

For Immediate Distribution

October 4, 2012

Contact: Erik Wahrgren, City - Project Engineer

Phone: 503-657-0891

E-mail: ewahrgren@orcitey.org



Press Release

State of Oregon recognizes Oregon City's Two-Way Main Street project for the "Best Public Improvement Project" award in its Oregon Main Street Program.

The Oregon State Review Committee has selected Oregon City's Two-Way Main Street project as "Best Public Improvement Project" as part of the Excellence in Downtown Revitalization Award Program. The official announcement was made at the Oregon Main Street Conference on October 3, 2012, in Corvallis.

"Through the leadership of our Public Works Department and our public/private partnership with the non-profit Main Street Oregon City, we improved traffic circulation and storefront exposure in our downtown," said Oregon City's City Manager, David Frasher.

A conversion back to a two-way Main Street fully connected businesses on the north and south ends of our downtown. This project completes the City Commission's direction to implement traffic improvements in this phase of infrastructure improvement in Oregon's oldest incorporated City. For more than 166 years, the City of Oregon City has endured, grown, and adapted to a changing world. With the 2011/2012 closure and restoration of the Oregon City Arch Bridge, Oregon City faced a challenge to its downtown revitalization efforts, which were only one-year old at the time. Through a \$2.5 million investment in public infrastructure, the City of Oregon City is reshaping its future to embrace the changing economy.

"We made significant improvements to downtown during a difficult time for businesses," said Erik Wahrgren, Project Engineer. "We would like to thank the businesses and downtown stakeholders for their patience and understanding. We hope that this project will be a building block that supports future growth in downtown Oregon City."

The Two-Way Main Street Conversion in downtown Oregon City was one part of a larger infrastructure project. It sent a signal to downtown business owners, property owners, area residents and potential investors throughout the region, that downtown Oregon City is open for business. The "Best Public Improvement Project Award" demonstrates the City's professional commitment to best practices, exceptional project development and administration, and that the

community continues to adapt, overcoming challenges (like a bridge closure and a national recession), in order to continue to evolve into a modern marketplace.

###

Photos courtesy of City of Oregon City.



Caption: Public Works employee hanging 2-way Main Street banner.



September 18, 2012 Ribbon Cutting Event