

BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT PERMIT PROCESS REVIEW

Why are we reviewing the permit process?

The Building and Development sector is highly regulated/ legislated and includes permit review and inspection processes that facilitate both land use and construction in Saskatoon. Issuing a permit, whether for a residential or commercial construction project, requires a comprehensive review of the application to ensure regulatory requirements are met prior to the start of construction.

What is the goal of the project?

The goal of the project is to become a national leader in building permit turnaround times, which will see changes, designed to streamline business practices and development approvals, phased in over the next 18 months.

The City is gathering project requirements and considerations to ensure the project will balance the needs of the citizens of the city, the interest of businesses and the legislated requirements the City must abide by.



What does this mean for you?

Administration is committed to continuing our work with the development industry to become a national leader in the administration of building and development permits, applications and inspection processes.

The hiring of a Building Standards Special Project Manager on July 2 2019 marked the formal start date of the project. Work in August is focused on engaging with stakeholders to finalize a project plan, which will focus on three main areas:

- Improved Customer Service** – the goal is to improve the way we deliver service to our customers, specifically at the front-end of the permitting process. Included in this initiative is the Commercial Complete Application Project, which will reduce the amount of time spent on collecting missing application information. The project implementation date is on target for October 1, 2019.
- Online Submission of Permit Applications** – the key area of focus is to improve the application process by clearly defining the submission requirements for each project type, implementing a permit tracking and status update feature, and accepting online payment. The work in this area will build on the success of the new process for Residential Building Permits, which was introduced in January 2018.
- Electronic Plan Review** – the goal is to change the linear permit application review process with the objective to cut-down permit turnaround times by 50% (to approximately 5 weeks) for the typical commercial permit project.

COMMENTS