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For immediate release:  
July 18, 2011

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## **Milwaukie joins Oregon's e-permitting program**

*Building contractors can submit plans, print permits, and track projects*

(Salem) – Starting this week, contractors building in Milwaukie can submit plans, track projects, and buy a variety of permits online. The city's building department became the fifth in the state to join Oregon's full-service e-permitting program, administered by the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division.

Springfield, Lebanon, Cottage Grove, and Jefferson County are also using the full-service program, and the division is working to bring 14 other jurisdictions on board, including Lane County and Lake Oswego. The program has the capacity to serve all 134 local building departments in Oregon.

"The full-service program has worked well for contractors and the jurisdictions that have adopted it," said Patrick Allen, acting administrator of the Building Codes Division. "Expanding the program statewide will help make the construction process more efficient and consistent throughout Oregon."

Full-service e-permitting builds on the "basic services" e-permitting program, which allows contractors to buy simple, non-plan review permits online from 34 jurisdictions. To date, more than 90,000 permit applications have been processed online through e-permitting, at [BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov](http://BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov).

With full-service e-permitting, licensed contractors can access many more services, including:

- Purchasing a full range of permits, including permits for the construction of new buildings
- Submitting electronic plans for review
- Receiving correction notices
- Printing their permit
- Tracking the permit progress
- Receiving their Certificate of Occupancy

In addition, licensed architects and engineers can submit applications, including documents for new buildings.

The e-permitting system was developed using software from Accela, Inc., which facilitates shared services approaches for state and local governments.

"E-permitting has been a real time saver for us," said Scott Thelin, vice president of Mike Patterson Plumbing in Oregon City. "It allows us to spend our time where it counts — providing service to our customers. We are looking forward to Milwaukie's migration to the full-service platform."

E-permitting not only saves time for contractors, it reduces the building department's workload because applications filled out online are immediately deposited into the department's system.

"The e-permitting program is a good example of the state working cooperatively with local jurisdictions, and it provides a great service for our stakeholders," said Tom Larsen, city of Milwaukie building official. "I would

encourage all jurisdictions to consider coming on board. The more options for the contractors, the more successful it will be.”

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit [www.dcbs.oregon.gov](http://www.dcbs.oregon.gov).

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