



BUILDING CODE MODERNIZATION UPDATE

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CODE MODERNIZATION: HISTORY

The most recent 2021 code adoption was performed in 2024. This grant funded program aimed to update the City's dated construction codes and modernize its code development process.

- Process spanned almost two years
- Involved stakeholder engagement, task force groups, and committee reviews
- Hosted internal and external code training workshops
- Successfully adopted the 2021 International Building Codes in 2024



CODE ADOPTION: HIGHLIGHTS

FOR THE 2021 CODE ADOPTION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024



SPEED

Achieved the fastest code adoption in the history of the City of Houston.



TRAINING TOOLKIT

Created:

- 26 Technical Papers to provide a clearer definition and description of the codes.
- 2,700+ pages of Cross Reference Code Analyses for 7 codes.
- 1,000 slides of Significant Changes for 9 Building Codes.



TRAINING COURSES

Provided to community stakeholders and Houston Permitting employees:

- 130 education hours
- 65+ trainings & workshops
- 1000+ community stakeholder participants
- 230 Houston Permitting Center participants



TRAINING MANUAL

Created a 220+ page document with 54 exhibits that include:

- Project Management Plan
- Public Participation Plan
- Training Implementation Plan

CURRENT INITIATIVES



YEAR-ROUND CURRICULUM

Partnering with Customer Service and Communications to target external stakeholder needs

TOPICS AND PARTICIPANTS

- Houston Permitting Center staff and industry professionals
- Plan Review processes; code updates and new technologies

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Monthly trainings focused on continuous improvement and service quality

WHY IT MATTERS



- Improve customer service through education alignment
- Drives consistent code interpretations, improving plan submittal quality and plan reviews
- Partners with all departments to support process improvements
- Informs customers about updates to checklists, Frequently Asked Questions and web content
- Reduced insurance rates
- Better community development focused on life safety

CODE MODERNIZATION: TRAINING & OUTREACH

ONGOING HOUSTON PERMITTING CENTER ENGAGEMENT TRAININGS



- Conducted 17 internal trainings year to date
- Hosted 18 external trainings year to date
- Revamped and Expanded Certification Programs
 - Permit Technicians
 - Building Code Certification
- **2nd Annual Permitting Workshop**
 - Save the Date: November 19, 2025
 - (New) 3 permitting tracks: New to Permitting, Pro's at Permitting, and Developer Needs in Permitting

WHAT'S NEXT

CODE UPDATE AND CODE ADOPTION

Planned Initiatives

Targeting to implement 2024 select Codes: utilizing high-value 2024 provisions now provides cost savings, immediate benefits and will save time on future 2027 adoption. Target 2026.

AND

Full Adoption of 2027 Codes: Full development cycle to adopt the most current 2027 codes. Target 2028.



Questions



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thank you!



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