

Veneta  
Urban Renewal Agency  
Fern Ridge Service Center  
2015



## Background

The new Fern Ridge Service Center in downtown Veneta replaces the Tony Garcia Center which served the Fern Ridge community for over 40 years. Having outgrown the Garcia Center, the partners joined together with the City of Veneta with the vision to build a new center.

Urban Renewal funds made it possible to purchase a site in downtown Veneta for a new service center as well as fund needed street and infrastructure improvements. These funds helped leverage Community Development Block Grant Funds for construction of the center.

The non-profit partners; Lane Council of Government Senior Meals and Senior Connections, and Mid Lane Cares Love Project Food Pantry provide the area's senior and low-income populations with critical health, welfare, and basic human needs services. Annually, they serve over 8,000 community members with the help of over 400 volunteers.

## Funding/Leverage

The project was made possible with a \$1.5 million Community Development Block Grant from Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority, \$250,000 Ford Family Foundation grant, \$50,000 Oregon Community Foundation grant and local contributions to fund \$1.82 million in construction costs. The Veneta Urban Renewal Agency provided \$349,360 in land, street improvements, and infrastructure for a total project of \$2.2 million.

## Community Benefits

This new Center, positioned in the heart of Veneta, will serve as a catalyst for continued economic and social vitality. In this pivotal time for Veneta and the Fern Ridge area, the City hopes to capture momentum from this project and propel the area into a period of manageable growth and economic success, attracting businesses, visitors and residents, who will continue to give back to the community.

The new Fern Ridge Service Center includes:

- 7,400 square feet of dining, meeting, office, and storage space --more than triple the space of the previous facility. Improved building access, waiting areas, and parking and loading area.
- Offices and meeting space to provide greater privacy for visitors and volunteers.
- Upgraded kitchen, with walk-in freezer/cooler, energy efficient appliances, and large pantry storage areas



Before: Future Site



After: Public Improvements Installed (2010)



Groundbreaking Ceremony (2013)



After: Fern Ridge Service Center