



Planning and Building Services Department
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www.lakeoswego.city

FORMAL CODE INTERPRETATIONS

WHAT IS A FORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION?

A Formal Code Interpretation (LOC 50.01.005.1.a) is the resolution of a question concerning the meaning or applicability of any part of the Development Code or Comprehensive Plan as it relates to the proposed development of a specific property owned by the applicant (owner or owner's appointed agent). A Formal Code Interpretation is subject to public notice, opportunity for appeal, and fees. The interpretation is binding on City staff as it applies to future development of the subject property, but is not binding as it relates to the development of other properties.

(Note: The Lake Oswego Community Development Code also provides rules for issuing *Informal* Code Interpretations [LOC 50.01.005.1.b]. An Informal Code Interpretation is not subject to notice, appeal, or fee and is not binding on future land use decisions on the subject property or in general. A request for an Informal Code Interpretation can be made to City staff orally or in writing.)

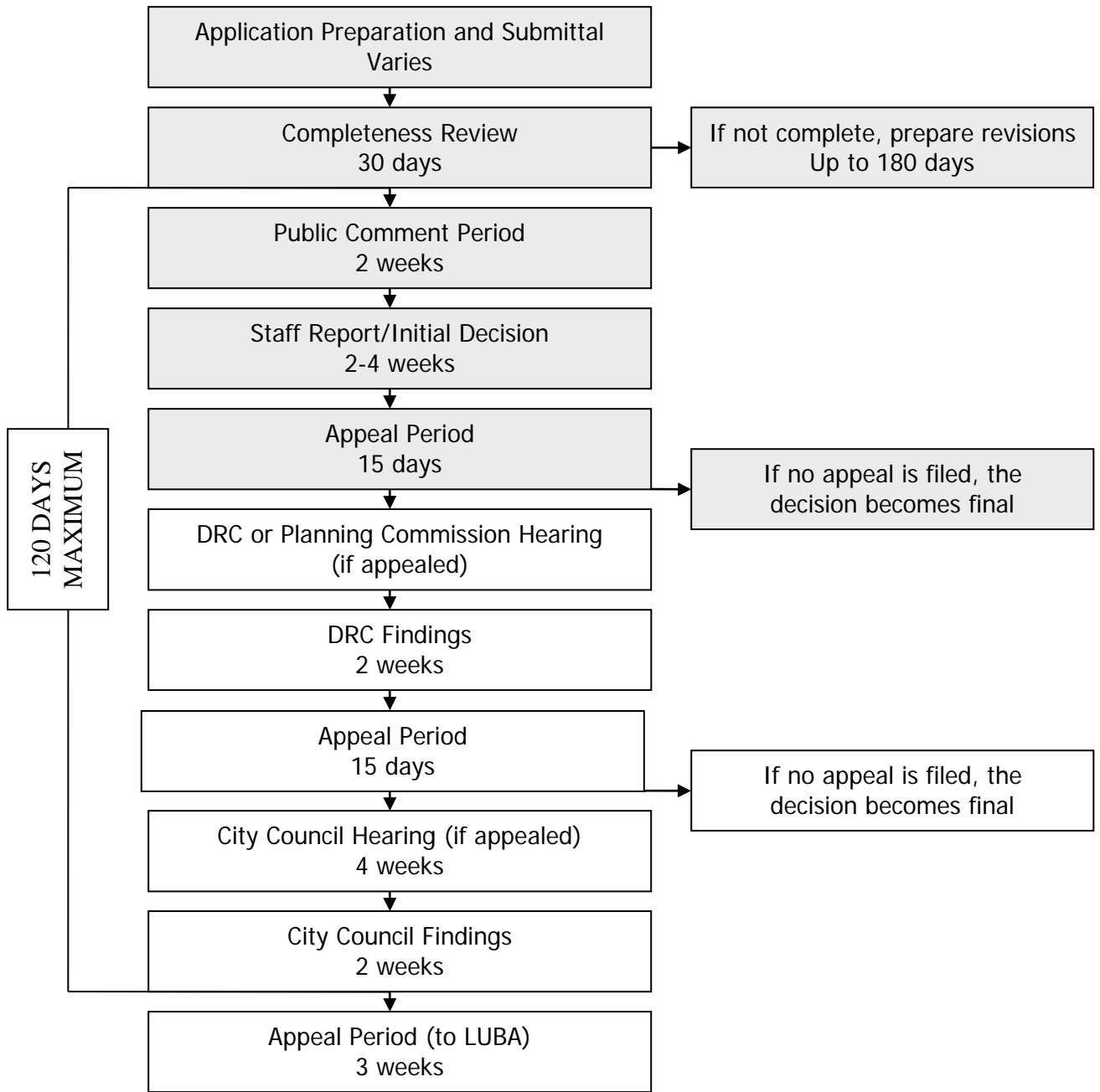
APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The applicant (owner or owner's appointed agent) files a complete application with the Department of Planning and Building Services using the Land Use Application form available at the department (and on our website at www.lakeoswego.city). Please refer to the attached "Submittal Requirements" section for a list of the materials that are typically required for a Formal Interpretation application.

Submitted plans and attachments are routed to all concerned City departments for review. The City has 30 days to determine whether the Formal Code Interpretation application is complete. If the application is "incomplete," a letter will be sent to the applicant indicating what additional information is necessary. When the application is "complete," the City mails a Notice of Application to surrounding property owners, which begins a 14-day comment period.

WHO MAKES THE DECISION

In most cases, planning staff will make the decision on a Formal Code Interpretation application following the comment period. Your application will be evaluated on the basis of the information you provide, the criteria listed in the pertinent sections of the City's Community Development Code and other codes, public comment, and inspection of the property. Appeals of the staff decision can be made to the Development Review Commission (DRC) or Planning Commission. If staff finds that the Formal Code Interpretation request will be controversial or that there is a high likelihood that the staff decision will be appealed, staff may refer the application to the DRC for a public hearing for the initial decision. Appeals of the DRC's decision can be made to the City Council. The flow chart below identifies the typical review process for a Formal Code Interpretation; however, special circumstances may increase certain processing times. A staff decision becomes final after expiration of the 15-day appeal period, unless an appeal is filed.



SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

A complete application is required before the City can proceed with analysis and make an informed decision on your application. Following is a list of materials that are typically required for a Formal Code Interpretation application. Only digital submissions of materials will be accepted. Please do not submit your application until all the items on the list that apply to your proposal have been included. Consult with the Planning and Building Services Department if you have a question. All application materials become public record.

GENERAL

Please submit one electronic copy of each of the following items:

- Completed Land Use Application form signed by the property owner(s). Agent authorization is required if application is not signed by owners of all subject parcels.
- Proof of ownership such as a copy of deed or title report.
- A narrative clearly describing the issues and the code section(s) that the applicant desires to be interpreted. Additional information may be provided by the applicant in support of their application.
- Any relevant graphic information, such as a scaled site plan and floor plans.
- Payment of application fee.
- Additional information may be identified by staff during the completeness review period.