

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Healthy Downtown and Public Smoking

Meeting Date: May 20, 2015
Department: Planning & Development/LRCS
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: B
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ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council has requested a work session to discuss expanding smoke-free areas in downtown Eugene. Information collected from other communities, local assessments, and stakeholder interviews will be presented along with key considerations to help inform next steps in supporting a healthy and welcoming downtown for everyone while reducing the impact of tobacco and secondhand smoke on the community.

BACKGROUND

Tobacco is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, Oregon, and Lane County. Tobacco-related diseases kill approximately 7,000 Oregonians each year and nearly 700 people a year in Lane County alone. An additional 600 deaths are caused by secondhand smoke each year across the state. Surveys indicate that 75 percent of Lane County residents believe it is important to be protected from secondhand smoke outdoors.

Preventing and reducing the impact of tobacco in Lane County is one of the top five priorities of the local Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). Evidence shows that increasing tobacco and smoke-free environments is one of the most effective ways to reduce tobacco use and prevent secondhand smoke exposure.

The City of Eugene has a long-standing commitment to both the health and quality of life of community members. As part of that commitment, Eugene has historically been a state leader in championing efforts that reduce the impact of tobacco and secondhand smoke. In 2000, the City's Smoke-Free Workplace Ordinance made Eugene the second city in Oregon to ensure everyone, including those working in restaurants and bars, was protected from secondhand smoke while at work. In 2001, Eugene's Youth Access to Tobacco Ordinance established tobacco retail licensing to help ensure tobacco is not sold to underage youth. More recently, in 2010, the council passed an ordinance to create smoke-free grounds surrounding City-owned buildings that provide services to children, such as the Eugene Public Library.

Due to the enormous cost of tobacco use to society and individuals, there is an increasing trend for businesses and governments to adopt policies regulating smoking or tobacco use in outdoor

public spaces nationally and in Oregon. In Oregon, 18 cities 10 park districts, and five counties have created smoke-free parks and open spaces. Salem, Oregon, recently passed an ordinance that allows smoking to be prohibited on sidewalks and landscape strips within public rights-of-way that are adjacent to properties where smoking is prohibited as a policy of the property owner. Cities including Boulder, Colorado, Fort Collins Colorado, Syracuse, New York, Ithaca, New York, Burlington, Vermont, Boise, Idaho, and San Rafael, California, have passed ordinances creating smoke-free outdoor areas in their city centers and downtowns.

Over the last five years, Eugene's downtown has been transformed, bringing more people, visitors, and families to the core of the city. During that time, more than \$220 million dollars of public and private investments have gone into revitalizing the physical and economic landscape resulting in dozens of new businesses, hundreds of new residents, and a considerable increase in downtown visitors and pedestrians. In addition, the City has focused on developing year-round programs and events that attract residents, visitors, and families to the city center. The City and its partners have made significant investments to support a welcoming and vibrant downtown experience that everyone can enjoy.

Current ordinances do not allow smoking within 10 feet of any public doorway or within 25 feet of the entrances to government buildings throughout Eugene. While these ordinances provide some level of protection from secondhand smoke indoors, they do not address outdoor smoking in high use pedestrian areas, such as downtown sidewalks and public spaces.

City staff have partnered with Lane County Public Health to gather additional information related to potential policies to expand smoke-free areas in downtown and important considerations to ensure these efforts are equitable and effective. Staff will present lessons learned from other communities that have created smoke-free public areas as well as data collected locally from assessments and key informant interviews (see Attachments A and B).

RELATED CITY POLICIES

City Council Goals

Safe Community - A community where all people are safe, valued and welcome.

- Greater sense of safety (especially downtown)

Regional Prosperity Economic Development Plan

Strategy 5: Identify as a Place to Thrive, Priority Next Step - Urban Vitality

As we foster a creative economy, dynamic urban centers are an important asset. Eugene, Springfield and many of the smaller communities in the region, recognize the importance of supporting and enhancing vitality in their city centers. Building downtowns as places to live, work and play will support the retention and expansion of the existing business community and be a significant asset to attract new investment. The Cities of Eugene and Springfield will continue to enhance their efforts to promote downtown vitality through development and redevelopment.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

This is an informational work session.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

This is an informational work session. No recommendation is proposed at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION

This is an informational work session. No motion is proposed at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Healthy Downtown Eugene: Assessment Data - Phase1: Key Informant Interviews and Observational Study of Outdoor Smoking
- B. Interview List of Community Members Engaged in Discussion of Healthy Downtown

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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