



Medford Chamber of Commerce

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January 22, 2025 via email

Dear Medford Community Development Board,

The Medford Chamber of Commerce is encouraged by the proposed zoning changes aimed at fostering commercial development and strengthening the Medford business community. These efforts represent an important step toward making Medford a more attractive and accessible place for businesses to grow and thrive. By defining commercial districts, outlining development options, and providing clear regulations, Medford will entice new businesses to open and allow existing businesses to expand.

As the Salem St. Corridor is being reviewed and public comment allowed, it would be helpful to know the scheduled date of the vote on this matter. It is understood that the vote may be delayed due to community comments, scheduling issues or a variety of other reasons. It is essential the business community know the earliest date the vote on this matter will occur so they can properly assess how to prioritize their review. This information should be posted in Phase 2 of the zoning section of the City's website in addition to the notice requirements required by law.

Also, the December 11th Memorandum outlining the zoning changes has highlights in yellow, blue and pink. What is the meaning of the different colors? It would be beneficial if the document included the meaning of the color codes.

In reviewing the documents, we have the following initial questions:

1. The public parking incentive is listed as "to be confirmed" (page 15 of Innes Dec. 11th Memorandum). What are some of the incentives being considered?
2. Existing businesses need public parking. Currently, freestanding parking lots which are not associated with a new business are not allowed (section F 3,4,5). While it's understood that a parking lot may not be an economically feasible venture in this area it should be an option.
3. For the existing fuel businesses (J 1.) that are now excluded in this area, what are their options if they want to sell their business?
4. Has a traffic study been done for this area based upon proposed zoning changes?

Respectfully,

Laura O'Neill, Executive Director Medford Chamber of Commerce