March 29, 2023 Senate Finance and Resources Committee Salem, Oregon

Finance and Affordable Housing

Gerard C.S. Mildner, PhD
Professor Emeritus, Real Estate and Finance
Portland State University
mildnerg@pdx.edu

Why are Cities Growing...?

- Workers Gain from Living in Bigger Cities
 - Access to Jobs
 - Access to Amenities
- Oregon grows by 40,000-50,000 people per year
 - 30-40% of migrants from California
 - Many bring a lot of home equity
- Gov. Kotek's goal of 36,000 housing units well chosen
 - Higher production than any year since 1990.

Density and Apartment Rents

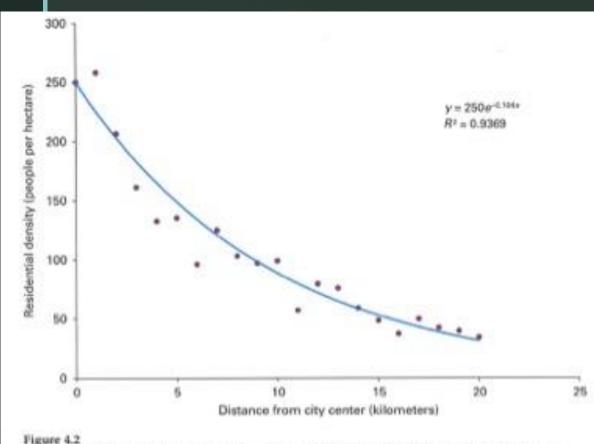
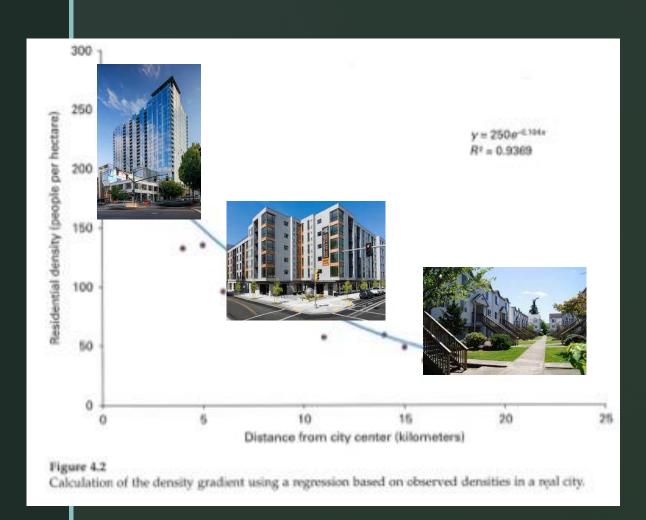


Figure 4.2

Calculation of the density gradient using a regression based on observed densities in a real city.

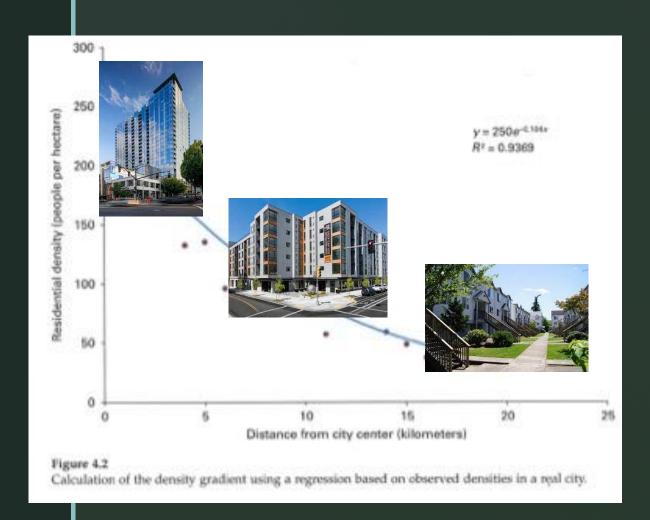
- Land Prices Peak at the Metropolitan Center
- High Density in Center
- Low Density in Suburbs

Density and Apartment Rents

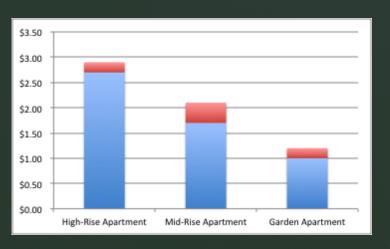


- Land Prices Peak at the Metropolitan Center
- High Density in Center
- Low Density in Suburbs

Density and Apartment Rents



- 2-story garden apartments Lowest Cost Per Square Foot
- 5-story apartments (50% more)
- 6+ story apartments (50% more)



Achieving the 35,000 Housing Unit Goal

What can the legislature do…?

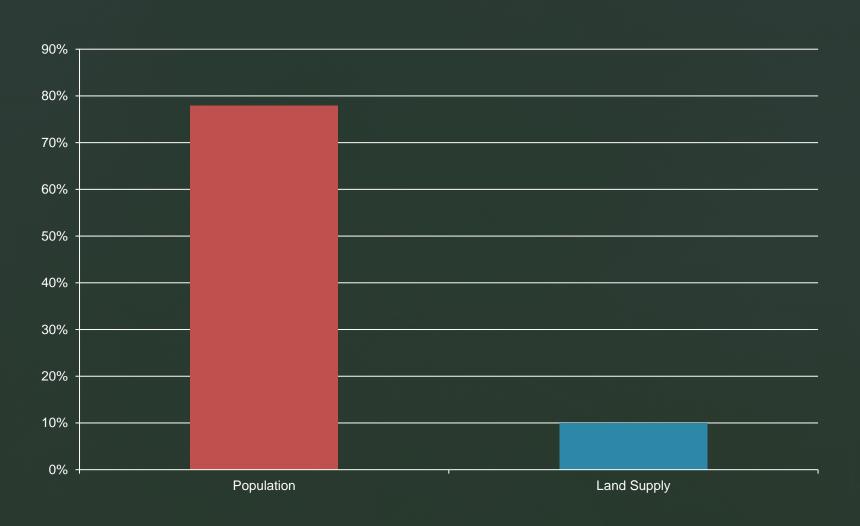
Achieving the 36,000 Housing Unit Goal

- Shift to higher density as our "marginal" housing unit leads to much higher prices over time
- We need all development high, medium, and low-density
- Need to reform Oregon's land use planning system
 - Prevents large, master planned communities (low density)

Achieving the 36,000 Housing Unit Goal

- Shift to higher density as our "marginal" housing unit leads to much higher prices over time
- We need all development high, medium, and low-density
- Need to reform Oregon's land use planning system
 - Prevents large, master planned communities (low density)
- Other reforms are needed, too
 - Inclusionary Zoning, Design Review, Permitting Delays, Lack of Road
 Infrastructure

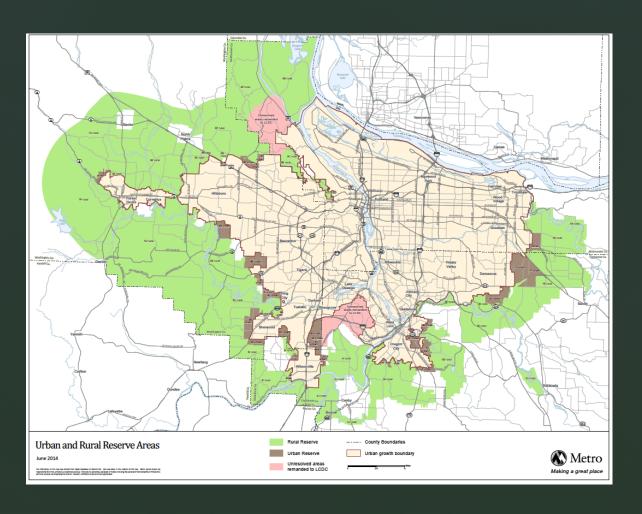
Metro Portland's UGB 1980-2016



Metro Portland's UGB



Metro Portland's UGB



We need to bring in the Urban Reserves

Results of a Major UGB Expansion

- Assume 10,000 acres of high value, Washington County land
- Represents 2% of region's housing stock
- Boost Middle Income Construction jobs
- When developed, housing prices and rents fall by 10-15%.
- Long run impact, 3-4% price reduction
- Helps business recruitment

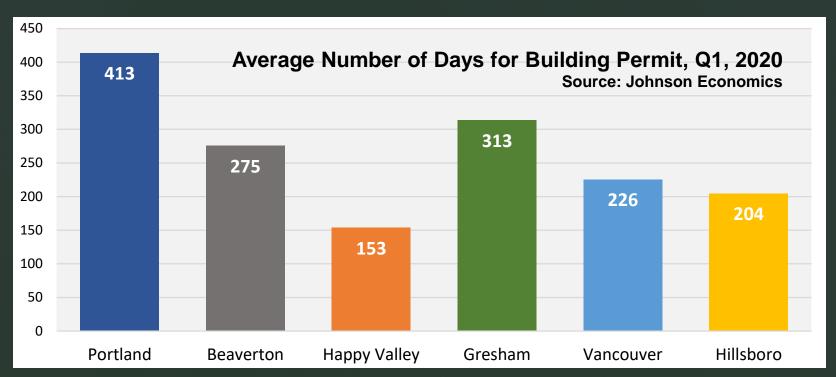
End Rent Control

- Current Policy does little to protect tenants (7% + CPI)
- SB 611 demonstrates that the legislature might impose tighter rent increase limits
- Investors require a premium return for risk of reduced future rental income

Make Inclusionary Zoning Voluntary

- Downtown Portland housing production collapsed following imposition of inclusionary zoning
- City compensation isn't enough to outweigh costs
- City of Portland doesn't like to admit mistakes
- Put the genie back in the bottle
- Voluntary IZ works in Vancouver

Reduce Permitting Times



- Cities should put development revenue in general fund to avoid hiring/firing problem with permit funding
- Developers should be allowed to seek 3rd party permitting if cities are very slow

Questions...?