

## Public Participation Needed on Middle Housing Code Changes

The City of Bend should engage the public before holding hearings on proposed amendments to bring the Bend Development Code into compliance with House Bill 2001. That is the opinion of several neighborhood association land use committee chairs and members, who have launched a petition drive so the public can weigh-in.

Go to [tinyurl.com/PumpTheBrakes](http://tinyurl.com/PumpTheBrakes) to see the petition or click the button below.

HB 2001 became law in 2019. It requires that cities allow middle housing (duplexes, triplexes, quadplexes, townhomes, and cottage clusters) wherever single-family detached homes are permitted. The land use chairs support having more housing types available in Bend and believe it is important to gain community acceptance of this critical change in land use practices.

However, the City has limited the role of the public as it drives toward adopting code changes nearly a year before the state's deadline. Meanwhile, cities like Eugene, Beaverton, and Hillsboro are carrying out extensive public outreach prior to even drafting changes.

Under state rules, cities can choose among options regarding lot size, building height and scale, parking, garage doors, and other standards. City staff drafted one particular set of standards with advice from a stakeholder advisory group of only 15 people that was weighted toward development industry insiders. While some community members were in the group, it was not at all representative of the general public.

The proposed [draft amendments](#) will be presented to a work session of the Planning Commission on June 14th, with public hearings planned for July and August, leading to adoption by the City Council. Those who learn about the proposed changes will have to take their concerns to the public hearings.

Bend has until June 2022 to make the necessary changes. The land use chairs believe the City should follow the example of other cities and use some of that time to make sure the community understands and supports the integration of middle housing into our neighborhoods.

For more information, see the statement by the land use committee chairs and members at: [OurBendHousingCode.com](http://OurBendHousingCode.com).

**Tell the City to  
P u m p t h e B r a k e s !**

**If you believe the community should have a voice in the  
Middle Housing code amendments, please sign this petition.**

**Tell the Planning Commission and City Council to slow the process and engage the public.**

<http://chnng.it/DW4h4qjP9j>

*Suggestion: create a button for this link.*