



City of Seattle
Edward B. Murray
Mayor

September 8, 2015

Honorable Tim Burgess
President
Seattle City Council
City Hall, 2nd Floor

Dear Council President Burgess:

I am pleased to transmit the attached proposed Council Bill to establish a new Office of Planning and Community Development (OPCD) to strengthen citywide planning and implementation, and to ensure that our City departments are aligned and coordinated in planning for Seattle's future development.

As you know, I issued an Executive Order in June that charged the Department of Planning and Development and other City departments with the responsibility of developing a proposal for OPCD with the following objectives:

1. Coordinate across departments to identify and align a shared vision for comprehensive planning and implementation at the neighborhood and city level;
2. Widely share comprehensive information with departments on where projects are being planned to facilitate the alignment of capital investments and implementation plans; and
3. Coordinate across departments, Council, and the Mayor's Office to prioritize budgets and resources to ensure their highest and best use.

As the City of Seattle anticipates an additional 120,000 new residents in the next 20 years, the ongoing coordination between our City departments will be critical to determining how and where we plan our parks, transportation, affordable housing, infrastructure, and amenities to provide a high quality of life for our residents. In keeping with the City of Seattle's commitment to the Race and Social Justice Initiative (RSJI), which calls for measurable outcomes, greater accountability, and community-wide efforts to achieve racial and social equity in our community, the office will also leverage its resources to create communities of opportunity for everyone, regardless of race or means. I believe OPCD will strengthen our City's efforts to identify creative solutions to leverage Seattle's substantial resources, and align and prioritize our public investments to address our future needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. Should you have questions, please contact Kate Joncas at 206-684-8854.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Murray
Mayor of Seattle

cc: Honorable Members of the Seattle City Council

Office of the Mayor
Seattle City Hall, 7th Floor
600 Fourth Avenue
PO Box 94749
Seattle, Washington 98124-4749

Tel (206) 684-4000
Fax: (206) 684-5360
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