



**BIKE LOUD PDX**

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Dear Planning and Sustainability Commission,

We at BikeLoudPDX thank you for your hard work on the Residential Infill Project. As a grassroots bike advocacy group, you may be wondering why we're writing to you about housing. It's because housing and land use directly affect people's ability to use a bike to go about their daily life. As Michael Anderson wrote in a recent [blog post](#) on BikePortland.org,

"The closer people in a neighborhood live to each other, the more likely they are to get around by bike. How close you live to other people is a much better predictor of your biking habits than age, race or income. And it's more effective at increasing your biking habits than a lot of possible street improvements."

Housing and transportation are two of the biggest costs for most Portlanders. Being able to use a bike instead of a car for most trips would allow people to save money, while also helping our city meet our climate and transportation mode share goals. Our transportation hierarchy has people walking and biking above those using cars. Neighborhoods with diverse types of housing that are affordable by more people will give people the transportation options that our city needs.

While we support the RIP and are glad to see the policies outlined in it, we would like it to go even further. We agree with Portland for Everyone that the RIP needs to be stronger in four main areas.

- Let buildings with more homes be bigger than buildings with fewer homes
- Let buildings with cheaper homes be bigger than buildings with expensive homes
- Apply its benefits everywhere, not just west of I-205
- Stop prioritizing parking over housing

We would also like to see buildings with more homes or affordable homes given significantly more setback leeway, and ask that fourplexes be allowed to be built on any lot zoned for R5.

We encourage the Commission to improve upon the current RIP with the suggestions above, and look forward to the updated project.

Sincerely,  
Emily Guise  
Catie Gould  
Co-chairs, BikeLoudPDX