

City of Crosby Zoning Code Update

The City of Crosby will be working with their city engineer, Interstate Engineering (IEI), to update their city zoning code (Ordinance 303). IEI has an urban planning group that helps communities across the region with community and economic development projects. The goal is to produce a zoning code that is “right-sized” for the City and help the community realize future needs and wants. Public involvement is crucial to achieving these goals.

There will many opportunities for you to participate and we encourage you to:

- 1. Take the survey. This will help the planning team get a better feel for your ideas and concerns for the Crosby.**
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/crosbyzoning>
- 2. Attend the public workshop scheduled to occur in the late spring/early summer. This workshop is your opportunity to tell IEI’s planners firsthand about life in the Crosby, community goals, and development challenges. Bring your walking shoes because we will go on a walking tour to look at important zoning items first hand!**

While IEI’s planning manager is available at matt.lower@interstateeng.com to answer any questions you may have, here are a few frequently asked ones:

What is a zoning code?

A zoning code is a tool used by local governments to shape the physical environment of a community over time by allowing for land uses where they are most usable, feasible, and in the best interest of the public.

Why does Crosby’s zoning ordinance need to be updated?

Zoning codes have to change with the needs of the community and advancements in city planning. A lot has changed since the last significant revision of Crosby’s zoning code was done in 2001. This project will give the City of Crosby a zoning code that is right-sized for their needs and promote development that enhances the community.

Why update the zoning code now?

This is a great time to update the zoning code because Crosby isn’t facing a lot of new development pressures. With Crosby being located in a region heavily subject to the boom and bust cycle of the natural resources industry, a relative lull in regional economic investment is the right time to “set the stage” for the future.

How will we know the project is successful?

The project will be successful when it realizes 4 goals:

- i. **Be Predictable.** An effective zoning code makes it easy for the common citizen to predict what will be built on any given lot. This not only gives neighbors piece of mind, but is crucial to potential investors because it shows them how a community wants to grow. A predictable code is not a regulation- it's a powerful economic development tool.
- ii. **Advance Community Goals.** Crosby is a dynamic regional center for northwestern ND, complete with an active downtown, community center/hockey rink, medical center, and other features which make it an appealing place to live. The new planning and zoning ordinance will enable the community to achieve shared goals.
- iii. **Be Easy to Implement.** By simply being smaller than their urban counterparts, rural centers like Crosby typically have less resources to implement a community development code. An updated zoning ordinance in Crosby should be easy to implement and aligned to the resources the community has available. We will develop smarter zoning requirements without being more complicated. Successful zoning ordinances in communities like Crosby also use common language, photos, and diagrams to convey ideas, making the ordinance accessible to all citizens.
- iv. **Create New Momentum.** The process to update a zoning ordinance creates a new momentum in the community. The modernized code can serve as a foundation for future activities. There are many opportunities that will be renewed and enhanced by the completion of a new zoning ordinance, a few that have been conveyed to us include the Southridge Acres Subdivision, vacant property revitalization, and streetscapes/landscaping throughout the community.