



Community & Economic Development

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Development Review Advisory Committee Code Alignment Project Summary September 19, 2024

Identified Problems

1. The Permit Improvement Task Force, City Council, multiple Auditor's reports, permit customers and permit review staff all recognize that long-term sustained improvements to our permitting system must include regulatory clean up and alignment.
2. Outside of RICAP, there is no ongoing systemic program to address other city development codes on a reoccurring, predictable and transparent basis. We address complaints and issues in an ad-hoc way, and often individually by each bureau.
3. We currently do not have a clear and consistent venue where people can enter code obstacles that involve City development codes, outside of Title 33.

Project Scope

This project will begin to address some of the regulatory obstacles customers experience by bringing into alignment codes that give conflicting direction, which in turn slow down permitting and creates unnecessary barriers to development.

Constraints

Time. Project needs to be completed by the end of this fiscal year (8 months)
Staffing. We have less than 1 FTE available for this project between Morgan and Mieke.
Inter-bureau team that meets 1 time per month.

Focus

- Title 17 Public Improvements, Title 11 Trees, Title 21 Water
- Small, focused on technical amendments that will align and clarify codes
- Regulations that govern right-of-way improvements.
- Small businesses
- Small-scale residential projects

Out of Scope

- New process improvement initiatives
- Policy changes
- Administrative Rules
- Title 33. Ancillary changes identified may be packaged with RICAP.

Sources:

- 2022 staff and customer surveys
- Customer interviews
- Empowered community customers
- Streets 2035 report
- Public infrastructure staff

Project Deliverables

1. Technical amendments that address code conflicts.
2. Centralized location to submit code issues.
3. Template for a process and program to continue code alignment projects.

Intended Outcomes

1. More efficient permitting.
2. Ongoing process for city development code alignment projects.
3. Clarify decision making authority related to the new permitting structure.

How you can help

Send your suggestions for code amendments to consider to PIT@portlandoregon.gov

Note **Code Alignment Project (CAP)** in the subject line. Suggestions received by September 30th will be considered for the scope of this project, however, may not be included given the limited scope and constraints. Suggestions received after September 30th will be logged for future consideration.

For us to best understand the specific conflict, please include as much of the following information in your email as possible:

1. Site address, and/or permit number.
2. Code section(s) that presented the conflict, if known.
3. Conflict description.
4. Describe how the conflict impacted the project (work-around needed, permit delay; increase to construction costs, etc.)
5. How long did it take to resolve the issue and what was the solution?