

NEIGHBORS FOR MORE NEIGHBORS COALITION

UDO FAQ

What is the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)?

The UDO is the action plan and the framework for bringing the vision (2040 Comprehensive Plan) to life. Existing Zoning laws do not promote growth for a sustainable, equitable future. While adjustments and additional ordinances have been adopted along the way, these adoptions do not address future development. With the UDO, families will realize social and economic development growth for a better future.

A smart, unified approach for future development considers the needs of all Charlotteans, mixed and preserved neighborhoods, and other community benefits such as eco-friendly green spaces and gathering places.

Now is the time to learn from the past where profit and segregation were standard and prepare for the future with social and economic opportunities for individuals, families, businesses, and neighborhoods.

Why does the UDO matter?

1. More comprehensible regulations. According to Charlotteudo.org, the UDO combines regulations and standards from eight (8) different development ordinances into a single comprehensive document, making the development process more efficient, while addressing the need for more sustainable and equitable housing for families.

The UDO updates regulations and standards currently found in the City's Zoning Ordinance, [Subdivision Ordinance](#), [Tree Ordinance](#), [Chapter 19 \(Streets and Sidewalks\)](#), [Floodplain Regulations](#), [Soil Erosion & Sedimentation Control Regulations](#), [Post-Construction Stormwater Regulations](#), and [Driveway/Access Standards](#).

With the current myriad of different zoning rules and ordinances, the UDO will provide consistency and predictability under an overall plan, making it easier for residents to understand. The City has released a helpful "[Reference Guide](#)" to the draft UDO.

2. More accessible, affordable housing options. Demand for housing has increased redevelopment across Charlotte neighborhoods, often displacing families through gentrification, for example. By adding duplex/triplex/quadruplex housing, families will have access to more affordable options, mitigating housing price increases often associated with redevelopment. The UDO also ensures neighborhood preservation through Historic District and Neighborhood Character Overlays.
3. More green spaces, less congested traffic patterns. The UDO is specifically designed to create more accessible and walkable neighborhoods, reducing the need for driving and, in some cases, purchasing a car. It also seeks to integrate development and transportation planning, serving high density areas with thoughtful mass transit services. The cost burden to put a "car centric" infrastructure in place impacts everyone. And retrofitting green space amenities after the fact is also expensive.

How will the UDO challenge/change existing property rights?

The need for the UDO is clear. The current Zoning laws are outdated and will not keep up with the rate of growth in Charlotte now and the future. Adjustments and additional ordinances have been adopted on an ad hoc basis and do not conform to strategic growth mapping that will sustain Charlotte's neighborhoods and equitable prosperity for families in the future.

What is the timeline of the UDO?

PHASE 1 – October 7, 2021 – March 18, 2022

The public draft was developed by the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County staff, with feedback from its Ordinance Advisory Committee and consultant support from Camiros, Ltd.

Comments on the first draft were accepted through March 18, 2022. [Click here](#) to share your thoughts on the first draft.

PHASE 2 – March 2022 – April 2022

The UDO will be revised with consideration given to community feedback. A second draft was released on June 3 with mark-up displaying changes. *Comments on the second draft will be accepted through June 30, 2022. [Click here](#) to share your thoughts on the first draft.*

PHASE 3 – May 2022 – June 2022

The second draft of the UDO will be subject to community comment at the public hearing before the City Council and Planning Commission. This will be the second opportunity for the community to review the UDO, with the Planning Committee of the Planning Commission recommending changes for a third draft.

PHASE 4 – July 2022

The public hearing on this draft of the UDO will be held on July 11, 2022. The Planning Committee of the Planning Commission will consider this draft of the UDO for recommendation to the City Council on July 19, 2022. The third draft of the UDO will be developed based on the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

PHASE 5 – August 2022

A third draft will be considered and voted on by City Council on August 22, 2022.