

# Tualatin 2040: Summary of Stakeholder Outreach

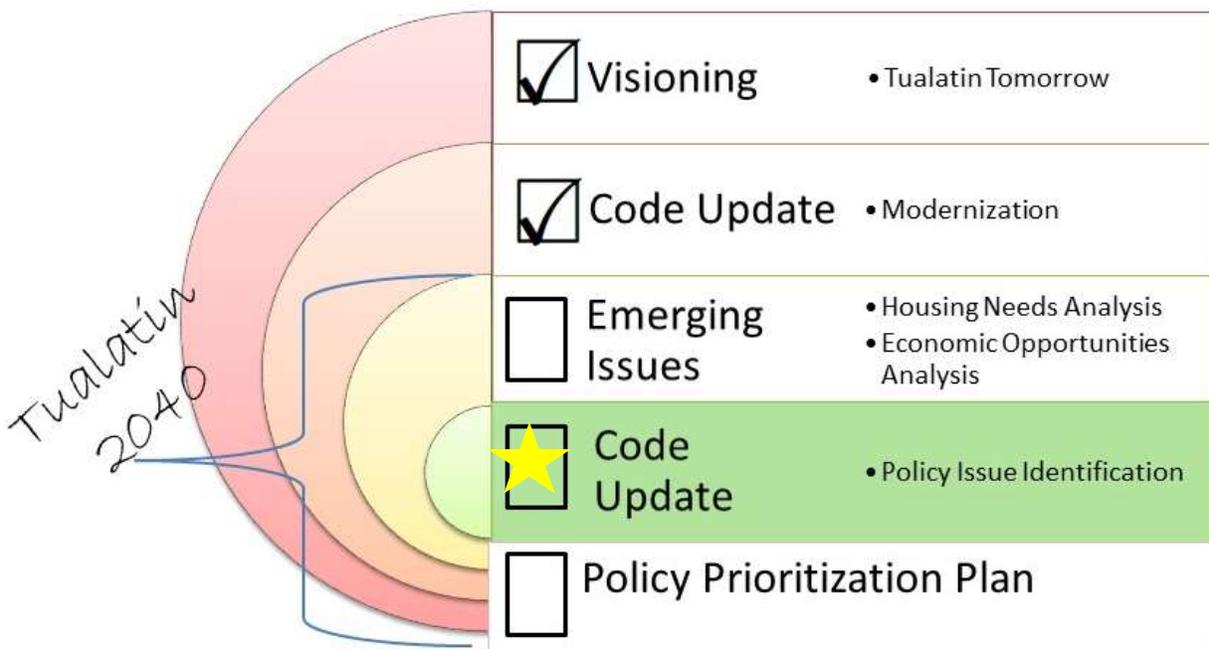


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## INTRODUCTION

**Tualatin 2040** provides the City with an opportunity to take a “big picture” look at the Tualatin Development Code – both the policies of the Tualatin Community Plan (TDC Chapters 1-30) and the land use regulations in TDC Chapters 31 - 80.



As a part of the Tualatin 2040 “**Policy Issue Identification**” effort, the Project Team met with a wide range of stakeholders to hear their interests, concerns and ideas regarding land use planning in Tualatin – today and in the future.

### Connecting with Stakeholder

City staff posted flyers, sent emails to interested parties, included information on the City’s website and in the City newsletter encouraging people to get involved with Tualatin 2040 either through participation in the Citizen Advisory Committees (CAC) for the Housing Needs Analysis (HNA) or Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA) or to participate in a one hour long stakeholder interview.

Early on in the project City staff and consultant Angelo Planning Group (APG) held a joint meeting for five City Advisory groups to gain early input from them. In addition, the project management team (PMT) for the Tualatin 2040 reached out and presented at monthly meetings of all six Citizen Involvement Organizations (CIOs), the Core Area Parking District Board, and the Library Advisory Committee, as well as Task Forces and the Business Advisory Council to let them know about the many opportunities for public engagement in the Tualatin 2040 project.

Stakeholders' participation included:

- Stakeholder meetings with **interested groups** including:
  - Joint meeting with membership from the from the following on March 12, 2019:
    - Tualatin Planning Commission (TPC)
    - Architectural Review Board (ARB),
    - Tualatin Parks Advisory Committee (TPARK),
    - Tualatin Arts Advisory Committee (TAAC) and
    - Youth Advisory Council (YAC)
  - CIO meetings with the following CIOs:
    - Martinazzi
    - East Tualatin
    - Midwest
    - Byrom
    - Commercial
    - Riverpark
- **Individual interviews** with a total of 15 participants representing a diverse group of stakeholders including residents (owners and renters), business owners, developers, parents with young children and seniors and persons with disabilities.
  - APG conducted twelve one-on-one stakeholder interviews from April 1 to April 3, 2019.
  - City staff conducted two additional interviews -- one on April 9, 2019 with two participants and one on April 29, 2019 with one participant.
- **Group stakeholder interview** with the Tualatin Aging Task Force on May 13, 2019 facilitated by APG and assisted by City staff.

Conversations with participants ranged from very specific to general topics. Participants did not need to have specific knowledge of the Tualatin Development Code to participate. A set of questions were provided to prompt discussions; however, participants were free to focus on the topics more important to them. The questions included the following:

- What land use topics and issues do you think should be City priorities?
- Do you think the City's current policies still speak to Tualatin's priorities or should something change?

- Are the regulations in the Development Code implementing the policies and the community’s priorities? Are the built results turning out the way you want?
- If choices must be made about what chapters of the TDC to update first, what do think should be done first?

## WHAT WE LEARNED

Participating stakeholders shared their thoughts on a wide range of topics. For the summary we have organized the input into the following key topic areas:

- Housing and Livability
- Transportation and Parking
- Civic Identity and Downtown
- Employment and Industrial Development
- Parks, Open Space and the Environment
- Community Engagement
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

While all of the topics were discussed the first two – Housing and Livability and Transportation and Parking -- were the top priorities for most of the stakeholders.

*Participating stakeholders shared their thoughts on a wide range of topics*



## Housing and Livability

- Housing **affordability** was a major topic of discussion and a concern for all stakeholders and some noted the need for the City to have a plan for housing.
- There was broad support for a wider **diversity of housing types** in Tualatin; many felt a wider variety of options (other than single-family homes) would provide more affordable options.
- Some stakeholders expressed **concern**. One stakeholder felt that Tualatin is a suburban town, people live there because they want to live in the suburbs. Others noted that the “densification” of existing single-family residential neighborhoods has potential to ruin **neighborhood character**.
- Some alternative housing types discussed with stakeholders were **townhomes/rowhouses, mixed-use development, duplexes, triplexes, and accessory dwelling units (ADU)**. Most stakeholders were in favor of the full range of housing types. One stakeholder noted that small lot and zero lot line subdivisions could provide higher density that doesn’t feel cramped.
- Some stakeholders stressed the need for high rise apartments (6-8 stories) located next to transportation options and felt that the City’s **height limits** were too low. There was also concern expressed about large house sizes (“McMansions”) making housing unaffordable.
- During the discussion of affordable housing types, several stakeholders mentioned a need for living options for the aging population in Tualatin. A lack of **senior housing** and **multi-generational housing** options were noted. Interest in having more single story (ranch style) homes was also expressed. Several stakeholders mentioned that there are limited locations to downsize within Tualatin.
- Some stakeholders noted a jobs/household composition mismatch. **Workforce housing**, and more affordable housing for employees of Tualatin’s industrial and commercial businesses, was highlighted as a concern. The lack of workforce housing was also underscored as a factor in creating traffic congestion.
- Stakeholders who are part of the development community noted factors impacting the cost of housing such as **land costs** and the lack of available land to develop in Tualatin, for both large and small lots. They noted how cost of development (land, fees, construction materials, etc.) is affecting development operations and impacting affordability, acknowledging that this is a **regional concern**.
- A number of stakeholders mentioned **Basalt Creek**. One stakeholder expressed significant concerns about the environmental impacts of development in Basalt Creek. Others noted that the proposed zoning allows for a good diversity of housing (low density residential, medium low density residential and some high density residential, but that lots should be 3,000 or 4,000 square foot lots.

## Transportation and Parking

- A common concern amongst stakeholders was **congestion** and traffic in town. Many attributed the traffic to employees of local businesses commuting from out of town. One stakeholder mentioned concerns about potential increase in traffic and congestion with more residential development of land available for annexation. Two stakeholders mentioned the potential benefits of a **bypass** if it would alleviate traffic, but not a road widening that would only bring more traffic.
- Transit was another important topic amongst stakeholders. Many expressed the desire for greater **transit access** and service in town, throughout Tualatin, neighboring communities, and to Portland. Further, there was excitement for the proposed **SW Corridor Max Line**. One stakeholder expressed frustration about the lack of transit access to essential services especially for those people who are transit-dependent. The importance of having transit services near affordable housing was also mentioned. **WES** is very limited; it needs to be extended/expanded to reach more areas and one stakeholder suggested a Tualatin–WES shuttle to business parks.
- Walkability of Tualatin was another popular topic amongst stakeholders. Many said they walk in the community, but primarily within their neighborhoods to avoid major roads because of the **uncomfortable pedestrian environment**. The major roads which were noted as providing **poor pedestrian connectivity** between downtown and the City's residential neighborhoods. A few stakeholders suggested encouraging neighborhood commercial areas as a way of alleviating congestion downtown and improving walkability. Some noted the need for boulevard street design with wide sidewalks.
- Some stakeholders had concerns about **ADA accessibility** of the City's pedestrian infrastructure. Examples included height and location of pedestrian signal push buttons and pedestrian light times. Others noted the trail designs lack lighting.
- Several stakeholders stressed the desire for a **more bike friendly** community, providing more facilities and improving comfort for cyclists outside of the City's trails system. One stakeholder noted that currently it doesn't feel safe as there is not a huge awareness of bicyclists in Tualatin. The need for a complete and connected bicycle system was also noted.
- Several stakeholders commented on the need for **adequate parking** at multi-family housing so there is minimal reliance on street parking, especially if smaller multifamily units such as duplexes or triplexes are incorporated into single family neighborhoods. Another stakeholder suggested garages shouldn't count toward parking requirements, because so few are used for parking. However, others noted that parking issues need creative solutions including reduction of parking in some places.
- One stakeholder suggested raising awareness around property owner responsibility to **clear sidewalks** after snowfall and leaf clean-up, primarily because of their effect on the ADA accessibility of sidewalks in those conditions. Another suggested the current requirement for 3-

foot wide planter strips is inadequate and should be increased to 4-feet in width to avoid sidewalks buckling as tree roots grow.

## Civic Identity and Downtown

- Discussions with community members revealed hopes for a more **robust downtown** Tualatin. When asked what brings people downtown, responses included shopping, retail stores, and the library. However, most stakeholders requested more attractions and businesses downtown and shared ideas of how that could be achieved. Some stakeholders also noted their preference to have fewer “chain” businesses in town and believed that the City should encourage more local businesses through incentives and other approaches to attract the “right” local businesses to downtown.
- Stakeholders commented on the **auto-centric** nature of downtown, and the negative impact of parking and traffic on downtown walkability.
- A common theme when discussing downtown was the **lack of identity** or distinct character, with stakeholders asking where is downtown Tualatin?
- Many stakeholders suggested incorporating more “**3<sup>rd</sup> places**” in Tualatin, both public (e.g. community center and arts center) and private (e.g. local coffee shop).
- Stakeholders also stressed the importance of the need for **meeting spaces** in the community. Most stakeholders stressed the lack of meeting spaces for a variety of needs from hosting Girl Scouts meetings to the State of City address.
- Stakeholders with young children noted that while the parks are excellent, there is a need for more **family-friendly entertainment** opportunities.
- Stakeholders also expressed concerns with the many **empty storefronts** in downtown and their poor condition. In particular, various ideas for potential use of the **Haggen’s building** were suggested including community center / theater, meeting spaces, City Hall, mixed uses (residential and commercial).
- Several stakeholders suggested that a **City Hall** be located in the downtown to encourage activity downtown. The City of Wilsonville was mentioned by several as good model for what a Tualatin City Hall could look like. Another suggestion for an attraction downtown was a **performance space** for the local community theatre group.
- Several stakeholders mentioned attending the downtown **farmers market** when it was operating and would support the farmers market returning to downtown.
- Many stakeholders felt that the **Tualatin River** and the **Lake at the Commons** are underutilized assets downtown due to their lack of visibility. There was interest in making The Commons a more interesting place to go with businesses and activities that help bring people there.

- **Food carts** were also mentioned by one stakeholder who believed they should be allowed throughout the community with less restrictions than what are currently in place. They stressed the importance of food trucks as a proven way to help new businesses owners succeed, which they believe the City should encourage. Further, several stakeholders suggested Tualatin allow small **neighborhood commercial areas**.
- Some stakeholders expressed concern about signs noting that the City's **sign code** was outdated.

## Employment and Industrial Development

- Many stakeholders expressed their understanding of the **importance of the industrial** and manufacturing areas in Tualatin and significance of their presence. However, most community members felt these areas primarily provide employment to those out of town and lack local employees, which many stakeholders believed contributes to traffic in Tualatin.
- Also, stakeholders mentioned lack of affordable housing impacting the employment based for Tualatin's industrial and commercial businesses. Concern that local jobs aren't paying enough for people to live locally which generates **traffic**.
- Several stakeholders expressed the desire for the industrial/manufacturing businesses to have a **more positive impact** on the community through avenues such as local hires, internship and scholarship programs for local youth.

## Parks, Open Space and the Environment

- Many stakeholders praised, and said they were frequent users of, **Tualatin's parks and trails**. Other open space areas such as public plazas and other **gathering spaces** were noted as more limited; many stakeholders noted a need for more of these facilities in Tualatin. However, a few stakeholders noted that adding more park land and greenspaces comes at a price and wondered whether current parks were being fully utilized.
- **Family friendly** parks, events, and activities were stressed as important assets, focus, and value of the community as the community consists of many families.
- Also, many stakeholders requested a more robust **community center** with a wider variety of classes, lessons, groups etc. for a broader range of ages beyond what is currently offered at the Juanita Pohl Center.
- Several stakeholders were concerned about the possible lack of preservation of **water quality** in the area. Clean Water Services (CWS) is the primary entity that is focused on water quality; however, the City should consider stakeholders values and a community priority to consider for enhancing strengthening partnership with CWS. The need for more environmentally friendly landscaping requirements was also noted.

- One stakeholder was in favor of enforcing stricter regulations than the baseline CWS standards, an approach that the City of Wilsonville has taken. They also expressed concerns about the impacts of urbanization on **natural resources** and areas in annexation land. Further, they mentioned the City's Stormwater Management Plan is outdated and felt it should be updated to reflect current conditions.
- Several stakeholders noted the need to preserve **Basalt Creek**.

## Community Engagement

- A number of stakeholders recognized that getting more community members involved in local projects is not an easy task, but it is important to reach and engage a **broader group** than the existing strong group of dedicated "**champions**" in the community.
- Several stakeholders noted that the **Citizen Involvement Organizations (CIOs)** could be more robust and encourage more engagement throughout the community. One suggestion was for a citizen involvement advisory committee for the entire City.
- One stakeholder suggested **greater communication** between the City and the **Tigard-Tualatin School District** about significant changes to local schools that impact parking, traffic around town, or other significant impacts to the community. Another emphasized that community engagement efforts need to spread the word to all, even those **outside City boundaries** when policies/plans directly impact them.

## Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

- A number of stakeholders noted the desire for **healthy communities** - everything interconnected – transportation, housing, parks, gathering places, etc.
- Some stakeholders hoped that by providing **housing for a variety of income levels** and ages it would promote more diversity in Tualatin.
- A number of stakeholders noted the need to engage and provide **more visibility for diverse groups** throughout the community, and to continue (and improve) inclusivity in **community engagement**, be sure to hear from a wide range of community members. For example, include signs in Spanish around the City, so all feel included.
- One stakeholder noted that the existing **equity and inclusion policies** in the Comprehensive Plan are thin, should be more robust and a higher consideration during the update of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Many stakeholders noted that importance of encouraging and **welcoming diversity** in the community.