

Oakridge Code Evaluation and Update: Phase 1

COMMUNITY MEETING #1

DECEMBER 7, 2022 AT 6:30 PM

OAKRIDGE CITY HALL



Project Background

The City of Oakridge requested and was awarded a grant from the Transportation and Growth Management (TGM) program, a joint effort of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), to explore improvements to existing City policy and code requirements that guide future growth. The project, entitled the Oakridge Code Evaluation and Update, is guided by smart development and sustainable growth principals. The project goals are consistent with the mission, goals, and objectives of the TGM program, which include:

- Using land and energy resources efficiently;
- Getting the most efficiency out of existing urban services and infrastructure;
- Providing for a mix of uses promote reducing the need for automobile travel;
- Providing transportation options that are safe and convenient for all, while promoting infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit riders; and
- Creating environments that are livable and at a human scale, including pedestrian-oriented downtowns which provide visual interest at eye-level, feel safe and comfortable, contain a variety of activities and services, are easy to navigate, and provide areas for gathering.

Project Overview

The City seeks to address several identified challenges through the Code Evaluation and Update project. Phase 1 of the project will result in recommendations related to urban design, housing, and transportation policy and development requirements to help the City remove barriers to creating a walkable and bikeable community. The project will accomplish this by 1) evaluating Oakridge's development requirements to identify ways the City can improve land use regulations and development standards; and 2) creating an Action Plan describing potential amendments to City policies and code requirements.

Project objectives include addressing the City's lack of middle housing options; reviewing design standards that may be creating barriers to developing in Uptown; and identifying temporary lodging standards that can meet the needs of visitors without reducing the supply of affordable housing. Developing and enhancing multimodal transportation is one of the core objectives of this project. Multi-modal transportation allows people to walk, bike, roll, or use transit to get to their destinations in a safe, convenient, and efficient manner.

Next Steps & Project Schedule

A final Code Evaluation Memorandum will be presented to the Planning Commission in January 2023. The Action Plan will be prepared and available for review in Spring 2023 and Phase 1 of this project is expected to be completed by July 2023. At project completion, the City Council may elect to pursue future grant funding for Phase 2 to develop draft language based on Action Plan recommendations and, ultimately, updates to Comprehensive Plan policy and the Zoning and Land Development Ordinances.

For more information on the code evaluation and update project, visit the project website:

<https://tinyurl.com/OakridgeCode> or contact Rick Zylstra at (541) 782-2258.

