5.) Establish visual continuity by seeking opportunities for relocating or undergrounding utilities and implementing a signage program and signage ordinances.
- 6.) Preserve the significant scenic qualities from the Waterfront to the top of the Upland Residential bluff and from the Embarcadero through the Yaquina Bay State Park. Foster developer partnerships in implementation of these scenic preservation principles through a system of incentives (e.g., density, height, pedestrian orientation, parking reductions).
- 7.) Preserve the natural character of the Newport peninsula--its remaining stands of significant native vegetation--by utilizing creative site planning on both public and private development projects. Carefully monitor potential impacts of new development and redevelopment efforts. (Definition of "significant" here is relative, since a single tree--a Douglas Fir or a Monterey Cypress, for example--is significant when located anywhere along the Uplands Residential bluff skyline above the

Waterfront, helping form the peninsula's characteristic appearance from the South.)

- 8.) Support the scenic restoration process (a) by implementing improvements within the highway and local street rights-of-way and (b) through the development and redevelopment processes of both commercial and residential lands. Scenic enhancement measures will be compatible with development rights.
- 9.) Resolve the traffic congestion and spatial limitations relating to use of the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, the Newport High School, and the Newport Middle School.