

It's Time to Modernize Public Participation in Land Use Planning

How does Oregon approach land use planning?

Oregon's program for land use planning consists of **19 Statewide Land Use Planning Goals**, housed at the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). These 19 goals express Oregon's policies and priorities for its land use planning program, related to issues such as housing, transportation and the way that the public is involved in the planning processes implemented by local governments.

What is Oregon's goal on public participation?

The first of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals, referred to **Goal 1**, calls for "**the opportunity for citizens to be involved in all phases of the planning process.**" It requires each city and county to have a public involvement program that addresses things like feedback mechanisms for the public, making technical information easy to understand, and providing adequate financial support for public involvement efforts.

Where is Oregon falling short for the public?

Despite the adoption of Goal 1 in 1975, our land use decisions often fail to include perspectives from the public — especially from people of color, low and moderate-income residents, people with disabilities, people who live in rural and underserved communities, renters, and other underrepresented groups. This has resulted in inequitable outcomes that persist in local government plans today.

Since Goal 1 was adopted, participation technology has evolved, inclusivity practices have improved, and barriers to public participation have been studied and identified — and yet, Goal 1 remains the same as it was 50 years ago. **It's time for a change.**

How can the state improve public participation?

The current process for amending land use goals is cost-prohibitive, outdated, and in and of itself fails to offer equitable and modernized options for public engagement, participation and feedback. With vital conversations happening around transportation, housing and environmental policies this session, it's more important now than ever to ensure that our state has an equitable, accountable public engagement process for its land use decisions.

HB 2950 offers a comprehensive, cost-effective solution to modernizing public engagement for both Statewide Planning Goal 1 and for the state’s goal amendment process itself. If passed, **HB 2950** will establish a Goals Advisory Committee to:



Amend Statewide Planning Goal 1 on Public Participation

With members from the public, city and county planning divisions, Tribal Governments, and organizations focused on land use planning, racial equity and environmental justice, the Goals Advisory Committee will work with DLCD to audit and amend Goal 1 to address:

- Exclusive and outdated language, implementation standards, barriers to public participation, DEI efforts, outreach and education processes, racial inequities, and environmental and climate considerations.



Review Public Participation in the Goal Amendment Process

In coordination with DLCD, the Goals Advisory Committee will review ORS 197.240 and ORS 197.235 regarding public participation in the state’s goal amendment process — auditing archaic statutes that require in-person only hearings, notice of hearings in print newspapers, and other outdated processes that are not conducive to the public engagement strategies and technology options that exist today. Recommendations from this audit will be returned back to the State Legislature for further consideration.

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