



CITY OF West Linn

PLANNING DOCKET

POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CODE, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING MAP

UPDATED 09/15/2023

West Linn Community Development Code (CDC) 98.030 requires that Comprehensive Plan, CDC and zoning map amendments to be undertaken in a given year be listed on a docket that is reviewed by the Planning Commission and approved by the City Council. Other planning and historic preservation-related plans and studies are also to be considered through the docketing process.

This list is intended to provide clarity to the West Linn community, advisory committees and staff on the Mayor and Council's project priorities and of projected timelines to initiate and accomplish the work. It also documents recently completed projects.

This list was initially developed by the City Council and Planning Commission at the beginning of 2017 through a joint work session and further Council/Commission discussion, and has been amended multiple times since then. The City Council has discretion to amend this list as appropriate to best achieve community goals.

Projects completed in 2017

- *Geotechnical and surface water code revisions.* Code amendments to ensure the CDC/Municipal Code allow appropriate review of geotechnical and surface water elements of development.
- *Robinwood Station.* Code amendments to allow Robinwood Station to operate as permitted use in residential zone.
- *White Oak Savanna.* Code amendments to allow park improvements in OBC zone.
- *De Novo appeal review.* Code amendment to remove provisions for on-the-record appeal review and restore previous provisions for "de novo" appeals, providing additional process flexibility to the City Council.

Projects completed in 2018

- *Willamette Neighborhood Mixed-Use Transitional Zone - list of permitted/conditional uses.* Amended the list of permitted and conditional uses in the mixed use zoning district.
- *Minor code cleanup including Property Line Adjustment policy update and Day Care code alignment with State of Oregon regulations.*

Projects completed in 2019

- *Willamette Neighborhood Mixed-Use Transitional Zone – zoning map changes.* Updated zoning of properties on 8th Avenue to reflect current uses and vision. Adopted by Council March 11.

- *Sanitary Sewer Master Plan.* Repeal and replacement of the 1999 Plan to address a variety of issues including facilities constructed since 1999, capital planning for aging facilities, regulatory changes, population trends, and implementation of modern best practices. Adopted by Council September 9.
- *Parks and Recreation Master Plan.* Per Council goal, develop an overall planning vision for the project area through a robust citizen involvement program and then further refine the vision into comprehensive plan/zoning map/development code amendments for implementation. Adopted by Council November 12.
- *Storm Water Master Plan.* The updated Storm Water Master Plan includes new goals, policies, and action measures. Accompanying code and Comprehensive Plan amendments will ensure consistency and compliance with regional and state plans and policies, efficient use of public dollars, and maximize protection of important natural resources. Adopted by Council November 12.

Projects completed in 2020

- *Review of zoning on developable residential lands – Phase 1 inventory.* Evaluated developable residential properties over one-acre for consistency with neighborhood plans and visions. Council discussed on March 2, 2020 and directed staff to not move onto Phase 2: Zone Changes, and concentrate on the Waterfront Project and Hwy 43 for potential rezoning.
- *Street Width Standards.* Staff worked with the Planning Commission to develop proposed CDC changes and Council adopted a 28-foot pavement width standard for public streets in new subdivisions on September 14, 2020.

Projects completed in 2021

- *Willamette Falls Drive TSP update.* Amendments to Transportation System Plan to incorporate Willamette Falls Drive Concept Plan, including the re-alignment and design, from Highway 43 to Tualatin River. Adopted by Council August 2, 2021.

Projects completed in 2022

- *FEMA Code Amendments.* Amendments to Community Development Code Chapters 2 and 27 to ensure compliance with FEMA minimum requirements for flood hazard zones. The Oregon Model Code was adopted by Council February 14, 2022.
- *HB2001 Code Amendments.* Amendments to Community Development Code Chapters 2, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 43, 46, 55, 59, and 60 to comply with HB2001 and OAR 660 Division 46. The adopted amendments go above minimum requirements by allowing detached plexes, increasing maximum floor-area ratio (FAR) for R-10/R-7 zoning to 60% and eliminating maximum FAR and lot coverage for R-5/R-4.5/R-3/R-2.1 zoning. Adopted by City Council June 21, 2022.
- *Historic review code update.* Amendments to Chapters 25 and 58 discussed by the Historic Review Board (HRB). Includes a variety of changes to both the commercial and residential district codes. Adopted by City Council May 16, 2022.
- *Policy work on Chapter 96, Street Improvement Construction.* Amendments to Community Development Code Chapters 2 and 96 to clean-up language and clarify when single-lot development requires street improvements and when the City will accept a fee-in-lieu of construction of the improvements. Adopted by City Council December 12, 2023.

Projects completed in 2023

- *Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) regulations.* Amendments to Community Development Code Chapter 34 to remove barriers to constructing an ADU. The amendments also ensure the code language is clear and objective and in compliance with state statutes and administrative rules. Adopted by City Council on July 10, 2023.

Projects underway

- *West Linn Waterfront.* Per Council goal, develop an overall planning vision for the project area through a robust citizen involvement program and then further refine the vision into comprehensive plan/zoning map/development code amendments for implementation.
 - *Status: Project underway. Last round of public outreach was open houses on December 10 and 12, 2019 to glean feedback on preferred future land uses. Council has budgeted funds for the next phase of work, which will include finalizing the vision plan, public engagement activities, and zoning/design standards for the three districts. Staff chose and finalized a contract with the consultant team. The Community Engagement Plan has been reviewed by the CCI and Council has appointed the project working group. Community engagement events will begin in Autumn 2023 to glean feedback on a draft vision plan. Staff will schedule another Council presentation in the near future.*
 - *Staff: John Floyd, Darren Wyss, Ben Gardner, Lynn Schroder*
- *Highway 43 rezoning and Robinwood Street System.* Review of the zoning map and standards for the properties adjacent to Highway 43. This work will ensure that the regulations facilitate the type of development West Linn would like to see along this important commercial corridor, and complement the planned road improvements. The project will also identify preferred bicycle/pedestrian connections from neighborhoods to safely access services along the corridor.
 - *Status: Council has provided funding for the project. Staff is finalizing a contract with the chosen consultant team. Developing a community engagement plan and working group membership for CCI review will be the next steps.*
 - *Staff: Chris Myers, Darren Wyss, Ben Gardner, Lynn Schroder*
- *West Linn Response to HB 2003.* The bill, passed by the 2019 Oregon Legislature, creates requirements that the City will be mandated to implement. HB 2003 will require West Linn to complete a Housing Capacity Analysis (HCA) and take steps (Housing Production Strategy) to address issues identified in the analysis related to the provision of a broad cross-section of housing types. The project is listed in this section because it is not optional for West Linn.
 - *Status: HB2003 Phase 1 is complete and the result was an adoption-ready HCA delivered in June 2021. The HCA analysis showed the City was deficient in buildable multi-family zoned land and meeting the minimum residential density allocation for new construction requirements of the Metropolitan Housing Rule (OAR 660-007-0035). The City will need to amend its zoning map to rectify the deficiencies and adopt the HCA by December 2023. The City will then have an additional year to adopt the associated housing production strategy required by HB2003. City Council appointed the Planning Commission as the working group and it met three times (April, June, July 2023) to discuss the HCA, proposed amendments to West Linn Comprehensive Plan Goal 10: Housing, and proposed Comprehensive Plan Map and Zoning Map amendments. The Planning Commission recommended adopting the proposed amendments at the August*

16, 2023 public hearing. City Council is scheduled to hold a work session on September 18, 2023 and its public hearing on October 9, 2023 to consider adoption of the proposed amendments.

The City received additional grant funding from DLCD to complete the Housing Production Strategy, which must be adopted by end of 2024, and work will begin in Autumn 2023 once a consultant is appointed.

- *Staff: Darren Wyss, John Williams*
- *Clear and Objective Standards Audit.* The City has allocated funding to hire a consultant to audit the Community Development Code and recommend code amendments to ensure compliance with ORS 197.307, which requires the City to provide clear and objective standards, conditions, and procedures for housing. The project will also ensure appropriate implementation of HB2306, passed by the legislature in 2019, requiring the City to issue residential building permits upon substantial completion of public improvements in residential subdivisions.
 - *Status: A consultant team is under contract and has completed a full code audit and recommended code amendments. The Council appointed working group met three times (August, September, October 2022) to review and discuss the proposed amendments. The Working Group made a final recommendation to pass on to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission held five work sessions (January to April 2023) and made a recommendation to Council to adopt the proposed amendments at its June 21, 2023 Public Hearing. City Council held a work session on August 7, 2023 and will hold its public hearing on September 18, 2023 to consider adoption of the code amendment package.*
 - *Staff: John Floyd*
- *Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities Rules Implementation.* Governor Kate Brown issued [Executive Order No. 20-04](#) in March 2020 directing state agencies to meaningfully and urgently address climate change. The Land Conservation and Development Commission adopted rules in July 2022 that will require City compliance. Not only are the rules focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but they also aim to improve equity in the community's transportation, housing, and planning efforts. The first rules to implement involve parking mandates and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
 - *Status: Council appointed the Planning Commission as the working group. Staff briefed the Council and Planning Commission in October 2022. The City received an extension until June 30, 2024 to adopt required code amendments. The City will pursue an additional extension and grant funding to implement the program from the Department of Land Conservation and Development.*
 - *Staff: Darren Wyss, Ben Gardner*

Prioritized projects

The following projects have been prioritized by Council.

- *Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI) review of community engagement in land use process.*
 - *Status: CCI report and recommendations were provided to City Council. The report addresses education, administrative proposals, and potential code changes. Council had an initial discussion and staff is awaiting direction on implementation process, particularly appointment of a working group to review potential code changes.*
 - *Staff: Darren Wyss*

Projects identified by Council/Planning Commission/public/staff but not yet prioritized by Council

Small projects

These projects are expected to require a modest amount of staff resources, public engagement and attention from the City Council, Planning Commission and advisory committees. They are generally improvements to or refinements of existing processes or code. These items would result in modest improvements to efficiency, customer service and outcomes in the community.

- *Wireless Ordinance update.* Changes to modernize code language and facilitate minor installations, such as small cell technology, to improve wireless service in the city.
- *Parking standards change for High Schools.* On 8/6/18 Council discussed changing the parking requirements for a High School but this project has not been moved into higher prioritization by Council yet.

Medium projects

These projects are expected to require a moderate amount of staff resources, public engagement and attention from the City Council, Planning Commission and advisory committees.

- *Flood plain ordinance.* The State of Oregon is working with the State of Washington to address needed updates to the Flood Plain program to address Endangered Species Act requirements. For Oregon, the Department of Land Conservation and Development will be provided a model ordinance that addresses agreed upon provisions. Implementing this ordinance in West Linn would ensure compliance with federal, state and regional standards and provide clear guidance on regulations and procedure to property owners.
- *Code consolidation.* Consolidate divergent code sections including moving procedures dispersed throughout the CDC back into Division 9 and addressing a variety of other inconsistencies; more substantive changes than a simple annual cleanup.
- *Code work to address inconsistencies and mapping questions in CDC Chapters 28 and 32.* This work would respond to inconsistencies and mapping issues noted in working with property owners and developers dealing with West Linn's requirements in Water Resource Areas, Willamette River Greenway and Habitat Conservation Areas. This project could easily veer into the "large" category considering the state and regional policy and regulatory framework.
- *Surface water code changes.* The Planning Commission has discussed creating additional code requirements for surface water treatment facilities, beyond those currently contained in the Municipal Code/Public Works Standards. This project would require involvement from property owners, neighborhoods, and developers.
- *Public property zoning and process requirements.* Consideration of a new Comprehensive Plan designation and zone along with the appropriate zoning and process requirements for city-owned property. This project would address a significant gap in West Linn's code, but would likely require extensive neighborhood and Advisory Committee involvement.
- *Additional follow-up projects related to Willamette Mixed-Use Zoning work.* The Mixed Use Zoning Working Group recommended several possible additional projects that arose during their meetings but did not fit within their Council-directed project scope. These include:
 - *Changes to the dimensional/design standards for Chap. 59: MU Zone to make them more flexible for potential redevelopment of properties in the future.* Some ideas for potential changes: allowing zero lot lines at front and side yards abutting a street, moving from maximum building size to lot coverage/maximum floor area ratio standard, eliminating maximum lot size, and removing the residential style design standards.

- *Parking evaluation of the Willamette Main Street area, especially the on-site parking exemptions found in CDC Chapter 58: Willamette Falls Drive Commercial Design District.* This could be a challenging project, requiring significant work with business and property owners, the main street group, historic advocates, and surrounding neighborhoods.
- *Addressing zoning on island MU properties. Several small islands of MU zoning exist at some distance from the downtown core; the Working Group discussed potential changes to these areas but has not assessed what those changes should be.*
- *Historic Preservation Master Plan.* On 8/6/18 Council discussed the possibility of a Master Plan for all Historic Resources in West Linn. More policy discussion is necessary to identify the objectives and scope of this item.
- *Underutilized Right Of Way (ROW) Review.* Council has discussed reviewing all of the unused/underutilized ROW in West Linn with an aim to returning unneeded property to residents and minimizing the City's maintenance responsibilities. This project would require a fair amount of community outreach and involvement.
- *Short-term rental regulations.* As more short-term rentals become available in West Linn via companies such as AirBnB or VRBO, there has been some community discussion about concerns and potential regulatory changes. Current regulations are summarized at <https://westlinnoregon.gov/planning/faq-short-term-rentals-west-linn>. This project would likely require significant input from property owners and neighborhoods; in other jurisdictions this has been a complex issue to resolve. The project would also include a review of West Linn's Transient Lodging Tax code to ensure revenues assist in the planning and compliance work.

Large projects

These projects are expected to require a significant amount of staff and financial resources, public engagement and attention from the City Council, Planning Commission and advisory committees. Projects of this size would need to be sequenced to allow appropriate focus from all of these groups.

- *Sign code update.* Review, organize, streamline and modernize the sign code. If focused simply on cleanup and organization, this would require less work. A larger review would address community concerns and Council Goal on Economic Development. As demonstrated consistently in other jurisdictions, sign code work is always time-consuming.
- *Planned Unit Development (PUD)/Infill code work.* Review and take action on recommendations by the Planning Commission tabled by City Council in 2015. This large project could be divided into smaller parts: Planned Unit Developments; flag lots; and other infill development. A comprehensive review would ensure consistency but even small tweaks could help, such as increasing allowable lot coverage for single story homes.
- *Tree Code Evaluation and Amendments.* The City's Community Development Code only encourages, but does not mandate, tree retention. The community has consistently requested the City establish a minimum tree retention requirement during development projects. This project would require extensive public involvement from property owners, neighborhoods, and developers. Statewide Planning Goal 5 processes would need to be followed if mandates were preferred. Evaluating the tree code/programs in the Municipal Code is also recommended to ensure consistency. Significant staff time and budget for consultant services would be required.