

Where Policy Meets Place: GIS in Public Service

Chris Van Drimmelen – City Councilor, Ward 2
City of Albany, OR



Chris Van Drimmelen, M.Ed.



- Land Stewardship & Business Process Manager
 - Real Property, Facilities Planning & Management
- Manage GIS system of record for Real Property assets
 - 26,000+ owned acres
 - 250+ leases
 - ~500 encumbrances
 - Rights/restrictions – anything there is to know about OSU land!



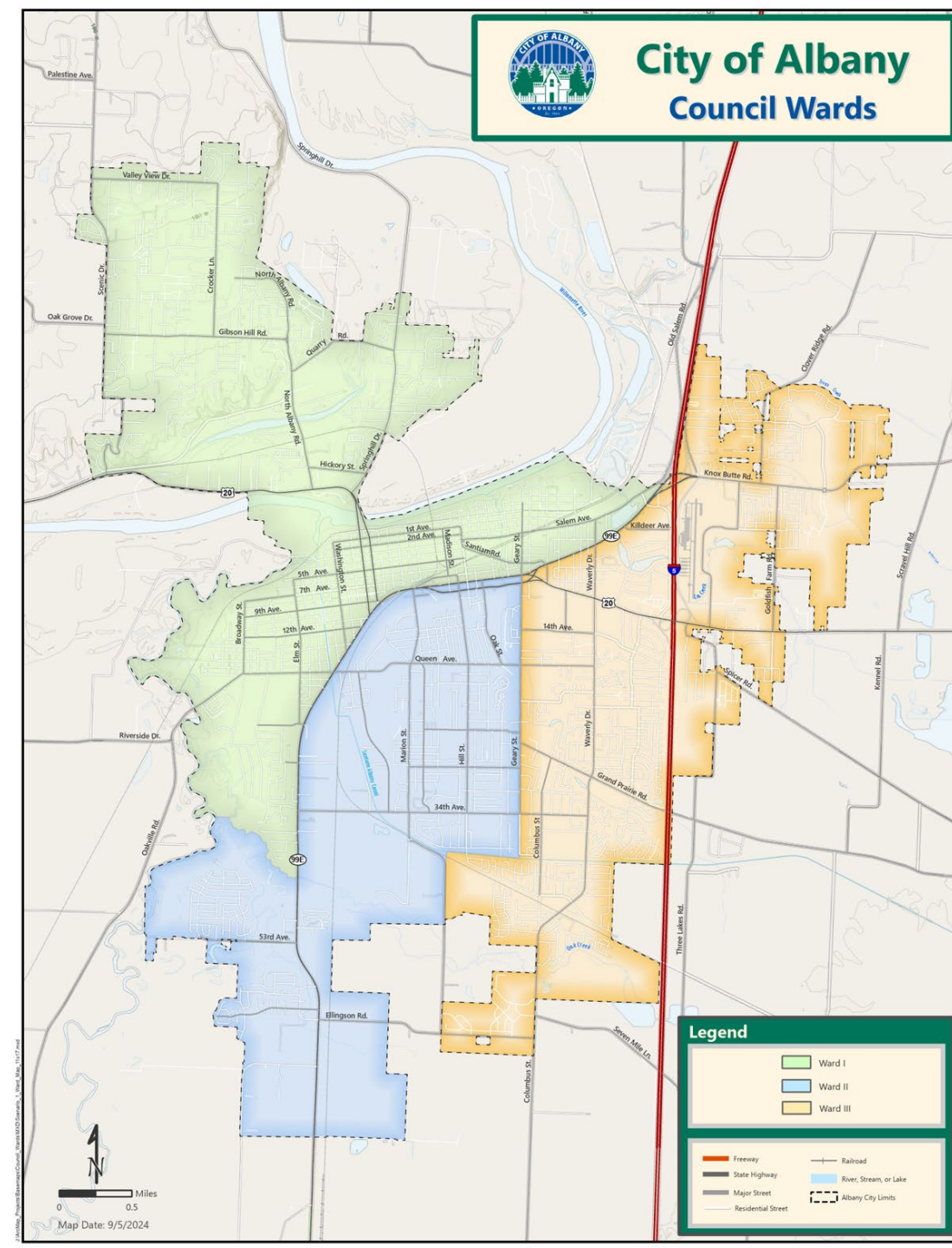
- Faculty
 - Engineering
- Teach ENGR242 – Intro to GIS



- City Councilor
 - Ward 2
- Represent constituency
- Set city policy
- Provide direction to City Manager's office and staff
- Educate residents on issues and the city's role/responsibilities

What does a City Councilor do?

- Recipe:
- 1 Part Policymaker
- 1 Part Educator
- 1 Part Customer Service



“Politics is the art of
living with other people”

-Bishop Gretchen Rehberg

Recent Policy Topics

Limiting Cryptocurrency Kiosk Locations

Street Maintenance

Annexation & Zoning Changes

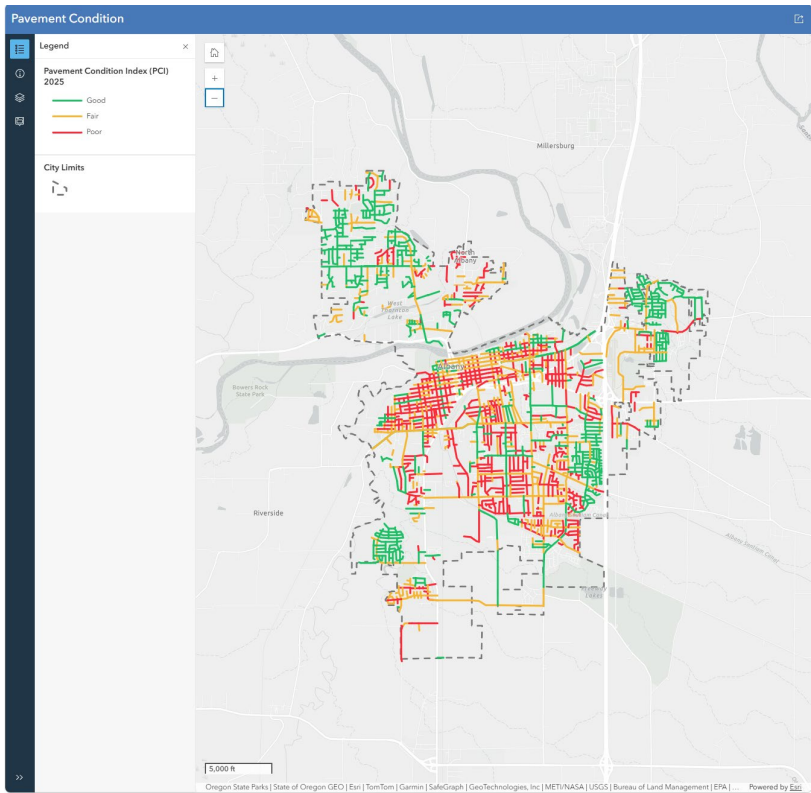
Walkability

Grocery Access

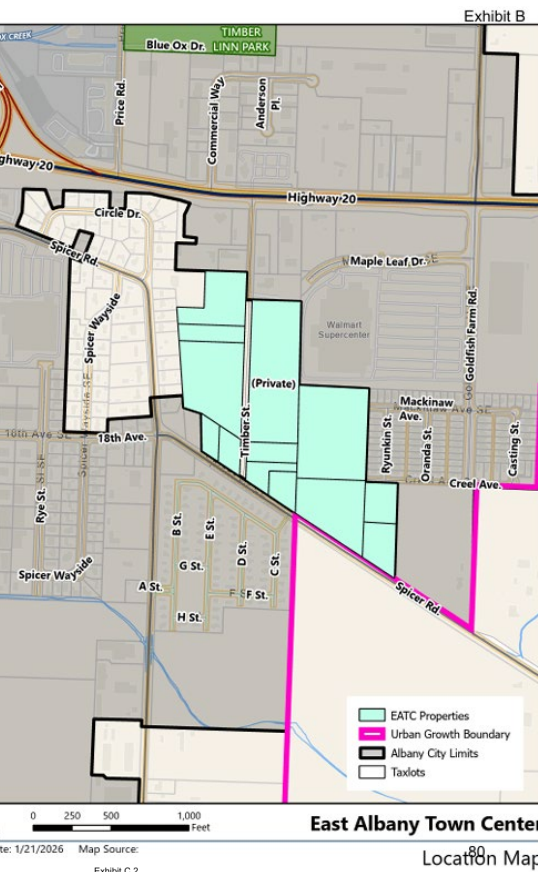
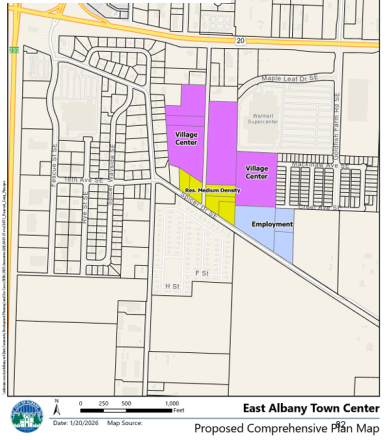
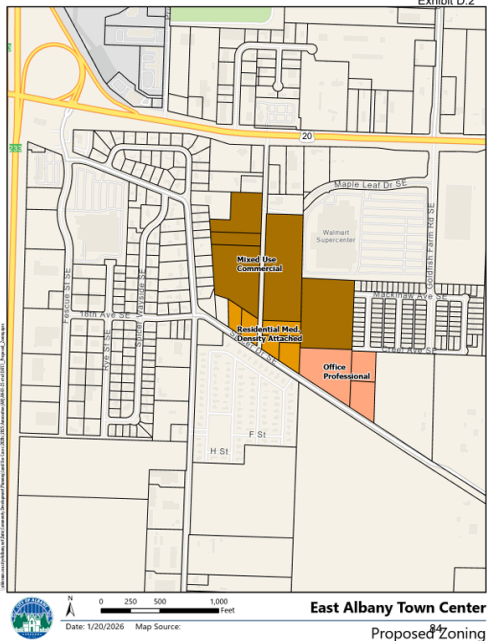
Distribution of ARA Grant Funds

ALPR (Flock) Cameras

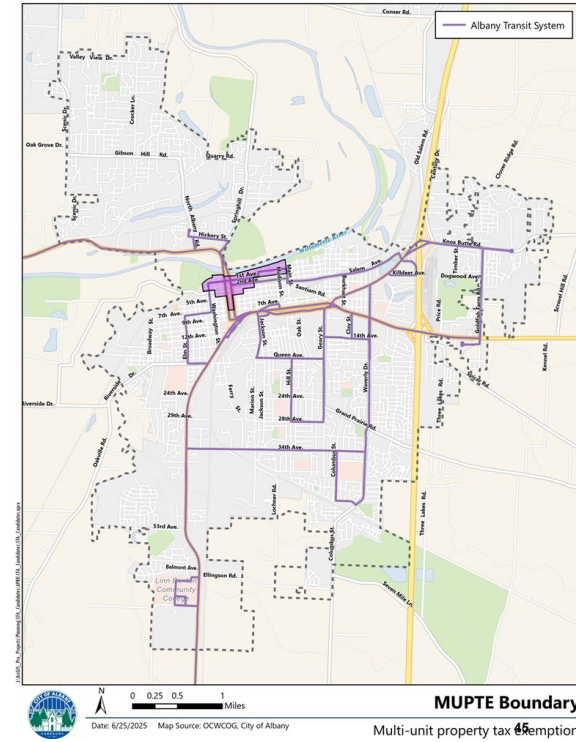
There's a map for that!



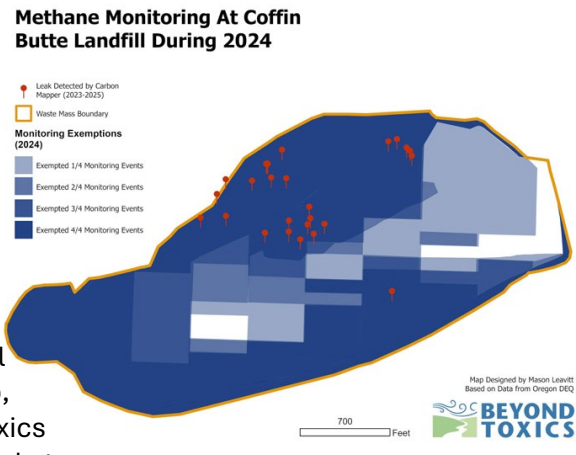
Capture of City of Albany GIS' Pavement Condition Instant App
<http://albanyoregon.gov>



East Albany Town Center
Annexation Maps
City Council Agenda Packet



Multi-Unit Property Tax
Exemption Area Map
City Council Agenda Packet

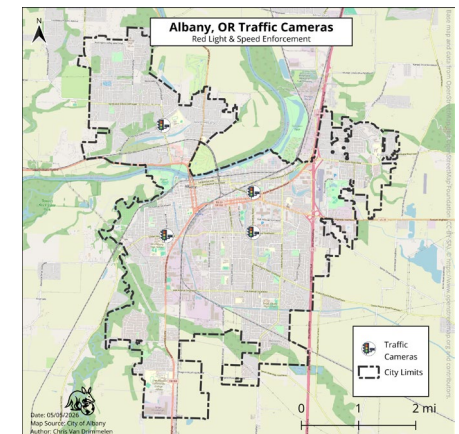
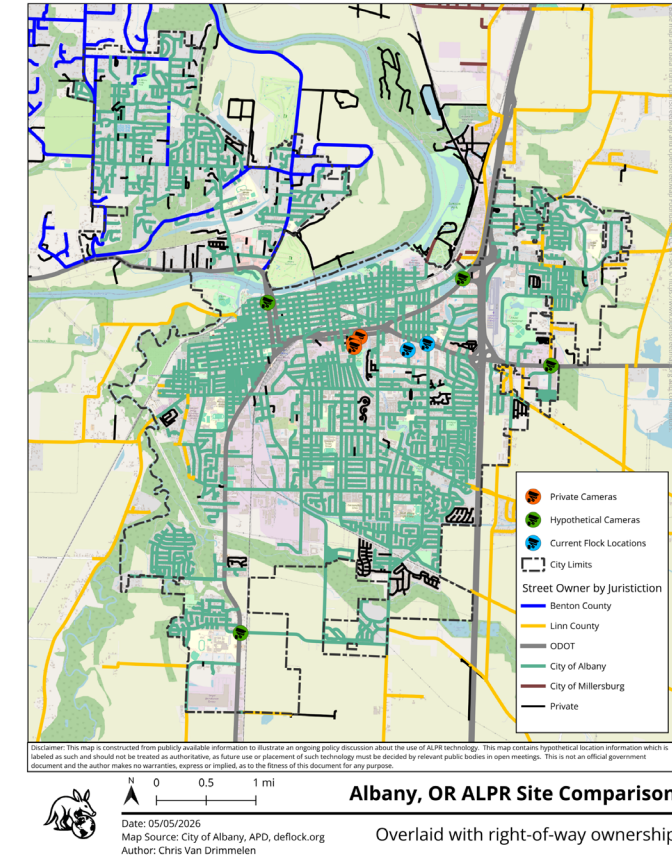
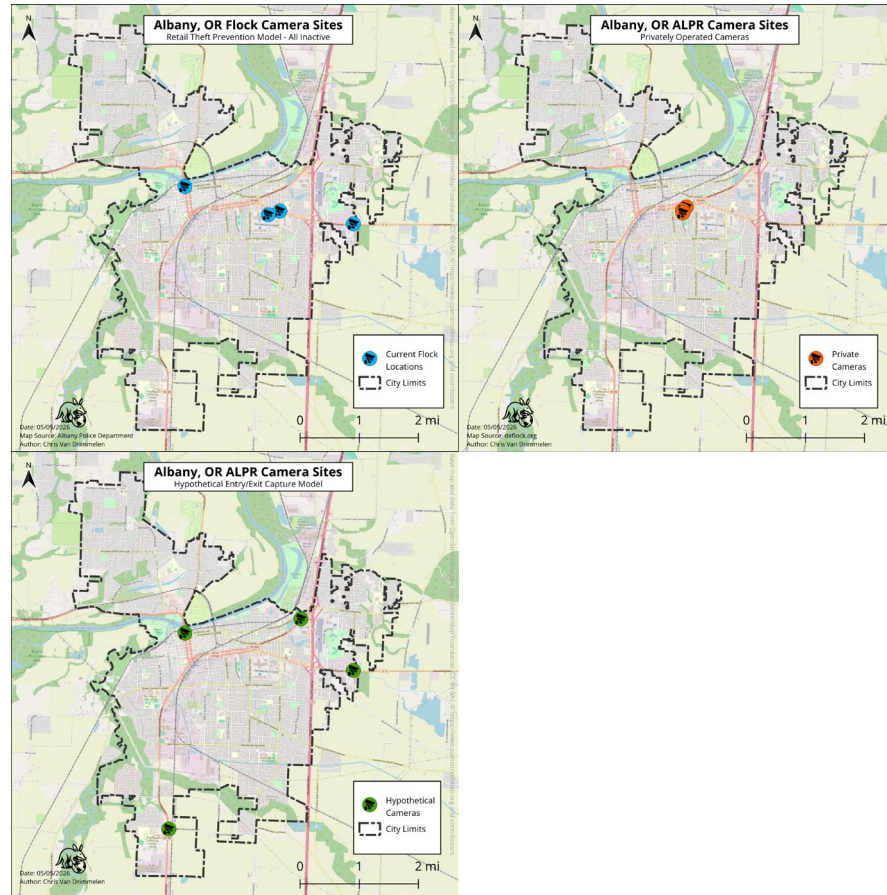


Coffin Butte Landfill
Methane Leaks Map,
Courtesy of Beyond Toxics
City Council Agenda Packet

When there's not a map for that!

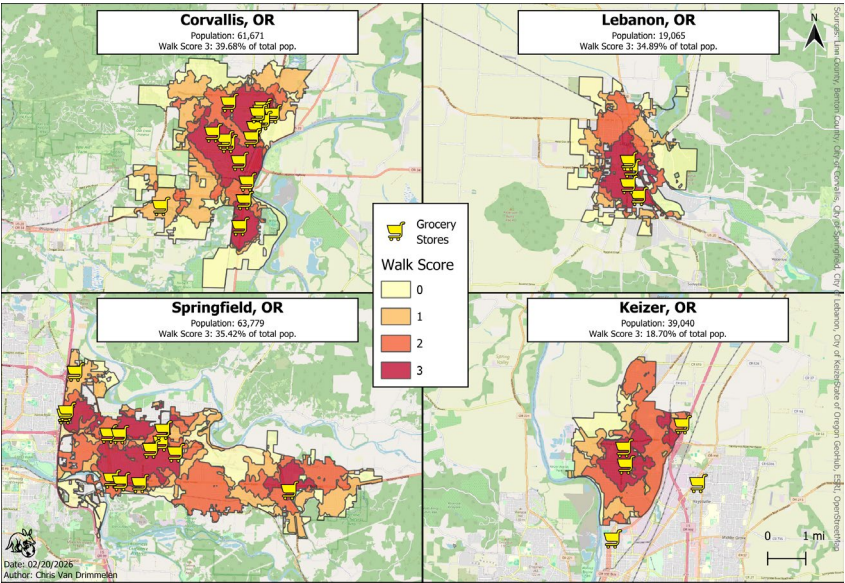
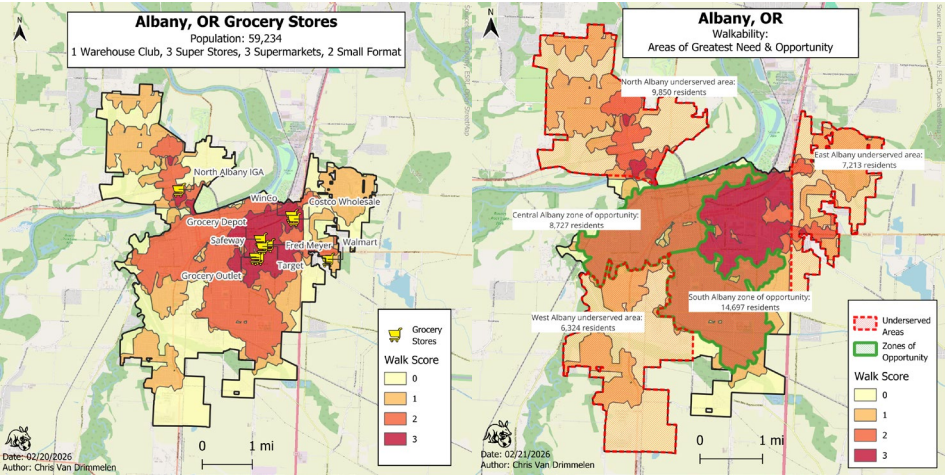
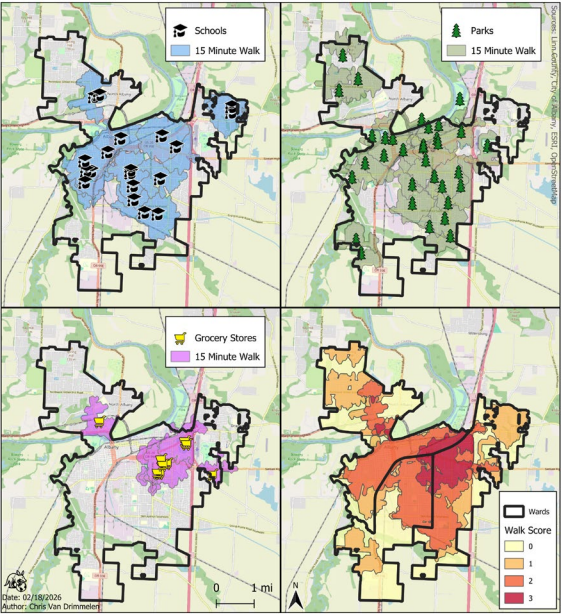
- QGIS
- Albany (and other) hosted REST services
- Geocode or digitize!
 - Agenda materials
 - Info from departments
 - Anything with a location!

To quote Nike: "Just do it!"



Young people are telling us they want to be less dependent upon personal vehicles.

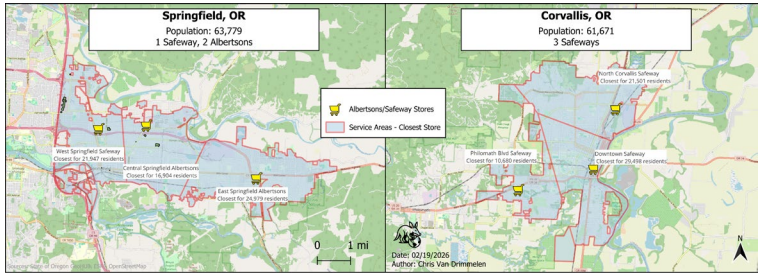
What work do we need to do?



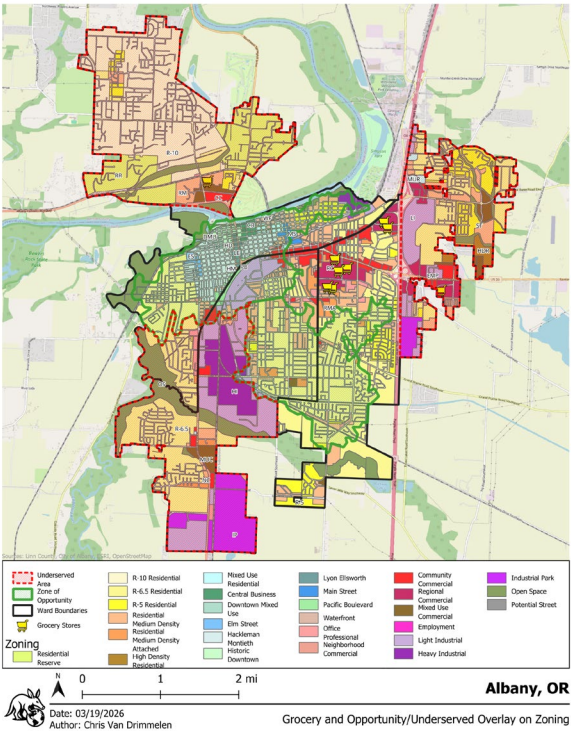
Grocery Store Locations Correlate to High Walkability
Populations are 2025 estimates.

“Why can’t we have a grocery store in South Albany? Or West Albany?”

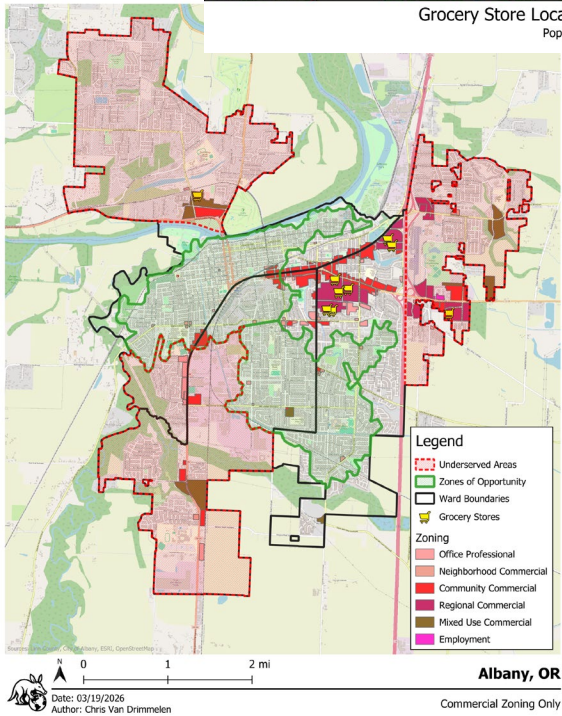
“Why does Corvallis have 3 Safeways and we have 1?”



Albertsons Companies, Inc. Owned Store Service Areas in Most Comparable Communities

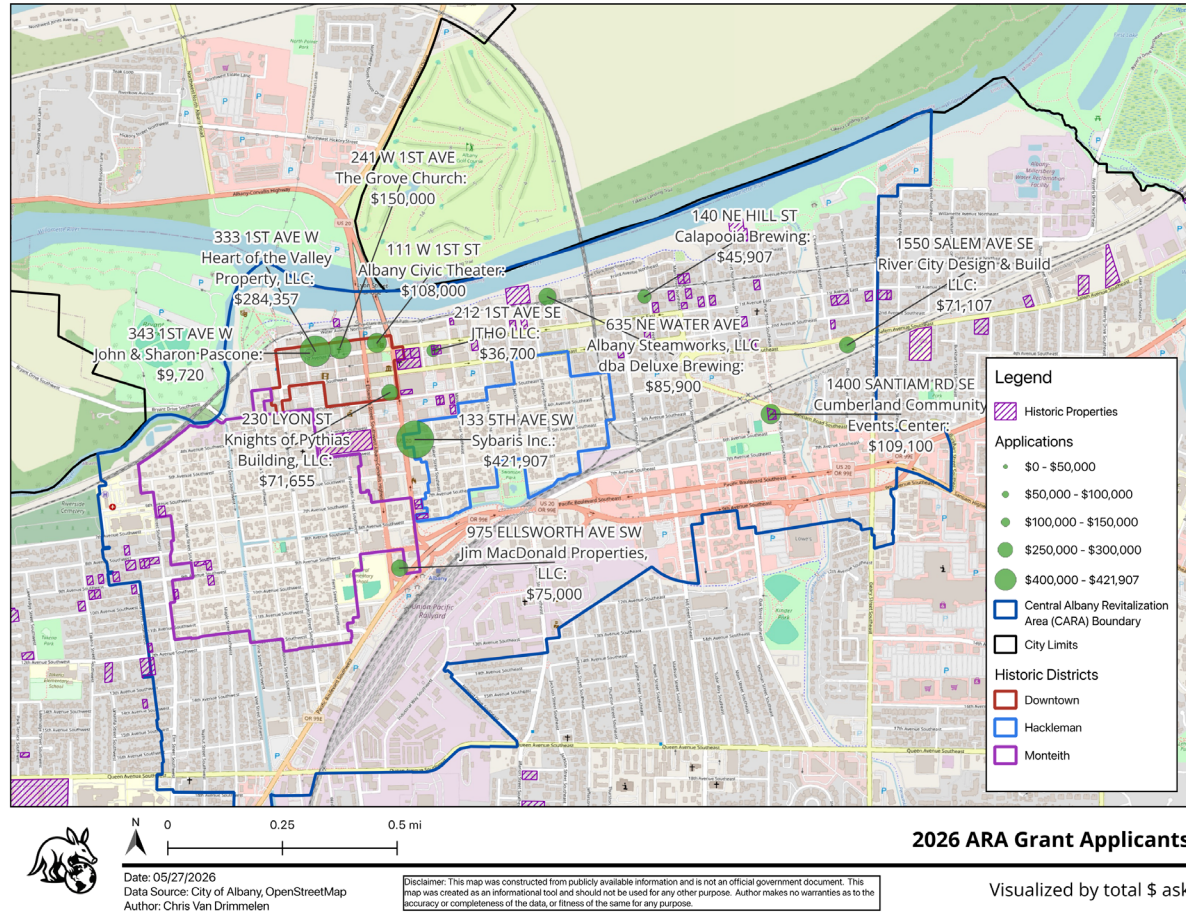


Grocery and Opportunity/Underserved Overlay on Zoning

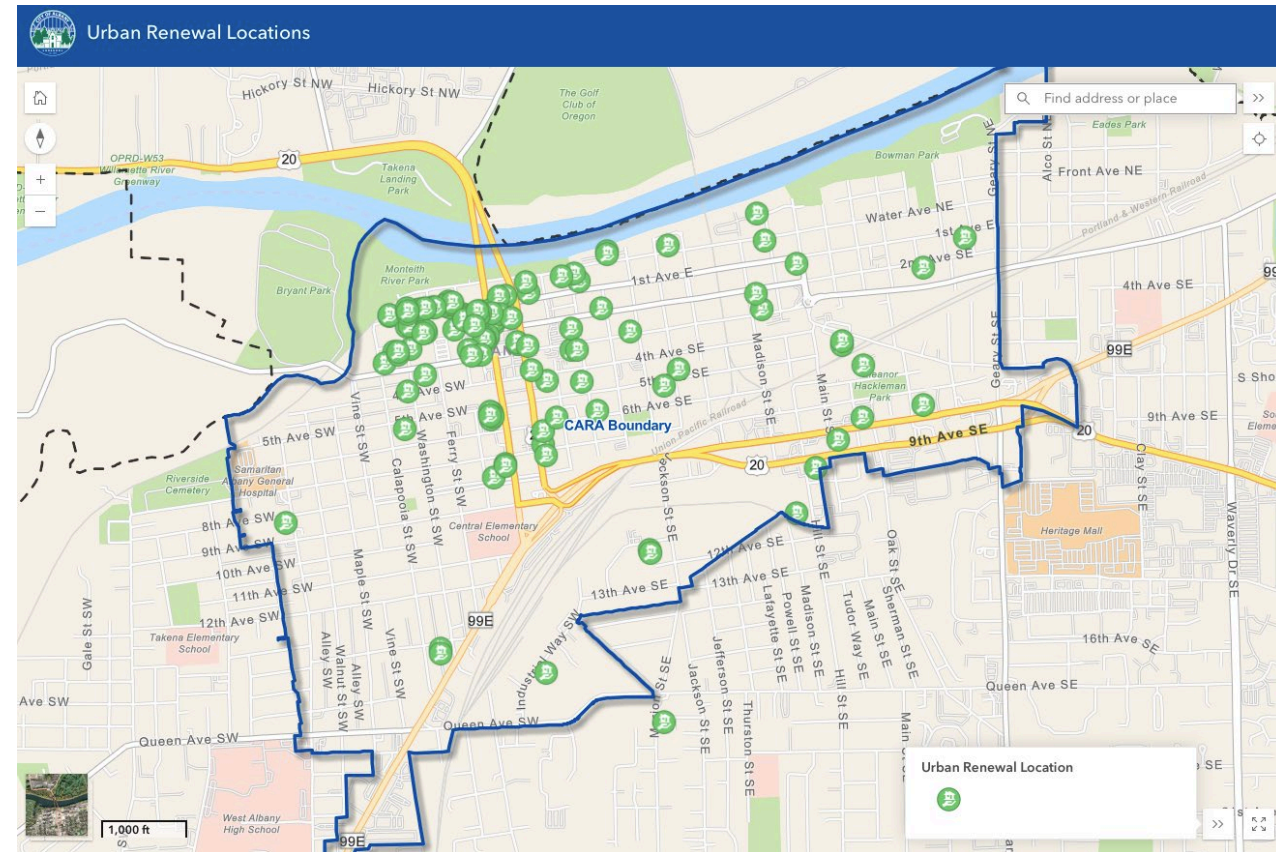


Commercial Zoning Only

Sometimes it's both!



Visualized by total \$ ask



Albany GIS created web app showing prior urban renewal projects funded by the ARA – useful to check assumptions about prior distributions!

Personally created map of the most recent round of ARA Grant applications. Geocoded from addresses in agenda packet along with some info related to topics brought up by fellow members.



The unique
view geography
gives an
elected official



How did I get involved?

- Care about my community
- A little prior city board experience (Pullman, WA)
- Appointed to fill a vacancy (May 2025 – December 2026)
 - Applied
 - Interviewed
 - Council voted to appoint

Getting people involved who understand the impact of place.



- Public meetings
 - Public comment – written (maps?) or oral
- Citizen Advisory Groups
- Elected Office

Albany's Citizen Advisory Groups

Most cities have something similar, might be called something slightly different.

Contact

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“Keep digging”

<http://geovark.com>

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