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Oregon Department of Land Conservation & Development

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**Oregon's "*Model Development Code and Users Guide for Small Cities*" Wins "Smart Growth – Sustainability Year 2000" Award**

The American Planning Association (APA) and the American Society of Consulting Planners have recognized the Oregon Transportation and Growth Management Program (TGM)'s "*Model Development Code and Users Guide for Small Cities*" with their "Smart Growth – Sustainability Year 2000" Award.

The award ceremony is scheduled at the national APA conference in New York City on April 18th. The national award specifically recognizes the work of the Lake Oswego-based company Otak, a consulting planning firm that produced the "*Model Code*" along with a Steering Committee of local and state representatives.

Mayor Tim Crampton of Weston remarked, "We are a small town of 620 people and haven't revised our zoning ordinances since 1979. Our commissioners realized that our ordinances were out-dated and needed revising but we didn't know where to start." The "*Model Code*" has provided that starting point and a technical assistance grant from Oregon's TGM Program is providing the follow-up. TGM is a joint program of Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development.

The "*Model Code*" was developed to assist smaller communities, especially those 197 Oregon cities with less than 10,000 people. Smaller communities typically do not have the resources to update their development codes and ordinances. Outdated codes often create barriers to "smart growth" or what is commonly referred to in Oregon as "smart development." For example, zoning practices put in place in the 1950's often need to be revised to allow mixed-use development that supports community goals for housing over retail on historic Main Streets. Street standards and zoning ordinances may need to be improved to ensure school locations and sidewalk connections that provide safe and convenient routes for children to walk to their neighborhood school.

Copies of the "*Model Code*" may be obtained by contacting the TGM Program at (503) 373-0050 x282.

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