



Dr. Tracy Klinger, Superintendent

Gresham-Barlow School District No.10Jt

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July 8, 2025

Justin Douglas
City of Gresham
1333 NW NE Eastman Parkway
Gresham, Oregon 97030

Dear Mr. Douglas,

I am submitting this feedback on behalf of the Board of Directors and myself regarding the newly proposed Gresham Downtown/Civic Urban Renewal Plan. Although the notice we received is primarily about tax structure, we appreciate the opportunity to provide the school district's perspective and thoughts on this significant initiative. We firmly believe that a strong future for Gresham depends on ensuring projects are mutually beneficial for both the city and its schools. A thriving city naturally empowers its schools, and in turn, strong schools are integral to the city's success.

Our goal is to build a strong partnership with the city as this Plan develops. Ongoing communication between our organizations is critical, as we all stand to benefit from planning and collaboration. This partnership also presents an invaluable opportunity for community engagement between the City of Gresham and the families we serve as a school district.

The Gresham-Barlow School District holds multiple properties within the proposed urban renewal boundary and is deeply invested in the outcomes of this Plan. The schools and campuses located within the urban renewal area include the District Office, Gresham High School, West Gresham campus, and the Center for Advanced Learning (CAL) property, in which we share ownership with other school districts. We need to understand how this urban renewal project will impact our schools, both within and outside the urban renewal area, and what we can anticipate as property owners.

Regarding city transportation planning, we are particularly interested in how this Plan addresses safe routes to our schools. Further sidewalk development is needed at several of our school campuses. If housing density increases, students and families in these areas will also need sidewalks to safely travel throughout the community.

As we move forward, our Board of Directors would appreciate annual reports on the progress and potential impacts of the Plan. Additionally, we ask that the city continue to have a school district employee on the advisory board or planning committee to ensure our voice is consistently represented.

In closing, our primary need is for a strong partnership, consistent communication, and meaningful collaboration throughout this process. We look forward to working together to ensure the Gresham Downtown/Civic Urban Renewal Plan benefits all Gresham residents, including our students and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Tracy Klinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" and last name "Klinger" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Tracy Klinger

Superintendent, Gresham-Barlow School District