

City of Troutdale – Ideas for Sustainable City Year Program Projects
August 2020 Draft

DESIGN & PLANNING PROJECTS

Town Center – Opportunity Site Development Concepts

The Troutdale Town Center Plan has identified 13 opportunity sites for future development or redevelopment based on public feedback and assignment of preferred land use classifications. The selection of these sites was deliberate, as future investment can have transformative effects not just for the site, but for the Town Center as a whole. We would seek to have development concepts established looking at one or more of these sites in consideration with the preferred land use type.

Town Center – Corridor Improvement Ideas

The Town Center Plan has also identified eight key corridors where public investment is expected to help improve transportation choice and safety. We would seek to have classes look at one or more corridor segment from a design perspective, perhaps in tandem with concepts created from a general accessibility plan that decreases auto dependency and works well with the corresponding opportunity sites along the corridor.

Glenn Otto Park Expansion Design Studio

Students would look at expanding an existing city park to a heavily wooded and relatively constrained property currently owned by the Department of State Lands but potentially transferrable to the City. In particular would be the placement of a trail and/or a disc golf course, working in direct conjunction.

Alternative Transportation Plan(s)

This idea could be further refined to fit a particular course, but the idea stemmed from Town Center planning efforts that sought to consider not only improving bike/pedestrian environment, but also to look at alternative transportation modes, including but not limited to:

- Localized transit (micro-shuttle, trolley)
- Golf cart zone (or connected golf cart corridor with cities of Fairview and Wood Village)
- Electric bikes and scooters
- Autonomous vehicles

Of the aforementioned items, the golf cart study has received the most local interest. There is little research that we could find at present, so that is the most appealing one at the moment. Other items may be studied by consultants and Metro.

The Confluence Parking Facility

Although cities our size always hear never-ending complaints about available parking, in Troutdale’s case, there are some unique factors at play that could hold merit. The development of our urban renewal area (The Confluence) would create tens of millions in investment and a preferred development pattern would seek to look at a centralized parking facility. If that is done, the preference would be that this facility serves not only the urban renewal site but also downtown. We would want both a design consideration and an analysis on municipal financing options. We were particularly inspired by the facility that was considered for the City of Springfield looking at cross-laminated timber as a potential angle to that effort.

<https://www.srgpartnership.com/work/glenwood-clt-parking-garage>

Bike/Ped (Golf Cart?) Bridge between the Confluence and Downtown

In conjunction potentially with a studio for a parking garage, we would seek ideas and budget estimates on spanning the space over railroad tracks to connect downtown Troutdale with the Confluence site.

Green Infrastructure Plan

In conjunction with the Town Center Plan and the Comprehensive Land Use Plan, we are seeking a general purpose study on how to best incorporate green infrastructure ideas into future development on both private property (through encouragement) or public infrastructure (through policy).

Cottage Cluster Housing Concepts

Working with Staff, present to Planning Commission a hypothetical design that incorporates cottage cluster housing on what had historically been a single-family zoning district. This will involve researching cottage cluster housing, being mindful of recent changes to state law to encourage the site, and evaluating a property or two in the city where these designs might go. In presenting to Planning Commission, perhaps provide guidance on code performance standards on siting, sizing, and density for such types of development.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Rail Tourism Feasibility

Tied with the idea of the parking garage, the City is intending to work with ODOT to consider congestion relief in the Columbia River Gorge, particularly at Multnomah Falls about 14 miles away. The City would like to begin study of a tourist train that could launch from Troutdale (adjacent to a hypothetical parking facility) and serve as a reliever to the strictly auto or bus oriented ways to get to the top sites in the Gorge. Of particular interest would be to solicit stakeholders, develop a business plan, and learn the details of engaging Union Pacific.

Creation of a Tourism Plan

The City of Troutdale recently retained itself as the destination marketing organization (DMO) for the purposes of tourism promotion and visitor center responsibilities. One effort that needs to occur is the creation of a tourism plan that can best propel Troutdale forward as it considers future outsourcing of some (or all) of those responsibilities. Troutdale recently updated its community branding material, so students/faculty could focus on actionable items and performance planning rather than civic engagement as much.

Food Cart Pod / Mobile Food Vendor Strategies

The City has conflicting standards for mobile food vendors and inadequate standards to properly consider placement of food cart pods. We would like to have a class focused on developing new policies and proposed code language that can simplify the standards and be put to use. Of particular research interest is how other communities handle these efforts, how to properly define the various types of mobile food offerings, and how food cart pods should be handled from a land use review perspective in addition to a utility connection and system development charge perspective.

Hotel Study

Of particular interest for future economic development planning is the consideration of looking at additional hotel or lodging opportunities. We would seek a market analysis that could help us understand if there is demand (COVID era will make that interesting), what type of capacity the market may have, if there is specific need for a conference center, and

what sort of recruitment opportunities or incentives the City might need to consider to help with prospective lodging facilities.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS

Community Outreach Strategies and Tactics

We would lean on past courses to help us establish the curriculum, but we are attempting to have better community engagement in the City among all stakeholders, but particularly among youth and people of color. This is especially important among folks who are renters.

Non-Profit Consultancy/Optimization

A new arts organization has recently formed in Troutdale, having previously been nested under a chamber of commerce. They have created a new non-profit organization (Cascadia Arts Alliance) and may desire consulting help to get going. The City is participating in this effort via a (ex-officio) seat on the board and the potential for seed funding to support their efforts. Additional counseling and planning could go a long way.

Event-Strengthening

Once a point of pride in the community, there are community concerns that several of Troutdale's events have been languishing in recent years. We would seek strategies and guidance to event planners (and to the City itself) to help with improving event planning and promotion techniques.

Promotional Video

As part of Troutdale's recent branding efforts, the idea of creating a community brand video that could be tied to a future website or used/spliced in social media accounts is appealing. This appears to have been done for La Pine recently. A script is already developed as part of the branding effort. One inspiration in particular was from Wenatchee, Washington, though we understand the limitations of budgets and time may not yield as big of a deliverable. <https://vimeo.com/84895460>

MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROJECT

Glenn Otto Park Management Plan

We would seek a framework plan to help us evaluate existing issues and be more mindful of future needs at Glenn Otto Park. The issues that would need to be covered include but are not limited to:

- Parking management and traffic control
- Allowance of dogs
- Strategic Communications to encourage positive behavior and following the rules – communicating in multiple languages
- Relationship with existing business on site (Sugarpine)
- Beach safety and management
- Waste disposal

OTHER IDEAS

- Climate Action Plan
- Vulnerability Assessments (hazard mitigation planning)
- Developing a housing grant program to support rehabilitation projects/energy efficiency
- Creating a Youth Engagement strategy or Youth Corps