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#### SIGN CODE UPDATE DBA March Membership Meeting – March 14, 2018



#### PRESENTATION PURPOSES:

Share progress on Phase 2 (permanent signs)

Summarize public comment and preferences

Receive input on sign options

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- Public hearings on content- ( neutral regulations • V
- Coffee Talks (3)
  - Worksessions with boards and commissions
  - Draft Code
  - Public Meeting
  - Public Hearings



## Why Regulate Signs?

### Sign regulations

- Balance business interests and community aesthetics
- Balance the right to expression vs. public safety
- Preserve and enhance property values

### Why update the Sign Code now?

- Confirm current sign standards are meeting City's goals, such as economic development
- Enhance code legibility
- Implement the recently adopted Downtown Plan
- Explore changes to accommodate new technology

# **Downtown Signs**

**Context**: Downtown is a vibrant pedestrian district with particular historical and cultural significance.

**Issue:** The current sign standards are applied city-wide and not unique to the Downtown area. The Old Town Design Guidelines only apply to a portion of Downtown. Downtown Fort Collins Zoning District





# Sign Options

SIGN TYPE	LOCATION	WHAT COULD CHANGE?	WHAT WILL NOT CHANGE?
Wall Signs	Downtown	Specify lighting method? Revise heights based on pedestrian environment and height of building? Flexibility for vertical wall signs?	Other existing standards.
<b>Projecting Signs</b>	Downtown	Increase height relative to height of building? Flexibility for vertical projecting signs?	Other existing standards.
Window Signs	Downtown	Increase/decrease coverage allowance? Address transparent signs?	Other existing standards.
Awning Signs	Downtown	Increase coverage allowance?	Other existing standards.
Historic Signs	Downtown	<b>New Sign Type/Process:</b> Increase flexibility or create new process to allow re-creation of historic signs that contribute to the period of significance of a historic building/district?	Other existing standards.



# Sign Options

SIGN TYPE	LOCATION?	WHAT COULD CHANGE?	WHAT WILL NOT CHANGE?
Secondary Roof Signs	Downtown or Citywide?	<b>New Sign Type:</b> Appropriate districts? Maximum size? Placement on secondary roof/canopy?	Other existing standards.
Electronic Message Centers (EMCs)	Outside of Downtown	Increase percent of sign face? Increase color? Increase resolution?	Other existing standards.
Digital Billboards	Outside of Downtown	<b>New Sign Type:</b> Accelerate reduction of existing billboards through incentive of up to 5 new digital billboard locations?	Could leave code as is: prohibiting new off-premise signs.
Interactive Window Signs	Downtown or Citywide?	<b>New Sign Type:</b> Appropriate districts? Maximum size? Brightness?	Other existing standards.
Horizontal or Vertical Projected Light Signs	Downtown or Citywide?	<b>New Sign Type:</b> Appropriate districts? Maximum size? Placement sidewalk or building? Temporary or permanent? Colors?	Other existing standards.

# **Bottom Line**

### **Potential impact to business owners:**

- If the sign code is updated, existing signs can remain.
- More sign types could be available: historic signs, secondary roofs, interactive window signs, horizontal and/or vertical light projected signs
- Sign allowances could be increased: for taller buildings
- Revised standards: window signs, wall signs

### OR

Permanent Sign Code remains the same (no options added).

## Next Steps

□ Coffee Talks (March 22)

- □ Finalize Questionnaire Results (end of March)
- □ Draft Code (April)
- □ Public Meetings on Draft Code (May)
- □ P&Z Commission Study Session (May-June)
- □ Adoption Process (June-July)

# Other ways to comment

- □ Submit comments online
- □ Schedule a Meeting | Email Noah Beals (nbeals@fcgov.com)