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Lake Oswego introduces e-permits

City joins building departments statewide to offer one-stop shopping for construction permits

(Lake Oswego) — Contractors will no longer have to stand in line to get simple building permits from the City of Lake Oswego. A one-stop e-permitting Web site, www.buildingpermits.Oregon.gov, allows contractors to apply and pay for permits from home, the office, or even the job site on a 24/7 basis.

Starting March 5, Lake Oswego joins area building departments in Clackamas County, Portland, Oregon City, Milwaukie, Beaverton, Hillsboro, and Washington County — as well as in the Lane County area, Medford, and Cannon Beach — in offering this service. The state's Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division hosts the site where contractors can quickly apply and pay for multiple permits from multiple jurisdictions in one transaction.

“This Web site provides efficiencies and convenience to both the customer and local jurisdictions,” said Stan Heil of Stan Heil Electric in Portland. “It is a good example, and a reason for the state to go forward on an e-permitting program that offers a full range of services.”

The e-permitting program is part of Gov. Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining initiative. House Bill 2405, introduced at the request of the governor during this legislative session, would expand the existing pilot program to create the nation's first comprehensive statewide e-building program. Such a program would allow contractors to conduct more building department activities, such as receiving plan approval and scheduling inspections, online, morning, noon, and night, with any city or county in the state.

Both the participating jurisdictions and contractors praise the e-permitting program. City and county building officials enjoy providing enhanced customer service, and contractors, report that the site saves them time and the hassle of faxing forms and driving to the permit office.

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The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon.

DCBS, Oregon's largest regulatory agency, administers state laws and rules, and protects consumers and workers in the areas of workers' compensation, occupational safety and health, financial services, insurance, building codes, and targeted contracting opportunities for small business. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.