



2023-2025 HRB Work Plan Item #7 Improving the Historic Review Approval Process- Revisit HRB Policy #12 Solar Panels - Literature Review and Public Outreach Approach.

Historic Review Board
March 26, 2024



HRB Direction Needed

HRB members will discuss expanding options for Type I review of Solar Panel and decide whether to:

1. Proceed with a public outreach process and adopt revisions to HRB policy #12
2. Retain the current HRB policy #12 and continue to monitor the issue throughout the 2023- 2025 work plan. The Board will table this work plan item and determine if they want to pursue additional changes in this or a future HRB work plan.



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- Solar panel installations on visible elevations of historic buildings are becoming more acceptable due to the growing awareness of the importance of renewable energy and the need for green energy.
- This is a change from the past when the view was that all solar panels must be shielded from view to meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards for rehabilitation. Oregon City created a new solar panel policy a few years ago, but it requires all solar panels on main public viewing roofs to be reviewed at an HRB hearing.



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Work to Date

August 11, 2023 – CAMP presentation on the city of Denver’s approach to Solar Panels

September 26, 2023: Adopted the 2023-2025 HRB workplan, potentially revising HRB policy #12 solar panels

November 28, 2023 work session: Review existing HRB policy and Denver's revisions; requests an additional work session with more photos of each example.

February 27, 2024 work session: Reviewed examples in PPT- no specific consensus on the approach to move forward; requested staff provide a “white paper” member to be able to review information to date.

March 26, 2024 work session: Staff is looking to see if there is consensus to move forward on revision- or if HRB wants to monitor the issue and pursue additional reasons with a future work plan.



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2. Retain the current HRB policy #12 and continue to monitor the issue throughout the 2023- 2025 work plan. The Board will table this work plan item and determine if they want to pursue additional changes in this or a future HRB work plan.



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