DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

JAIDE GREENING PROJECT

March 3, 2017  Portland, Oregon

Jade Greening Project Mission

To identify and implement community centered strategies engaging residents, business and property owners, government agencies and nonprofit organizations to ensure a breathable, accessible, livable, and prosperous Jade District.

Project Summary

The Jade District in outer southeast Portland is anchored north and south by 82nd Avenue and is centered by the Division Street intersection. Identified as a distinct regional cultural area holding one of the most ethnically and racially diverse census tracts in the city, it is also home to Portland’s largest concentration of Asian Americans. A series of reports around environmental health disparities stemming from exposure to air toxins, lack of walk-ability and accessibility, and pedestrian safety, plus comments from Jade District residents and a community assessment, catalyzed this initiative as an Oregon Solutions Project and attracted a Project Team whose membership expanded from one meeting to the next.

Guided by strong principles of trust and collaboration, the Project Team gathered for five sessions from September 2016 to February 2017, raising key questions, sharing wisdom, project ideas, and solutions. They walked the Jade District, ventured into side streets and residential areas, and made critical observations. The deaths of two pedestrians on Division Street in December also brought a sense of urgency for immediate response. Project Team members began immediately working on street safety and traffic issues, while others on environmental and greening projects, well before their commitments were delineated for this document. Furthermore, actions and strategies were steeled by issues of equity and environmental justice, a steadfastness in engaging community voices, and ways to assure the greening and revitalization and not the gentrification of the Jade District.

While this Declaration of Cooperation may be seen as a starting point for a new initiative, it actually gives witness to important working relationships and activities now underway among residents, businesses, community organizations and multi-jurisdictional government agencies for integrated and resourceful approaches that will contribute to the successful greening of the Jade District.
Impetus for the Project

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) and OPAL (Organizing People/Activating Leaders) Environmental Justice Oregon are two community based organizations located in the Jade District, a Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative (NPI) in outer southeast Portland located at SE Division Street and 82nd Avenue. APANO and OPAL staff initially identified a need to assess and prioritize risk reduction strategies for On-Road Mobile (ORM) air toxic emissions and raise awareness around environmental health disparities stemming from exposure to air toxins in their communities.

The organizations recognized that at the center of this growing environmental justice area was Census tract 83.01, the only tract in the city with a majority of residents of color (53%), and the greatest concentration of Asian residents in the State. Census tract 83.01 is also the central tract of the ORM air toxics emissions hot spot identified by the 2012 DEQ’s PATS (Portland Air Toxic Solutions) Study and its 2017 Modeling Study for projecting pollutants. Multnomah County Health Department data also revealed that this neighborhood had elevated asthma rates and lower birth rates.

Complementing these reports and signaling a sense of urgency were the responses from an independent, community-led visioning throughout the summer of 2014 with nearly 200 Jade District participants in Cantonese, Vietnamese, Russian, Spanish and English. The workshops and a community wide charrette reinforced critical health, education, and transportation concerns, and offered short, mid, and long term recommendations for government and community collaborations. These sessions revealed widespread support in the community for increasing access to green spaces throughout the neighborhood.

It was evident that the lack of access to green spaces and tree canopy are inextricably linked to the high levels of ORM experienced in the Jade District. Environmental Justice Oregon called upon the community and stakeholders to recognize the longstanding impacts of race and class imposed on the residents of the Jade. Simply put, cited OPAL, it was not a coincidence that historically-marginalized people live in unsafe, unhealthy neighborhoods, concluding that this dynamic is a continuation of that history. Both APANO and OPAL advocated the right of self-determination for residents of the Jade District, and emphasized that the greening initiatives must engage and support the community’s leadership on addressing this issue.

By early 2016, APANO and OPAL approached Oregon Solutions staff, and subsequently interviewed stakeholders from a wide spectrum of interests to explore aspirations, concerns, and opportunities to address air quality issues through improving tree canopy and access to green space. Responses ranged from a need to raise awareness around environmental health disparities stemming from exposure to air toxins, to the lack of safety, walkability and accessibility in the community of the Jade District. Throughout the year, this project and its attendant issues gained significant attention from a diverse group of local governments, communities of color, non-profit organizations, and community groups.

By mid-August, a formal request signed by Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Chair, Tom Hughes, Metro Council President, Huy Ong, OPAL Executive Director, and Joseph Santos-Lyons, APANO Executive Director was sent to Oregon Governor Kate Brown to support “Jade Greening” as a designated Oregon Solutions Project.

As a designated project, the initiative would then would provide an opportunity for local and state jurisdictions, nonprofits, and other entities to develop a common understanding of the environmental challenges in the Jade District. It would also take into consideration the Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative (NPI), and develop a shared roadmap for future improvements in the area.
Most importantly, the project would continue to engage residents to be proactive with local stakeholders to identify, assess and prioritize risk reduction strategies for toxic emissions, and raise awareness around environmental health disparities stemming from exposure to poor quality air.

**Designation Letter**

In a letter dated September 21, 2016, Gov. Brown responded by officially designating the Jade Greening Project as an Oregon Solutions Project because it met Oregon’s Sustainable Community Objectives. Gov. Brown also appointed Oregon State Senator Michael Dembrow and Huy Ong, Executive Director of OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon, as co-conveners to lead the Project Team of public, private, nonprofit, and civic partners towards “innovative community solutions to addressing air quality issues in the Jade District of Portland, Oregon.”

A core Project Team was then identified from stakeholders and convened to contemplate community-centered strategies to ensure a breathable, accessible, livable, and prosperous Jade District, share foundational knowledge and research, decide on focus areas, invite additional partners, and delineate commitments in a Declaration of Cooperation.
The Jade Greening Project Team

Co-conveners:
State of Oregon Legislature - Sen. Michael Dembrow, District 23
OPAL (Organizing People and Activating Leaders) Huy Ong, Executive Director

Partners:
APANO - Duncan Hwang, Associate Director
APANO – Khanh Pham, Program and Strategy Manager
OPAL - Shawn Fleek, Community Engagement Coordinator
OHSU Environmental Systems and Human Health/OPAL - Sara Wild, graduate student
Friends of Trees - Scott Fogarty, Executive Director
Friends of Trees - Whitney Dorer, Deputy Director
Columbia Land Trust Backyard Habitat Certification - Susie Peterson, Program Manager
Depave - Eric Rosewall, Executive Director
Willamette Partnership - Bobby Cochran, Executive Director
Portland State University Institute for Sustainable Solutions - Dr. Linda George, Professor and Fellow, Environmental Science and Management
State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality - Cheryl Grabham, Regional Solutions Team Liaison
State of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) - Andrew Plambeck, Government Liaison
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability - John Wasiutynski, Director
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability - Tim Lynch, Climate and Energy Coordinator
Multnomah County Health Department- Matt Hoffman, Senior Program Specialists, Environmental Health Services
Multnomah County Health Department - Brendon Haggerty, Program Specialist, Environmental Health Services
City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability – Radcliffe Dacanay, City Planner, Management Analyst
City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) - Jennifer Karps, Environmental Tree program Services Coordinator
City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services - Lea Wilson, Environmental Tree Program Services
City of Portland Parks and Recreation, Urban Forestry Division - Nikhilesh Desai, Botanic Specialist 1
City of Portland Parks and Recreation, Urban Forestry Division - Leanne Wells, Botanic Specialist 2
City of Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) - April Bertelsen, Senior Transportation Planner

Presenters and Resource People:
APANO – Todd Struble, Jade District Manager
METRO – Anthony Buczek, Planning Engineer
City of Portland Parks and Recreation, Urban Forestry Division – Julie Fukuda, Inventory Coordinator
State of Oregon Office of the Governor – Bobby Lee, Portland Metro Regional Solutions Coordinator
Oregon Solutions, National Policy Consensus Center - Stephen Greenwood, Director

Oregon Solutions Staff:
Andrea Cano, Project Manager [October 2016 – March 2017]
Jessica Rodriguez, Project Manager [July 2016 – September 2016]
Tate Williams, PSU Graduate Candidate in Public Policy, Oregon Solutions Intern
**Convening Process**

Chaired by the co-conveners Dembrow and Ong, five meetings were held from September 2016 to January 2017 in the APANO offices to share foundational knowledge from various agencies and organizations about projects underway or being planned for the Jade District, and community capacity for additional alignment, all of which resonated with community needs that emerged from the Jade visioning process.

First meeting on September 29, 2016, offered a walking tour of the Jade District, featured presentations by APANO and OPAL about the community demographics, visioning, and needs; the City of Portland’s Bureau of Transportation (PBOT), City of Portland’s Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) Tree Program, City of Portland’s Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Division, Multnomah County Health Department, METRO Planning Department, and content contributions from Friends of Trees, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Second meeting on October 20, 2016, featured presentations by the City of Portland’s Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry Division, City of Portland’s Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability, Multnomah County Health Department, State of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and content contributions from APANO, OPAL, Friends of Trees, and the City of Portland’s Bureau of Environmental Services.

Third meeting on December 8, 2016 postponed because of weather to December 16, 2016, featured presentations by Columbia Land Trust’s Backyard Habitat Certification Program, Depave, and content contributions from APANO, OPAL, Friends of Trees, State of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), State of Oregon Department of Environment Quality (DEQ), Regional Solutions, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, Multnomah County Health Department, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability. Discussions held some poignancy, because of two pedestrian fatalities that week in the Jade District, and urgency for safer streets and pedestrian crossings.

By early January, the Jade Greening Project Team members were well informed about the various efforts from the federal, state, county, city agencies and nonprofit organizations that could coalesce and work collaboratively on particular focus areas and opportunities for measurable outcomes. In addition, the group became increasingly aware of related issues surrounding Jade District community’s well-being: affordable housing and house ownership and the threat of gentrification and displacement, food deserts and ways to meet nutritional needs, and zoning and community development that would ensure economic opportunity and jobs and skills training to individuals. The team also received additional information from the PSU Environmental Science and Management regarding air quality monitoring, and about PSU’s TREC office which houses the National Institute for Transportation and Communities Program and the Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation. The Willamette Partnership also offered information about a potential grant to enable community engagement. All of these discussions then led to the content that would collate commitments and agreements for the Declaration of Cooperation for the Jade Greening Project.

**Purpose of Declaration of Cooperation**

Project Team members identified potential actions for successful project outcomes, including specific task and commitments by each signatory. This collaborative work product is documented in this “Declaration of Cooperation” which is a non-binding implementation plan. The Declaration, or DoC, with the stakeholder commitments, is considered a “living” document that may evolve or be amended to represent changing situations often found in project development, until project completion, or suspended by mutual agreement. It signing signals the start of the implementation phase of the project.
JADE GREENING PROJECT FOCI AND COMMITMENTS

The Project Team recognizes that many agencies and organizations are working in the Jade District and affirms the partnerships, alignments, and planning to address the following focus areas for the next three to five years, to ensure a breathable, accessible, livable, and prosperous Jade District. These areas are delineated and hold concurrent importance. Agency and organizational commitments are outlined under each section and explained similarly in the letters attached to this document.

A. BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY WITH JADE DISTRICT RESIDENTS TO IMPROVE LIVABILITY, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Problem statement

The health of Jade District residents is impacted by air pollution. Pollution contributes to conditions such as cancer, heart disease, and respiratory illnesses including asthma. It can also exacerbate or further burden people with existing chronic diseases such as hypertension or diabetes. There is no safe level of exposure to fine particle pollution, which is linked to many health outcomes including stroke, lung cancer, Alzheimer’s, and developmental outcomes such as low birth weight. Fine particle pollution (PM2.5) is comprised of particles small enough to bypass natural defenses of the human body, penetrating into lungs and the blood stream. As shown in the chart below, air pollution contributes to the leading causes of death in Multnomah County.

Leading causes of death in Multnomah County, 2011-2015
Age-adjusted death rate per 100,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Death Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td>168.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease</td>
<td>141.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic lower respiratory</td>
<td>42.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unintentional injury</td>
<td>41.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stroke</td>
<td>40.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burden of pollution-related disease in the Jade District

Census-tract\(^1\) level estimates\(^2\) from 2011 data indicate that the Jade District has high rates of disease compared to other areas of the county and the state. Asthma prevalence among adults range from 14%

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\(^1\) Census tracts considered in the project area include tracts 16.02, 83.01, and 6.01
\(^2\) Regional Equity Atlas summary of claims data from the Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation (2012). Available at http://regionalequityatlas.org/home
to 18%, compared to about 14% for the county as a whole and less than 10% in some neighborhoods. Heart disease prevalence ranges from about 1.1% to over 2.4% in the Jade District. This compares to a county-wide average of 1.5%, and some census tracts have a prevalence of less than 0.75%. Between about 5 and 7% of babies born to Jade District families between 2011 and 2015 were low birth weight.³ This is similar to the county as a whole, but some neighborhoods saw as few as 2% of babies born with low birth weight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health indicator</th>
<th>Jade District tracts</th>
<th>County average</th>
<th>Lowest tracts in Multnomah Co.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asthma</td>
<td>14%-18%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heart disease</td>
<td>1.1%-2.4%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diabetes</td>
<td>9.8%-11.4%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low birth weight (per 1,000 births)</td>
<td>34.4-74.0</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exposure to pollutants and health risks in the Jade District

The table below summarizes health risks and exposure to pollutants in the Jade District. For each of the measures reported below, census tracts in the Jade District have somewhat higher risks and exposures compared to the county average. Jade District risks and exposures are much higher compared to the lowest tracts in Multnomah County. In Multnomah County and in the Jade District, mobile sources like cars and trucks make up about 40% of cancer risk from air pollution, while point sources like factories and power plants make up about 1% of the risk. Most of the remainder is attributable to residential wood smoke and secondary pollutants like formaldehyde.⁴ Concentrations represented here are modeled data from 2011-2012; actual concentrations may vary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk measure</th>
<th>Jade District tracts</th>
<th>County average</th>
<th>Lowest tracts in Multnomah Co.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer risk from air pollutants (cases per million)⁵</td>
<td>54.8-58.6</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory hazard index⁶</td>
<td>6.6-6.9</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated PM2.5 average annual concentration (µg/m³)⁷</td>
<td>10.5-10.6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated diesel particulate matter exposure concentration (µg/m³)⁸</td>
<td>0.95-1.1</td>
<td>0.82</td>
<td>0.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

³ Center for Health Statistics, Public Health Division, Oregon Health Authority. Oregon State Health Indicators, 2009-2013
⁵ US EPA (2015). National Air Toxics Assessment
⁷ US EPA (2016) EJSCREEN
Multnomah County Health Department Commitments

Multnomah County Health Department Environmental Health Services is devoted to ensuring neighborhoods support health and equity. We support the Jade Greening project and its aims of reducing exposure to harmful air pollutants, recognizing the disproportionate exposure among residents of the Jade district. To that end, we commit to provide staffing for the following services:

1. Provision of current data related to health and air quality in accessible formats
2. Guidance on navigating and interpreting health data
3. Consultation regarding air quality regulations and related policy initiatives
4. Technical assistance and/or partnership in applying for grants or other funding related to assessing or improving air quality from a community rooted approach
5. Technical assistance and/or partnership in identifying brownfields and understanding their health impacts

Multnomah County Office of Sustainability Commitments

1. Work with APANO, OPAL, and other community partners and community members to complete a visioning process for improving walkability and livability in the Jade at several priority locations. The Visioning process will be supported by technical assistance from a contractor funded by the EPA’s Greening America’s Cities program. Timeline: April – June 2017
2. Work with APANO, OPAL, and public and private partners to advocate for and support implementation of the design concepts completed in Commitment 1 Timeline: July 2017 – Ongoing
3. Work with APANO, OPAL, and public and private partners to identify additional funding and policy opportunities that will advance the goals of the Jade Greening Project. Timeline: Ongoing.
4. Maintain ongoing participation in the Jade Greening process, including participation in the Organization/Leadership sub-committee

B. SUPPORT THE JADE COMMUNITY IN GROWING A HEALTHY URBAN FOREST WHILE INCREASING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING ABOUT THE BENEFITS PROVIDED BY TREES AND GREEN SPACES

Problem Statement
The Jade District and adjacent residential areas have low tree canopy cover and few green spaces, depriving residents and community members of the many benefits that trees and green space offer. The solution would be that the greater Jade District hosts a robust, diverse, accessible urban forest that supports healthy, vibrant, and prosperous communities.

City of Portland Parks and Recreation, Urban Forestry Division Commitments

Urban Trees provide well documented public health, economic and ecological benefits. To support the Jade Community in growing a healthy urban forest while increasing opportunities for learning about the benefits provided by trees and green spaces, Portland Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry commits to partnering with APANO and OPAL to:
1. Plan with and provide culturally attuned education (i.e. workshops or presentations) around tree planting, tree care, and the public health/community benefits of urban trees over next year (including translated print media)
2. Plan with and provide a module on Urban Forestry through APANO’s upcoming Community Leadership Program.
3. Promote and establish Neighborhood/Community Tree Teams and Neighborhood Tree Stewards within the Jade District community over next year.
4. Work towards the equitable distribution of urban forest structure, value, environmental and aesthetic benefits within the Jade District.
5. Increase street tree species diversity and promote planting of trees providing maximum benefits (i.e. large form trees, where appropriate), using data from Portland’s completed Street Tree Inventory, beginning immediately.

City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) Commitments

1. Increase and enhance the urban forest canopy in the Jade Greening project area through outreach, education and tree-planting in the district’s greater commercial, industrial, and residential areas. Timeline: Over the next five years
2. Educate residents and community members about how trees help manage storm water where it falls, contributing to clean rivers, healthy watersheds, and livable, sustainable communities.
3. Encourage and support tree planting through Environmental Services Tree Program ESTP) contracts with Friends of Trees (FoT) and landscape contractors, and through the Environmental Services’ Treebate utility bill credit for new residential yard trees. Through the ESTP-FoT contract, FoT may contract with Jade District community benefit organizations (CBO’s) to help provide outreach, education, and planting services for compensation. These efforts along with a goal of planting 100 trees in the project area represent an investment of about $100,000.
4. Work collaboratively with partners such as Friends of Trees, Portland Parks Urban Forestry, APANO OPAL, and other local Jade CBOs and district residents to take awareness about the importance of a healthy urban forest to a healthy community; and to produce multi-lingual outreach materials such as tree tags to help the community connect with its trees.
5. Offer street trees to commercial and industrial property owners during two planting seasons planted by ESTP landscape contractors.

Backyard Habitat Certification Program Commitments

1. Increase our focus on working with low income communities, communities of color, and other underserved populations.
2. Educate and encourage efforts for Backyard Habitat Certification, including removal of noxious weeds, planting of trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses indigenous to the Willamette Valley; reducing use of pesticides, storm water management on site, and habitat stewardship
3. Support interested community members by offering program resources such as one-on-one site visits, coupons for discounts to local plant nurseries, site reports specific to the participant’s yard.
4. Provide resources from other local environmental organizations such as EMSWCD’s free naturescaping and rain garden workshop, or Metro publications about pesticides.
5. Invite program participants to the spring and fall plant sales, where they can receive steeply discounted plants.
6. Explore new methods of connecting with people living or working in the Jade District. Methods may include distributing multi-lingual outreach materials and partnering with other non-profits to provide door-to-door canvassing.
7. Partner with APANO, OPAL and other local organizations within Jade to offer Backyard Habitat workshops, such as the mason bee workshops hosted at APANO headquarters.
8. Share news and information via quarterly e-newsletters and social media outlets like Facebook and the new BHCP website.
9. Incentivize Jade District participants by offering benefits to successful program participants. Benefits include free membership to Columbia Land Trust and the Audubon Society of Portland, a gift card to the Backyard Birdshop, and coupons to local establishments with shared goals.
10. Continue to maintain funding for the program within the Jade District.
11. Assist with Jade District community projects created through the Jade Greening Project.

**Friends of Trees Commitments**

1. Promote annual neighborhood planting for Lents and Powellhurst-Gilbert which encompasses Jade District, slated each year in January and February.
2. Offer outreach/ canvassing/ event tabling during the summer months between July and September.
3. Translate FoT materials for more successful outreach in the Jade District.
4. Offer the annual Leadership Training from summer through fall as a way for Jade District community members to get involved in their neighborhood and plant trees.
5. Engaged residents in the Community Tree Care, pruning young trees for a healthy urban forest next fall 2017 through winter.
6. Offer additional tree planting opportunities along neighborhood greenways and safe routes to school.
7. Work with partners such as Portland Parks Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks Urban Forestry, APANO, OPAL and district residents to raise awareness about the importance of a healthy urban forest to a healthy community.

**C. NEW PARKS AND GREEN SPACES, SITE AGGREGATION OPPORTUNITIES, BROWNFIELDS**

**Problem statement**
The Jade community has expressed a strong interest in increasing parks and greenspaces to improve livability. Some opportunities may emerge to redevelop vacant, underused and potentially contaminated properties.
State of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Commitments

1. Provide technical assistance for cleaning up brownfields, and help partners connect with opportunities through City of Portland and Business Oregon to complete environmental assessments.
2. Help evaluate whether a Prospective Purchaser Agreement is appropriate if entities plan to acquire contaminated property. This will protect the buyer from liability for environmental cleanup.
3. Educate partners about which state-issued air, water, and materials management permits might be required for projects, identify information needed for permit applications to ensure a smooth process.
4. Connect partners to DEQ programs that administer low interest loans for planning, design and construction of wastewater and storm water projects through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, with interest rates, repayment timelines, and loan requirements varied depending on loan type.

Depave Commitments

1. Participate on one project committee to maintain close communication and coordinate efforts with the Project Team.
2. Implement at least one community greenspace project per year to replace pavement or lawn with elements as rain gardens, tree wells, food gardens, nature play space, native plants, and complementary greenspace amenities.
3. Work with Jade District stakeholders to develop a series (three to six) of greenspace improvement projects implemented through large community celebration events over the course of one Spring-Fall seasons.
4. Engage Depave’s network of volunteers to assist in the full spectrum of Jade District greening activities by project partners.
5. Promote Depave’s urban greening opportunities and support educational elements of our greenspaces with language specific materials.

D. IMPROVE TRAFFIC/PEDESTRIAN/BIKE SAFETY

Problem Statement
The Jade community is situated in a high density traffic area whose avenues and streets are managed by several jurisdictions. Residents and businesses in the Jade District are calling for safer streets, safer pedestrian walkways and crossings, and safer environments for bicycle riders.

City of Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) Commitments

1. Oversight of the Jade and Montavilla Connected Centers Project to be led by PBOT. The project was awarded a 2019-2021 Regional Flexible Funds Allocation (RFFA) by Metro Council in February 2017. It will build multiple key pedestrian and bicycle connections within the Jade District identified through previous planning efforts. Additional information:
www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/regional-flexible-funding-transportation-projects
timeline: 2019-2021
2. Oversight of the 70's Neighborhood Greenway Project to be led by PBOT. In early 2016, the project was awarded ODOT Region 1 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Enhance Program funds for 2019-2021. It will connect to and through the Jade District along 79th Avenue. Additional information: www.odotr1stip.org/explore-by-program/enhance/ Timeline: 2019-2021
3. Participate in the Division Transit Project, designed to improve travel between Downtown Portland, Southeast and East Portland and Gresham with easier, faster and more reliable bus service. Led by Metro and now TriMet in partnership with the cities and county. Additional information: www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/powell-division-transit-and-development-project and now launching the new TriMet website: http://trimet.org/division/ Timeline: Ongoing through 2021
4. Monitor implementation of PBOT's Vision Zero Outer SE Division Near-Term Safety Strategy (a high crash corridor), and funds for bilingual, multicultural outreach, education, and signs on Outer Division.
5. Monitor implementation of PBOT's Current Multi-modal Safety Projects on Outer SE Division that are funded projects for bicycle and pedestrian safety. Timeline: Summer 2017-2018
6. Participation in the 82nd Avenue of the Roses Implementation Plan led by ODOT and the 82nd Avenue Removing Barriers Study led by the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability.
7. Oversight of the development of the Connected Centers Plan, led by PBOT. The Connected Centers is a street connectivity plan for the Jade District and Rosewood Neighborhood Centers. The plan will develop a strategy for creating new street and pedestrian connections in neighborhood centers in eastern neighborhoods, which are expected to experience population growth in the near future and which have poorly connected street networks. PBOT planning staff will coordinate with the Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability’s Better Housing by Design team, which is focused on improving the design of new housing developments in the multi-swelling zones throughout the City of Portland. Visit the Connected Centers Plan webpage for more information: www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/71334 Timeline: 2017-2018

State of Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Commitments
1. Monitoring the performance of safety improvements of 82nd Avenue.
2. Moving forward the creation of the 82nd Avenue of Roses Implementation Plan.
3. Overseeing funding of the Portland Bureau of Transportation’s 70 Neighborhood Greenway project, programmed for the 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
4. Providing ongoing oversight of and participation in the development of the Division Transit Project, led by Metro and TriMet to serve more efficient bus service between East Portland and the central city.
5. Oversight of funding for 70’s Neighborhood Greenway in 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
E. PARTICIPATE IN EFFORTS TO REDUCE DIESEL AND OTHER TRAFFIC POLLUTIONS

Problem Statement

The Jade District is estimated to have one of the highest levels of air toxics from motor vehicles in the Portland Metro area, and the neighborhood has higher rates of asthma and low birth weights than the rest of Multnomah County (as cited in Focus Area ‘A’) Partners will collaborate to reduce toxics from motor vehicles and associated health impacts through the following activities. The workgroup had many discussions about these issues and began brainstorming about potential actions. Some initial ideas included:

1. Raise awareness about health risks of exposure to diesel pollution
2. Educate owners of older diesel trucks about agency efforts to upgrade or replace dirty diesel engines
3. Legislate the phase out of dirty diesel pollution
4. Encourage the use of particulate-free buses on 82nd Avenue.
5. Study potential regulatory and Voluntary actions to reduce pollution from vehicle idling, and inform people at business and residences about the issue

F. COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING AND EMPOWERMENT

Problem Statement

The root cause of the disparities we seek to address is tied to institutional and systemic inequities and a history of underinvestment in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Barriers in language, culture, and socioeconomic status have made it difficult for neighborhood residents to be able to fully participate in the decision-making process. In a much appreciated positive step, partner agencies and organizations have begun to address these barriers, but strategic communication, project management, and cooperation is required to present these interventions in a concerted fashion that does not overburden or confuse the community.

APANO Commitments

1. Support Multnomah County in the Greening America’s Communities Design Process and assist other agencies in their visioning, design, & planning processes to advance Jade Greening objectives.
2. Work with Depave, BPS, & DEQ on relationship building with local property owners to undertake projects that address brownfields and create more green space.
3. Form a neighborhood green team to provide community education and encourage tree plantings and native habitat planting.
4. Support outreach and education initiatives from BES, Parks & Rec, Backyard Habitat, and Friends of Trees.
5. Undertake regular canvassing and other culturally responsive education/outreach to build awareness of greening opportunities in the neighborhood and build awareness of air quality issues.
6. Convene a neighborhood street team to provide input and leadership on transportation safety issues and designing safer, greener streets with PBOT and ODOT.
OPAL Commitments

1. OPAL will cooperate with project partners to draw out the intersection of each of the project focus areas with our existing areas of work. We will identify how our existing programming may be supportive of the Jade Greening project, and areas where we may need to add capacity to achieve the desired ends.

2. OPAL will contribute organizing efforts of directly impacted communities of color and people with low income in the Jade District neighborhood. We will conduct direct outreach to these communities and through public education and leadership development they will identify actions to meet the desired ends.

3. OPAL will engage the communities we organize in opportunities to have meaningful involvement in decision-making regarding the laws, rules, policies, and procedures which will meet the desired ends.

4. OPAL will coordinate our membership base, volunteers, and community supporters in taking action on the items identified in the Declaration of Cooperation.

5. OPAL will share information and training with our partners when and where useful, and will work to ensure our partners are successful in meeting the commitments they have outlined in the DOC.
February 25, 2017

Re: Jade District Greening Project

Dear Five Star Committee,

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) is proud to support the Jade Greening Initiative. The Jade District is a City of Portland sponsored program of APANO. Our neighborhood is 45% people of color, 55% low income, and 15% live in linguistic isolation. We focus our place-based efforts here as the Jade District has the largest concentration of Asian Americans in the state of Oregon and despite our numerous community assets, face significant disparities in health and economic attainment.

Jade Greening was an initiative created by our community to improve our built environment and to improve the quality of life for local residents. Deep multilingual visioning in the Jade District has led us to focus our efforts on green infrastructure to meet the multiple benefits for conservation (water quality and greenspace), human health (air quality, social cohesion, physical activity, and mental health), and economic development (jobs, housing stability, and transit access).

We are proud to co-convene the Jade District Greening project, which Oregon’s Governor Brown recently designated as an Oregon Solution project. Through this project we will build the needed community capacity to meaningfully participate in public planning processes that will shape the future of our neighborhood. We will develop new leaders to serve on street teams, as tree captains, and public advocates. New voices from those impacted must be brought to the decision-making table and guide the various agencies convened by this project.

Problem Statement
The root cause of these disparities we seek to address is tied to institutional and systemic inequities and a history of underinvestment in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Barriers in language, culture, and socioeconomic status have made it difficult for neighborhood residents to be able to fully participate in the decision-making process. In a much appreciated positive step, partner agencies and organizations have begun to address these barriers, but strategic communication, project management, and cooperation is required to present these interventions in a concerted fashion that does not overburden or confuse the community.
APANO Commitments

1. Support Multnomah County in the Greening America's Communities Design Process and assist other agencies in their visioning, design, & planning processes to advance Jade Greening objectives.
2. Work with Depave, BPS, & DEQ on relationship building with local property owners to undertake projects that address brownfields and create more green space.
3. Form a neighborhood green team to provide community education and encourage tree plantings and native habitat planting.
4. Support outreach and education initiatives from BES, Parks & Rec, Backyard Habitat, and Friends of Trees.
5. Undertake regular canvassing and other culturally responsive education/outreach to build awareness of greening opportunities in the neighborhood and build awareness of air quality issues.
6. Convene a neighborhood street team to provide input and leadership on transportation safety issues and designing safer, greener streets with PBOT and ODOT.
7. Convene a Climate Health & Housing neighborhood level leadership institute to create an annual cohort of neighborhood leaders that is able to support continued advocacy and ensure these initiatives are community led.
8. In-kind staff time and funding from APANO to support organizing leadership and education opportunities. Potential allocation of Jade TIF resources to support permanent enhancements.
9. Helping to convene and project manage various initiatives year round to ensure community is meaningfully engaged and not overburdened.

We look forward to a successful collaboration with our partners on this project. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us at 971 269 4436.

Best Regards,

Duncan Hwang, Associate Director
January 23, 2017

To Whom It May Concern;

I write today to express the full support of OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon in our commitment to the Jade Greening project, which governor Brown identified as an Oregon Solution in late 2016. In our work with the wide array of partners, OPAL brings an explicit focus on grassroots organizing and leadership development for Environmental Justice. We are committed to ensuring that the tree canopy in the Jade District is improved, air toxics are reduced, residents of the district are stably housed and remain protected from displacement, and are more engaged in directly controlling the policies which impact their lived environment.

OPAL makes the following explicit commitments:

1) OPAL will cooperate with project partners to draw out the intersection of each of the project focus areas with our existing areas of work. We will identify how our existing programming may be supportive of the Jade Greening project, and areas where we may need to add capacity to achieve the desired ends.

2) OPAL will contribute organizing efforts of directly impacted communities of color and people with low income in the Jade District neighborhood. We will conduct direct outreach to these communities and through public education and leadership development they will identify actions to meet the desired ends.

3) OPAL will engage the communities we organize in opportunities to have meaningful involvement in decision-making regarding the laws, rules, policies, and procedures which will meet the desired ends.

4) OPAL will coordinate our membership base, volunteers, and community supporters in taking action on the items identified in the Declaration of Cooperation.

5) OPAL will share information and training with our partners when and where useful, and will work to ensure our partners are successful in meeting the commitments they have outlined in the DOC.

We are excited about the opportunity for stakeholders to achieve a greater impact than any of us might hope to working independently. As we organize people, activate leaders, and gather resources to ensure the success of Jade Greening, we are excited at the prospect of giving the residents of the Jade District their rightful control over the places they live, work, learn, pray, and play.

In Unity,

Huy Ong
Executive Director, OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon
To Whom It May Concern,

Friends of Trees is excited to participate and support the collaborative efforts of the Jade Greening Project as an Oregon Solution for the next five years. We have worked for over twenty years in this neighborhood to increase tree canopy and community participation and feel that with the purposeful intention of all parties at the table, we will achieve a greater outcome together. We will specifically work in collaboration with Bureau of Environmental Services and Portland Parks and Recreation Urban Forestry throughout this effort to ensure that our programs are aligned towards the common goal.

Friends of Trees recognizes that not everyone has equal access to the benefits of trees. As a community driven organization we foster an atmosphere of inclusion and support so we continue to build places that are safe and healthy for all. We accomplish this through authentic community conversation, unique partnerships, relevant programming, and attracting and retaining diverse staff and supporters.

We are committed to partnering with Community Benefit Organizations that work in and around the Jade District to enhance our programming and delivery of green infrastructure to those who have historically not benefited from these resources.

We will have an annual tree planting for residents interested in planting both public and private property trees that encompasses the Jade District and we will find creative ways to include as many members of this community as possible. We will work to translate our outreach and educational materials in order to better communicate with all members of the Jade District. We would like to partner with local youth initiatives and job training programs to offer internships and paid opportunities for increasing the urban forest and maintaining a healthy canopy cover.

We will prioritize this area as well for our Community Tree Care Program that provides young tree care and pruning. Healthy young trees will ensure a healthier urban forest for tomorrow, which in turn will increase environmental benefits for the Jade District.

Friends of Trees is excited to also support additional work in the Jade District. We are committed to environmental change and will listen to community members to better understand what they desire and what barriers they have in accessing our programming.

Sincerely,

Scott Fogarty
Executive Director
Friends of Trees
ScottF@friendsoftrees.org
Oregon Solutions – Jade Greening Project
Depave Letter of Commitment

Depave promotes the transformation of over-paved places to overcome the social and environmental impacts of pavement. We engage communities and reconnect urban landscapes to nature through action-oriented projects, education, advocacy and stewardship.

Depave provides full-spectrum technical assistance to community partners and willing landowners — including public and private school groups, communities of faith, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses — to implement placemaking projects that convert lifeless paved places into vibrant neighborhood spaces. Our greenspace projects begin with a large community celebration to bring people together in a fun day of pavement removal to begin the transformation. Once landscaping is completed, projects are completed with a planting event where volunteers help to complete new garden spaces.

We engage and connect diverse groups through the experience of transforming lifeless places into vibrant, livable neighborhood spaces. Our community projects not only integrate the built and natural environments, but also weave a social fabric that inspires civic engagement. Depave empowers community members to change their surroundings from pavement to thriving landscapes that bring people together, foster stewardship, increase safety, augment play and learning spaces, provide places to grow food, capture stormwater and add to the urban tree canopy.

We implement projects and advocate for urban greenspaces that reduce stormwater pollution and improve water quality; foster native habitats; cool our cities and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and create neighborhood spaces that are safe, engaging and beautiful. The changes we catalyze create thriving living spaces that inspire environmental and human connection. We achieve a positive, lasting impact through hands-on teamwork and collaboration. We love using our bodies to accomplish these transformations together - it is energizing, celebratory, and gratifying.

Since 2008, Depave has helped create over 50 greenspaces around Portland, many of which are in the neighborhoods surrounding the Jade District — along 82nd and 92nd Avenues. We are thrilled to join the Jade Greening Project team to engage the residents of the District in greenspace improvements.

As a partner in the Jade Greening Project, Depave commits to support greening efforts the following ways:

1. Participate on one project committee to maintain close communication and coordinate efforts with the project team
2. Implement at least one community greenspace project per year to replace pavement or lawn with elements such as rain gardens, tree wells, food gardens, natural play space, native plants, and complementary neighborhood amenities
3. Work with Jade District stakeholders to develop a series (three to six) of greenspace improvement projects implemented through large community celebration events over the course of one Spring-Fall season
4. Engage Depave’s network of volunteers to assist in the full spectrum of Jade District greening activities by project partners

5. Promote Depave’s urban greening opportunities and support educational elements of our greenspaces with language specific materials

6. Support greenspace stewardship education and opportunities for Jade District residents

On behalf of the Depave board of directors, we are honored to be included in greening the Jade District and look forward to collaborating with project partners to build a stronger, greener Jade District through transformative placemaking and neighborhood stewardship.

Eric Rosewall — Executive Director

March 3rd, 2017
The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a collaboration between two local non-profits, Columbia Land Trust and the Audubon Society of Portland. The mission of Columbia Land Trust is to conserve and care for vital lands, waters, and wildlife of the Columbia River region through sound science and strong relationships. Since 1990, the Land Trust has conserved over 32,000 acres of natural areas, farmlands, forests and critical habitat. Since 1902, the Audubon Society of Portland has promoted the understanding, enjoyment and protection of native birds, other wildlife and their habitats through its conservation and environmental education programs, its 150-acre Nature Sanctuary, and its Wildlife Care Center.

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program provides technical assistance, incentives, resources, and recognition to urban participants as they work on turning their front and back yards into a space that provides environmental and health benefits to the people, animals, plants, soil and water in their communities. The five main components of the program are: 1) removal of noxious weeds, 2) planting trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses that are indigenous to the Willamette Valley, 3) pesticide reduction, 4) stormwater management, and 5) wildlife stewardship. One important result of integrating these measures into landscapes around the region include improved soil, water and air qualities. Improved biodiversity and protection of the environmental health of the region are a natural result of the actions taken by program participants.

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program has over 3,650 participants within the cities of Portland, Gresham, Fairview, and Lake Oswego. We have been serving the Jade District, and the surrounding neighborhoods, since 2009. In 2015 we partnered with APANO to explore priorities of the Asian Pacific American community and, in response, supported them in installing two habitat demonstration gardens (Harrison School and Jade/APANO Multicultural Space) in the Jade District. In the upcoming year, we will be increasing our focus on working with low income communities, communities of color, and other underserved populations.

It would be an honor to partner with APANO and OPAL on the Jade Greening Project. As a partner in the project, the Backyard Habitat Certification Program commits to serving Jade community members by:
1. Increase our focus on working with low income communities, communities of color, and other underserved populations.

2. Educate and encourage efforts for Backyard Habitat Certification including removal of noxious weeds, planting of trees, shrubs, groundcovers and grasses that are indigenous to the Willamette Valley, reducing use of pesticides, managing stormwater onsite, and habitat stewardship.

3. Supporting interested community members by offering program resources such as one-on-one site visits, coupons for discounts to local plant nurseries, site reports specific to the participant’s yard.

4. Providing resources from other local environmental organizations such as EMSWCD’s free naturescaping and rain garden workshop, or Metro publications about pesticides.

5. Inviting program participants to the spring and fall plant sales, where they can receive steeply discounted plants.

6. Exploring new methods of connecting with those living or working in the Jade district. Methods may include distributing multi-lingual outreach materials and partnering with other non-profits to provide door-to-door canvassing.

7. Partnering with APANO, OPAL and other local organizations within Jade to offer Backyard Habitat workshops, such as the mason bee workshops hosted at APANO headquarters.

8. Sharing news and information via quarterly e-newsletters and social media outlets like Facebook and the new BHCP website.

9. Incentivizing Jade district participants by offering benefits to successful program participants. Benefits include free membership to Columbia Land Trust and the Audubon Society of Portland, a gift card to the Backyard Birdshop, and coupons to local establishments with shared goals.

10. Continuing to maintain funding for the program within the Jade district.

11. Assisting with Jade district community projects created through the Jade Greening Project.

We look forward to deepening our relationships with those living and working in the Jade district and are proud to support the efforts underway to provide Jade members with a healthier and greener environment.

Glenn Lamb, Executive Director
Columbia Land Trust

Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director
Audubon Society of Portland
Feb 24th, 2017

Dear Co-Chairs Ong and Dembrow,

On behalf of the Multnomah County Office of Sustainability, I thank you for your work to bring together public, private and community partners to address pressing health and quality of life issues in the Jade District. The Oregon Solutions supported Jade Greening project has created a space where partnerships are beginning to flourish, and a framework for lasting positive community impact through a shared sense of purpose.

The Office of Sustainability works with County leadership, departments, and community partners to support a vision of sustainability that is rooted in the County’s mission of serving the most vulnerable members of our community. The Jade Greening project is a perfect example of this, with the needs of an often vulnerable community front and foremost in the project. The Office of Sustainability is happy to continue to be a part of this work for years to come, and commits to the following actions:

Commitment 1:
We will work with APANO, OPAL and other community partners and community members to complete a visioning process for improving the walkability and livability in the Jade at several priority locations. The visioning process will be supported by technical assistance from a contractor funded by the EPA's Greening America's Cities program. (Timeline: April - June 2017)

Commitment 2:
We will work with APANO, OPAL and public and private partners to advocate for and support the implementation of the design concepts completed in commitment 1. (Timeline July 2017 - Ongoing)

Commitment 3:
We will work with APANO, OPAL and public and private partners to identify additional funding and policy opportunities that will advance the goals of the Jade Greening project. (Timeline - Ongoing)

In addition, the Office of Sustainability will commit to ongoing participation in the Jade Greening process, including participating in the organization/leadership sub-committee.

Once again, please accept my appreciation for your leadership during this process, and your commitment to improving the lives of the people of Multnomah County.

Sincerely,

John Wasiutynski, Director
Multnomah County Office of Sustainability
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality enthusiastically supports the Jade Greening Project. DEQ's mission is to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water and we work collaboratively with Oregonians for a healthy, sustainable environment. The Jade District project represents an innovative, community-centered approach with outcomes that will align closely with DEQ's mission.

We are proud to be a partner in the Jade District Greening Project, which will help alleviate impacts from air pollutants from nearby transportation corridors and other sources. The project has already resulted in new and strengthened relationships among participating partners, and we look forward to continued success together.

DEQ is committed to remain engaged to help advance activities identified as priorities by the community through the Jade Greening Project. We will continue to participate at the Jade Greening Project table, and will partner and communicate with all collaborating agencies including OPAL and APANO.

For each activity, Oregon DEQ will determine what kind of technical support the agency can provide. DEQ has technical experts in our air, water and materials management programs who can share information and input as appropriate during the project. If needed, this will include coordinating any state environmental permitting.

We look forward to a successful collaboration with our partners on this project. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Cheryl Grabham by phone: 503-504-7906 or email: grabham.cheryl@deq.state.or.us.

Warmly,

Nina DeConcini
Administrator, DEQ Northwest Region Office

February 6, 2017
January 30, 2017

Jade Greening Project
Oregon Solutions

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) works to provide a safe, efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities for Oregonians. Created by the Oregon Legislature in 1913 to “get Oregon out of the mud,” ODOT develops programs related to Oregon’s system of highways, roads, and bridges; railways; public transportation services; transportation safety programs; driver and vehicle licensing; and motor carrier regulation.

ODOT continues to seek ways to make the Jade District safer and more livable. In 2016, the agency completed installation of a number of safety improvements on 82nd Avenue, including signal upgrades, Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant curb ramps, enhanced crossings, and improved signage.

As a partner in the Jade Greening Project, ODOT commits to serving the Jade community by:

1. Monitoring the performance of safety improvements on 82nd Avenue.
2. Moving forward the creation of the 82nd Avenue of Roses Implementation Plan.
3. Overseeing funding of the Portland Bureau of Transportation’s 70s Neighborhood Greenway project, programmed for the 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).
4. Providing ongoing oversight of and participation in the development of the Division Transit Project, led by Metro and TriMet to serve more efficient bus service between East Portland and the central city.

We look forward to continuing ODOT’s commitment to a safe, efficient 82nd Avenue and strong relationships with Jade District neighbors.

Sincerely,

Andrew Plambeck
Region 1 Government Liaison
Urban Forestry Letter of Commitment to Jade Greening Project

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry's mission is to manage and ensure Portland's urban forest infrastructure for current and future generations. Our urban forest consists of 220,000 street trees, 1.2 million park trees, and innumerable private property trees. Urban Forestry is involved in managing or regulating all of these trees to differing degrees - creating and implementing the city’s Urban Forest Management Plan, fostering community tree awareness and stewardship, developing tree policies and programs, monitoring and assessing the urban forest, issuing permits for planting, pruning, and removal of all public and some private trees, and responding to tree emergencies.

Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry is honored to partner with APANO, OPAL and governmental and non-governmental organizations convened through Oregon Solutions, towards ensuring a breathable, accessible, livable and prosperous Jade District.

Urban trees provide well documented public health, economic and ecological benefits. To support the Jade Community in growing a healthy urban forest while increasing opportunities for learning about the benefits provided by trees and green spaces, Portland Parks & Recreation Urban Forestry commits to partnering with APANO and OPAL to:

- Plan with and provide culturally attuned education (i.e., workshops or presentations) around tree planting, tree care, and the public health/community benefits of urban trees over next year (including translated print media).
- Plan with and provide a module on Urban Forestry through APANO’s upcoming Community Leadership Program.
- Promote and establish Neighborhood/Community Tree Teams and Neighborhood Tree Stewards within Jade District community over next year.
- Work towards the equitable distribution of urban forest structure, value, environmental and aesthetic benefits within the Jade District.
- Increase street tree species diversity and promote planting of trees providing maximum benefits (i.e., large form trees, where appropriate) using data from Portland’s completed Street Tree Inventory, beginning immediately.

Jenn Cairo, City Forester