

## Attachment B

### Comprehensive Plan Implementation Project

#### FAQs

1. Would "upzoning" every parcel of single-family residential increase property values?

*A search of articles and analysis reveals that upzoning of exclusively single-family residential land is a relatively new phenomenon and land markets and regulations differ from city to city, so there are few studies that analyze the effects on property values. The basic premise is that by increasing the number of dwellings that can be built on each private parcel, upzoning lowers the cost of land per unit, which can increase housing choices. However, it can also make the property more valuable if a private property owner can do more with it. The price of land, the cost to build or renovate a home, and what the market is willing to pay for a home all combine to drive a property owner's math.*

2. What tools do we have to keep development affordable?

*The City has several tools either in progress or in place to incentivize the development of more housing units, including more affordable (income restricted) units. Those include:*

- *Vertical Housing Development Zone: This is a 10-year partial tax exemption on the value of new construction or rehabilitation for 20 percent per eligible floors up to 80 percent, available to qualifying developments within the city's approved vertical housing zone: <https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/verticalhousing>. This zone near the downtown core incentivizes higher density, mixed-use and transit-oriented development in our core to help increase supply of affordable housing and expansion of retail and business opportunities.*
- *Upcoming in 2021: Affordable Housing Construction Excise Tax grant program to support the development of income-restricted residential housing units. Staff are in the process of developing the program guidelines, application, legal agreements, and compliance processes to kick this program off in 2021, ideally when the new housing code from this project is adopted. A community-based oversight group was convened to set criteria for this program. The preferred criteria include preference for middle housing types, housing located near transit, and financial need. Income levels served are between 0-120% of Area Median Income. More information can be found here: <https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/communitydevelopment/milwaukie-construction-excise-tax-cet>.*

- *Affordable Housing Construction Excise Tax (CET) Exemption Program: Developers building multi family housing who elect to provide income restricted units may apply for an exemption to the City's CET if they can demonstrate that they have provided income restricted housing where the foregone revenue for holding those units as income restricted is at least 2 times that of the CET. The intent is to incentivize income restricted units in market rate apartment buildings.*
- *Nonprofit Low-Income Housing Tax Exemption. The City has supported a case by case approval for exemptions for non-profits providing income restricted housing. Currently Northwest Housing Alternatives (Walsh Commons in South Downtown) has been approved for an exemption for a 28-unit low income housing development through the state program. NHA applies for a renewal annual in Milwaukie to help maintain affordability.*
- *Downtown Mixed Use (DMU) and General Mixed Use (GMU) zones both offer residential housing density bonuses.*

3. What tools do we have to encourage more multifamily and middle housing units as ownership units versus rentals? How can we get more condos than apartments?

- *Middle housing options that will become more available because of the HB 2001 code amendments include new dwellings on small, fee simple lots, such as townhouses. Small, fee simple lots will provide homeownership options that do not currently exist.*
- *Developers have not been building condominiums in Oregon in recent years due to builders' exposure to lawsuits over construction defects. There has been an attempt in the state legislature to manage developer liability, but none have passed*
- *The ADU waiver pilot program that waived SDCs for ten (10) ADUs in the city supported the development of middle housing. This program wasn't restricted based on whether units were for ownership or rentals.*
- *A list of general homeownership resources is available on the city website at: [www.milwaukieoregon.gov/housingaffordability/homeownership-resources](http://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/housingaffordability/homeownership-resources).*
- *In general, increased homeownership is not a goal expressed in the Comprehensive Plan. However, the city can provide the opportunity to develop all types of housing that can be owned or rented, but the market will determine whether units are renter or owner occupied. Staff will be mindful of how the code is written to ensure that it does not contain barriers to potential homeownership of middle housing dwellings.*

4. Through this process the idea of a form based code has been discussed. What are the advantages of FBC? HB 2001 requires, to some degree, that we revisit lot sizes and number of units, but not necessarily that we adopt form-based code, right? So why is FBC preferable? Are there examples of how FCB has worked in other cities? Please provide examples of how FBC would work in Milwaukie.

*We are proposing a form based approach for the city's code. It is important to note that the city already uses a form based approach for many of its existing standards for single unit dwellings such as lot coverage and side yard height plane. Using a form based approach involves clear and objective requirements, usually expressed in feet and inches, square footage area, or a percentage, that regulate the shape, size, and location of buildings and other items on a lot (parking, landscaping, open space). These standards are outlined in tables and supported with graphics; they are visual and easier to understand. A form based approach also allows for standards tailored to fit a specific neighborhood context or condition. For example, through this project additional study of context zones will identify different tradeoffs for housing, parking, and trees. The resulting code amendments will respond to the Comprehensive Plan Goal of creating complete neighborhoods that offer a range of housing types and enhance local identity and character. A form based approach is more responsive to the unique conditions on the ground in Milwaukie and will result in better outcomes than a blanket approach where one size fits all of amending the code according to HB 2001 requirements.*

5. Should we rezone widely/everywhere, or rezone around transit corridors and neighborhood hubs where greater density is appropriate? Is there a way to incentivize/encourage density in certain locations (such as on streets with frequent transit or higher traffic streets)?

*One way to do this could be regulatory incentives (using the code to incentivize these locations). An example would be to increase lot coverage or off-street parking reduction requirements/bonuses in specific areas in the city where development is desired. The current code already has some regulatory bonuses, like increased lot coverage for duplexes and by-right off-street parking reductions in certain areas. Code amendments from this project could include these kinds of incentives to encourage certain housing types in certain areas that meet specific criteria.*

6. What are "residential designations?" Are "residential zone districts" different from "residential zones?" Is "residential land" a zoning designation or a description?

*All of these terms, for the purposes of this project, are intended to refer to residential zones: R-10, R-7, R-5, R-3, R-2, R-2.5, R-1, and R-1-B. Going forward, we will be more consistent in referring to these areas as "residential zones."*

7. Is there a definition of “cottage cluster?” I have seen the term applied to vastly different size developments.

*A common definition of cottage cluster is small, single-level, detached units, often on their own lots and sometimes clustered around pockets of shared open space. A cottage is typically under 1,000 square feet in footprint. For the purposes of this project, we will primarily be referring to the two definitions below.*

- *HB 2001 defines a cottage cluster as: a grouping of no fewer than four detached dwelling units per acre with a footprint of less than 900 square feet that includes a common courtyard. They can be located on a single lot or parcel, or on individual lots or parcels.*
- *The Milwaukie Municipal Code 19.201 Definitions sections states “Cottage” means a structure containing 1 dwelling unit on 1 lot within an area that was divided to create a cottage cluster development, per Subsection 19.505.4.*

8. Clarify the use of the terms “permitted” and “allowed” regarding uses. Is there a difference?

*When used in code discussions, they are interchangeable. A permitted use is an allowed use. It does not refer to a use that requires a permit.*

9. How many people who use other transportation modes don’t actually own a car?

*This is a hard question to answer, because it varies by area. There is a high relationship between car ownership and access to alternative modes, however there is not a lot of detailed data at the neighborhood level. One study finds that about 14% of Portlanders do not own cars. See <https://www.governing.com/archive/gov-car-free-households-cities.html>*

10. Have other neighborhoods that have built housing without parking actually reduced the number of vehicles?

*In neighborhoods that charge for parking on the street or parking on the site, people own fewer cars per dwelling unit than neighborhoods that have no limit and do not charge for parking. When people pay for parking, they make different choices about how many cars to own, whether to have a car, or whether to store a car on site. In neighborhoods that charge for parking on the street or on the site, we see fewer cars per unit than in neighborhoods that have unlimited, free parking.*

11. Terms used in the comprehensive plan include: “tree canopy”, “canopy tree”, “urban forestry”, “street/private/public trees”. What are the distinctions?

*It is important to note that these are terms used in the Comprehensive Plan, which is a policy document, but they are not likely to be the same ones used in the regulatory tree code. For the purposes of the plan document, the following are the generally accepted definitions:*

- **Tree canopy** is the top portion of a tree comprised of branches and leaves or needles.
- A **canopy tree** is a tree that has a large canopy or provides a large amount of shade. In a forest, these trees make up the highest layer of leaf coverings and consist of the largest and oldest trees.
- **Urban forestry** is the care and management of trees in urban settings for the purpose of improving the urban environment. The urban forest is the collective trees, including street, private, and public trees, within an urban setting.
- A **street tree** is any tree that is growing in the City right-of-way, whether in improved (between the sidewalk and the curb) or unimproved (no sidewalk and/or curb) right-of-way. A **private tree** is a tree located on private property, while a **public tree** is located on public property like a park or greenway.

*In the current tree code for public property (a regulatory document) are the following definitions ([http://www.qcode.us/codes/milwaukie/view.php?topic=16-16\\_32&frames=off](http://www.qcode.us/codes/milwaukie/view.php?topic=16-16_32&frames=off)):*

- **Street tree** means a tree, shrub, or other woody vegetation on land within the right-of-way.
- **Public tree** means a tree, shrub, or other woody vegetation on land owned or maintained by the City, but does not include a tree, shrub, or other woody vegetation in the right-of-way.
- **Tree** means any living woody plant characterized by one main stem or trunk and many branches, or a multi-stemmed trunk system with a defined crown, that will obtain a height of at least 16 feet at maturity.
- **Shrub** means any plant with multiple woody stems that does not have a defined crown and does not grow taller than a height of 16 feet.

12. Is the city proposing any mechanisms to support existing homeowners with new tree plantings?

*The city is growing its urban forest program. The city currently hosts multiple tree giveaways to provide free trees to residents, and partners with community organizations like Friends of Trees, North Clackamas Watershed Council, and Johnson Creek Watershed Council for tree planting events. Watch the city’s event calendar and social media pages for updates on future tree giveaways and planting events!*

13. Is the city only implementing tree code for new developments?

*The city recently adopted new code for public trees in November. For phase 1 of the comprehensive plan implementation process, the city is looking at developing tree code applicable to residential development. The new code would apply to new development and existing properties (i.e. tree removal not related to development). Commercial and industrial development will be handled in a subsequent phase of comprehensive plan implementation.*