

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



---

## Work Session: Building Inspector Field Mobility

---

Meeting Date: February 15, 2012  
Department: Planning and Development  
*www.eugene-or.gov*

Agenda Item Number: B  
Staff Contact: Stuart Ramsing  
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6801

---

### **ISSUE STATEMENT**

This work session provides the opportunity to show off the latest mobile office prototype as building inspection staff moves closer to their work in the field.

### **BACKGROUND and PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The City of Eugene is committed to excellence, innovation, and professionalism. Staff serves with dedication, care, respect and pride to make Eugene a safe, livable community with high quality, responsive, and accessible services. Over the last several years, the Building Inspection program has been developing new and innovative ways to administer building codes, both in the office and in the field. In the field, building inspectors are tasked with ensuring that concepts and agreements are transformed into safe, built products according to their plans. To enable their work, inspectors have driven from site to site in a fleet of Toyota Prius'.

The first version of field mobility moved staff from paper work logs and a street map to a computer-based system. Inspectors carry a laptop computer and have adapted the passenger seat of their Prius as a work station. Cellular connections provide a real-time link to the internet and full City computing resources and on-line codebooks.

Field Mobility v2 is the development of a mobile work space to replace the Prius. The Ford Transit Connect van has room for a work space, large monitor for viewing plans, copy/scanner and printer all organized around a desk and bench. There is room for tools, books and plans that are out of the weather with limited climate control. As the Prius vehicles come up for routine replacement, staff is looking to this mobile office model to increase flexibility, effectiveness and efficiency. Total cost, including conversion and the installed computing systems, is around \$28,000.

Harnessing the power of technology has not only created significant on-going savings for the City, it has also added to inspectors' efficiency, allowing them up to an additional hour a day in the field. Home owners and contractors have noticed the benefits as well and regularly communicate their appreciation for the faster and more convenient service.

**RELATED CITY POLICIES**

Effective, Accountable Municipal Government

*A government that works openly, collaboratively, and fairly with the community to achieve measurable and positive outcomes and provide effective, efficient services.*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Staff Contact: Stuart Ramsing

Telephone: 541-682-6801

Staff E-Mail: [Stuart.G.Ramsing@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:Stuart.G.Ramsing@ci.eugene.or.us)