Portland has a strong history of civic planning that is visible in the walkability and attractiveness of the city. The legacy of the original platting of small (200') blocks provided the foundation for a compact, walkable downtown that is scaled for the pedestrian. Over the years, civic leaders and the community have made conscious decisions to reclaim areas from the automobile. The City of Portland’s Comprehensive Plan guides the way the city plans and implements improvements. It addresses a broad range of goals for the City, including those relating to transportation. The goals include:

- reducing reliance on the automobile;
- developing a balanced, affordable and efficient transportation system;
- preserving the quality of the City’s capital investment in the transportation system; and
- enhancing and extending Portland’s attractive identity.

They include converting Harbor Drive into Waterfront Park, funding light rail instead of a freeway, and building the Transit Mall. The central city owes much of its vitality to the care and creativity that went into the Downtown Plan of 1972 and the Central City Plan of 1988.

In addition, the Pedestrian Master Plan and Pedestrian Design Guide further support Portland’s walkability by directing the location, design and priority of funds for pedestrian improvements. The result is a City that invites you to walk and enjoy the experience.


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