



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 10 – 01

PRESERVING AND ENHANCING OREGON'S HISTORIC DOWNTOWNS

Oregon's historic downtowns, including its main street communities and urban commercial neighborhoods, are precious assets to our State. Historic downtowns provide important cultural and civic centers; contribute to the state's economic vitality; advance greenhouse gas reduction goals by creating pedestrian friendly environments; and demonstrate sustainability.

Historic downtowns are repositories of architecturally and historically significant buildings that reflect the aspirations and culture of the communities in which they are located. These buildings provide a sense of place and local identity while offering settings for civic and commercial activities, the arts, and community affairs. Historic downtowns are also a major tourist attraction. Many Oregon communities view cultural heritage tourism as an important economic development strategy because it creates jobs, provides business opportunities, and generates tax revenues for local governments.

Historic downtowns help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through their embodiment of land use and community design concepts that enable Oregonians to move about without relying completely on the automobile for transportation. These districts are characterized by compact, mixed-use development; the concentration of public agencies, stores, housing and services within close proximity of each other; pedestrian-friendly architecture and urban design; and short blocks with convenient connections. Taken together, these features reduce distances between destinations, thereby allowing people to take short trips by foot rather than by motor vehicle. In larger communities, these compact areas also make public transit more feasible.

Historic buildings were built to last. Their age is a testament to their sustainability. Their adaptive use is an example of recycling. Their enduring popularity reflects the desire of people everywhere to be ennobled and dignified by beauty in their surroundings. The architects of historic buildings applied good design and sustainability principles to the construction of such buildings. They took advantage of time-honored, natural methods of heating and cooling. Continued use of historic buildings takes advantage of the resources and energy embodied in them, reduces the need to consume more natural resources for new buildings, and eases pressures on landfills. The revitalization of historic downtowns lessens the need for new infrastructure at the fringes of urban areas and cuts down on the consumption of farm and forest land for new development.



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Oregonians have invested in the infrastructure of historic downtowns. Retaining this infrastructure promotes economic efficiency. Siting and retaining state facilities in compact, pedestrian-friendly central locations, such as historic downtowns, is in the long-term best interest of the State of Oregon.

Recently, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Facilities Division has made concerted efforts to locate and site state agency facilities in historic downtowns. The Facilities Division successfully sited facilities for the Department of Human Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Justice, Department of Corrections, and Employment Department in historic districts in Albany, Portland and Salem. To continue to improve upon these efforts, I issue the following Order.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. As part of the established DAS Facilities Division facility siting process (Policy Number 125-6-115), directors of state agencies shall contact the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to seek its assistance in identifying properties in historic downtowns that might meet the agencies' facilities needs and mission in ways that comport with local downtown revitalization objectives.
2. When economically feasible and consistent with the agency's mission and existing law, state agencies shall strive to locate offices in buildings located in historic downtowns that are pedestrian-friendly, sustainable, and compatible with the uses of nearby historic structures.
3. When economically feasible and consistent with the agency's mission and existing law, agencies shall strive to obtain meeting space and lodging accommodations in historic buildings located in historic downtowns. When such space or accommodations are not available, or not suitable, state agencies shall consider meeting space or lodging in non-historic buildings located in pedestrian friendly and/or transit friendly areas in historic downtowns.

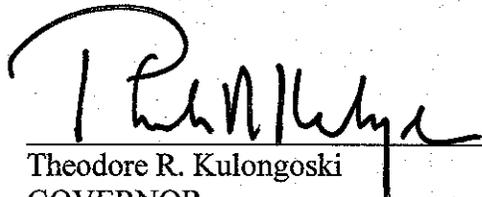


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4. In consultation with the SHPO, the director of DAS shall develop policies to implement this order as soon as practicable. The policies so developed shall provide for consultation with local officials and the consideration of local planning initiatives intended to enhance the livability and economic vibrancy of historic downtowns. Any parking calculations in the policies shall encourage the retention of historic buildings as well as urban form characteristics of historic areas that minimize the need to make short trips by automobile, thereby reducing local carbon footprints. Directors of state agencies shall cooperate with the DAS and SHPO in implementing this order.

Done at McMinnville, Oregon this 13th day of January, 2010.




Theodore R. Kulongoski
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


Kate Brown
SECRETARY OF STATE