



CITY OF PORTLAND
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To: Planning and Sustainability Commission Members

From: Jeff Baer, Chief Technology Officer
Rebecca Esau, Director, Bureau of Development Services

Cc: Tom Rinehart, Chief Administrative Officer
Susan Anderson, Director, Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

RE: *Embedding Technology Solutions in Title 33 Zoning Code*

The Bureau of Technology Services and Bureau of Development Services were recently made aware of Title 33 code language proposed by the Planning and Sustainability Commission for the Neighborhood Contract project related to technology requirements for public information. Specifically, to publish submitted information as a web page, make the aggregated collection of such notices available as an open data set and make the same available in subscribable online format(s) such as an RSS feed.

The purpose of this memo is twofold:

1. Remove any reference to specific technology tools or solutions in the Zoning Code; and
2. Provide information on the goals and improvements expected out of the in-progress Portland Online Permitting System (POPS) project.

Technology Requirements in the Zoning Code

Prescribing specific technology tools, applications or solutions should not be embedded in the Zoning Code. The technology environment is constantly changing and inserting specific requirements in the code locks the city into a specific technology solution that will change over time. The City needs to be able to utilize new technology as it evolves and placing specific requirements in the Zoning Code inhibits our ability to upgrade and adopt new technology solutions as they emerge. Additionally, City Code delegates specific authority to the Chief Technology Officer to manage, establish policies and standards for all City-owned technology systems. (Ref. PCC 3.15.070) In deploying new technology platforms such as POPS, these standards take into account and comply with Ordinance 188356 related to the Open Data Policy that City Council approved in 2017.

POPS

POPS is a program that will move the City's paper-based development review process to a more streamlined and efficient online digital system. POPS includes several areas of improvement:

An Equal Opportunity Employer

To help ensure equal access to programs, services and activities, the Office of Management & Finance will reasonably modify policies/procedures and provide auxiliary aids/services to persons with disabilities upon request.

- Tracs Upgrade from a desktop version for the latest web-based application. Tracs is the backbone of how the Bureau of Development Services and interagency partners track and process permit applications and manage cases.
- Electronic Plan Review (ePlans), which allows plans to be submitted, reviewed, and issued electronically.
- Improved inspections scheduling
- Mobile App for Inspections
- Improved Web Portal for Customers
- Mobile App for Contractors and Applicants

Once deployed, it will make our services more accessible to the community and increase the efficiency of the permitting process. Our expectation is that these improvements are moving us forward in the direction of providing more online information and the intent of the proposed code language.