



REGION 2050

Sustaining Quality of Life in the Southern Willamette Valley

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE REGION 2050 PROCESS

December 1, 2004

Please see the [Region 2050 Process](#) for a comprehensive list of benefits and more detailed responses to the questions below.

What are the benefits of Region 2050?

The benefits vary depending on the needs and desires of the individual community. Here are some highlights:

- **Growth Policy:** Region 2050 provides the data and process for cities to grow in the way and to the size *they want to grow*, consistent with each community's vision and agreed-upon goals and objectives. In Region 2050, coordinated population projections, now required by law for the county to adopt, will be *based on policy* set by the city instead of *past population trends*. This is especially important for small cities that have not experienced very much growth in the past who want to grow in the future and for any city that wants less growth than it is required by law to accommodate.
- **Public Facilities:** Region 2050 provides the 50-year planning horizon needed for effective, efficient delivery of water, wastewater, and regional transportation services. Public facilities can be sized consistent with each city's vision, *not past trends*. Public facilities are required by law to be sized consistent with state and county coordinated population projections.
- **Growth in Jobs:** Cities can work collaboratively with the other cities in the region to devote the type of land and amount of land each city wants to make available for employment. The Base Case Scenario, which is based on a projection of past trends in this region and on an examination of regional development patterns, shows most of the growth over the next 50 years in employment to be accommodated through very large UGB expansions in Eugene. Through Region 2050, participating local governments may choose to work toward a different vision of job growth distribution.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Through Region 2050, participating cities and the county will manage growth in a way that addresses inter-jurisdictional issues and

rural development issues. Region 2050 allows local governments to recognize their inter-connectedness and collaborate on mutually beneficial planning. No other process is available for this regional collaboration to take place. The process is voluntary and allows flexibility for local and state participants to agree on a Regional Growth Management Strategy that is custom-designed to respond to the specific needs of this region rather than to a generic statewide mandate.

When will Region 2050 end?

The deadline for endorsement of the Regional Growth Management Strategy is June 2006. The projected date for local adoption of implementation measures is June 2007. The process was projected to take 5-7 years at the start.

Is Region 2050 fully funded to completion?

Yes, through state and federal grants which have been the major source of funding from the beginning.

How will Region 2050 be implemented?

- The Regional Growth Management Strategy will contain a prioritized list of actions to sustain and improve quality of life in the Preferred Growth Scenario in seven categories: land use, housing, economic development, transportation, environment, community facilities and services, and education.
- At a minimum, implementation will include setting UGBs, urban reserves, and facility plan updates, to accommodate desired growth over the next 50 years *consistent with each community's vision*. State funding for amending local Transportation System Plans has already been committed.
- Implementation will include appropriate rural development while productive farm and forest lands continue to be protected and buffers between communities preserved where desired.

What form will agreement on the strategy take?

The Policy Board has not yet recommended the exact form the inter-governmental agreement to endorse the Strategy will take. There are several types of agreements now in place that may serve as models or examples for endorsement of the Strategy, including the locally-adopted Urban Growth Management Agreements between Lane County and nine small cities, or Cooperative Urban Services Agreements between local governments and urban service providers.

By agreeing to the regional strategy, will the local governments be forced by the state to take actions they do not want to take?

No. The Strategy will contain only the actions each local government participating in the process wants it to contain. DLCDC and other state agencies will not use the Strategy to try to force local governments to do anything they have not agreed to do. Assurances of this can be written directly into the Strategy, the intergovernmental

agreements, and any other written format desired by the participants. DLCD could also write a letter to the Region 2050 participants stating this.

Will the strategy bind local governments to take actions in the future that no longer apply because circumstances change and/or the local governments want to take a different course?

No. The intergovernmental agreement and Strategy will spell out how the Strategy will be reviewed and modified over time. Each participant will have the ability to initiate a change in the Strategy at any time through the agreed-upon process. The Policy Board will recommend a process for monitoring and changing the Strategy and it has unanimously agreed that the Strategy should be a “living document” and not a document that “sits on a shelf.”