



*Sustaining Quality of Life in the Southern Willamette Valley*

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## **Regional Growth Management Strategy Timeline and Regional Problem Solving Process**

**DRAFT April 20, 2005**

This paper provides proposed Region 2050 project timelines and a description of the Regional Problem Solving Process (RPS).

### **Regional Growth Management Strategy Products and Timeline March 2005 – Dec 2006**

#### **March Through June 2005**

- ✚ Complete Scenario Evaluations, Transportation in Progress (June 2005)
- ✚ Begin Public Outreach on Alternative Growth Scenarios and Community Meetings (May 2005 – 2 meetings in June)
- ✚ RTAC meetings (March, April, June)
- ✚ Policy Board meetings (March, April, June)

#### **July Through Nov 2005**

- ✚ Complete Transportation Evaluation (Sept 2005)
- ✚ Hold 14 more Community Meetings (through Sept)
- ✚ Conduct High School Visioning Process (Sept)
- ✚ Complete Public Outreach on Alternative Growth Scenarios, Community Meetings, Tabulate Survey Responses, and Write/Present Report (Oct 2005)
- ✚ Local governments review report and provide direction on Preferred Scenario and Goals, Objectives, and Actions (Nov 2005)


#### **Dec 2005 Through Feb 2006**

- ✚ Prepare Preferred Growth Scenario and Recommended Actions (February 2006)
- ✚ Present to Policy Board and obtain feedback

#### **Mar Through June 2006**

- ✚ Evaluate Preferred Growth Scenario (April 2006)
- ✚ Obtain preliminary agreement from 11 local governments and LCDC on Strategy (May 2006)
- ✚ Draft and Final Intergovernmental Agreement Adopting Strategy (June 2006)
- ✚ RTAC meetings (October, November, January, February, March, April, June)
- ✚ Policy Board meetings (October, November, February, March, April, May)

## **July Through December 2006**

 11 local governments and LCDC adopt Strategy

## **Region 2050 Products and Processes March 2000 – April 2005**

- Community and Regional Profiles
- Lane County GIS Update
- GIS data layers Update (development constraints throughout region)
- Formation and staffing of RTAC meetings
- Formation and staffing of Policy Board meetings
- Web Site Development and Maintenance
- Regional Tour
- Scenario Modeling Development and Application
- Base Case Scenarios
- Evaluation of Base Case Scenarios
- Public Outreach on Base Case Scenario
- Regional Conference
- Alternative Scenarios Visioning
- Alternative Scenario Evaluations in 9 Categories: Environment, Land Use, Housing, Education, Water, Wastewater, Economy, Electric, Solid Waste
- Public Outreach on Alternative Growth Scenarios (to be completed)
- Urban Transportation Models for Veneta, Creswell, Cottage Grove, and Junction City
- Regional Transportation Model (to be completed)

## Regional Problem Solving Process

The Regional Problem Solving (RPS) Process in Oregon Law (ORS 197.652-658), attached, empowers our communities to design a future that suits the unique needs and wants of our region. If joint solutions cannot be reached under existing state rules, our local governments and state agencies can meet the intent of the Statewide Planning Goals through regional collaboration, instead of state mandates. The attached chart shows the key differences between RPS and the standard state planning processes.

Once the Strategy is agreed-to at the local and state level, it is the Strategy, not the rules, that the state agencies and LCDC will use to make decisions. This is a key benefit of the RPS process. It results in a great savings in cost and time for all local governments involved. For example, when a city submits a land use designation amendment or UGB expansion to DLCD for approval, the City will need to demonstrate consistency with the Strategy instead of the rules. **This means the City will not be required to conduct buildable lands impact analyses, impact studies, and goal exception processes for the amendments that are consistent with the Strategy.** Another major advantage of the process is that all state agencies will reflect the wishes of the local jurisdictions, as stated in the Strategy, when making decisions. For example, the Water Resources Department recently recognized the Strategy, when final, as a component of the City of Veneta's Water Management and Conservation Plan (see attached letter).

This does not prevent the local governments from applying for actions that are not consistent with the Strategy, but in those cases, all of the requirements of administrative rules would apply.

The key to using RPS is the comprehensive, factual data base that has been and continues to be developed for the Region 2050 process. It is this information that empowers the local and state participants to move forward with the knowledge that the region as a whole and its individual communities will be better off in the Regional Growth Management Strategy than under the current system of administrative rules. The specific advantages of the RPS process will vary from city to city and from city to rural area. The most important distinguishing feature of the RPS process is that it empowers our local participants to devise solutions that may not currently be allowed under existing state rules and to minimize the expense of future land use actions that require the state approval process.

RPS is a new approach to land use planning and growth management. It relies on regional collaboration and cooperation between local and state governments in place of strict adherence to state mandates. It is a new way of doing business and, for this reason, requires the participants to accept that the standard processes that are so familiar may not apply. The local governments will decide how the Strategy will be changed over time and this will be part of the intergovernmental agreement they use to adopt the Strategy. The RPS process is an opportunity, not a threat. It does require a shift in perception and, as with all consensus processes, mutual respect and trust.

# COLLABORATIVE REGIONAL PROBLEM SOLVING

**197.652 Establishing regional problem-solving programs.** Programs of the collaborative regional problem-solving process described in ORS 197.654 and 197.656 shall be established in counties or regions geographically distributed throughout the state. [1996 c.6 §3; 1997 c.365 §1]

**197.654 Regional problem solving; coordination.** (1) Local governments and those special districts that provide urban services may enter into a collaborative regional problem-solving process. A collaborative regional problem-solving process is a planning process directed toward resolution of land use problems in a region. The process must offer an opportunity to participate with appropriate state agencies and all local governments within the region affected by the problems that are the subject of the problem-solving process. The process must include:

(a) An opportunity for involvement by other stakeholders with an interest in the problem; and  
(b) Efforts among the collaborators to agree on goals, objectives and measures of success for steps undertaken to implement the process as set forth in ORS 197.656.

(2) As used in ORS 197.652 to 197.658, “region” means an area of one or more counties, together with the cities within the county, counties, or affected portion of the county. [1996 c.6 §4]

**197.656 Commission acknowledgement of comprehensive plans not in compliance with goals; participation by state agencies; commission review of implementing regulations and plan amendments; use of resource lands.** (1) Upon invitation by the local governments in a region, the Land Conservation and Development Commission and other state agencies may participate with the local governments in a collaborative regional problem-solving process.

(2) Following the procedures set forth in this subsection, the commission may acknowledge amendments to comprehensive plans and land use regulations, or new land use regulations, that do not fully comply with the rules of the commission that implement the statewide planning goals, without taking an exception, upon a determination that:

(a) The amendments or new provisions are based upon agreements reached by all local participants, the commission and other participating state agencies, in the collaborative regional problem-solving process;

(b) The regional problem-solving process has included agreement among the participants on:  
(A) Regional goals for resolution of each regional problem that is the subject of the process;  
(B) Optional techniques to achieve the goals for each regional problem that is the subject of the process;

(C) Measurable indicators of performance toward achievement of the goals for each regional problem that is the subject of the process;

(D) A system of incentives and disincentives to encourage successful implementation of the techniques chosen by the participants to achieve the goals;

(E) A system for monitoring progress toward achievement of the goals; and

(F) A process for correction of the techniques if monitoring indicates that the techniques are not achieving the goals; and

(c) The agreement reached by regional problem-solving process participants and the implementing plan amendments and land use regulations conform, on the whole, with the purposes of the statewide planning goals.

(3) A local government that amends an acknowledged comprehensive plan or land use

regulation or adopts a new land use regulation in order to implement an agreement reached in a regional problem-solving process shall submit the amendment or new regulation to the commission in the manner set forth in ORS 197.628 to 197.650 for periodic review or set forth in ORS 197.251 for acknowledgment.

(4) The commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction for review of amendments or new regulations described in subsection (3) of this section. A participant or stakeholder in the collaborative regional problem-solving process shall not raise an issue before the commission on review that was not raised at the local level.

(5) If the commission denies an amendment or new regulation submitted pursuant to subsection (3) of this section, the commission shall issue a written statement describing the reasons for the denial and suggesting alternative methods for accomplishing the goals on a timely basis.

(6) If, in order to resolve regional land use problems, the participants in a collaborative regional problem-solving process decide to devote agricultural land or forestland, as defined in the statewide planning goals, to uses not authorized by those goals, the participants shall choose land that is not part of the region's commercial agricultural or forestland base, or take an exception to those goals pursuant to ORS 197.732. To identify land that is not part of the region's commercial agricultural or forestland base, the participants shall consider the recommendation of a committee of persons appointed by the affected county, with expertise in appropriate fields, including but not limited to farmers, ranchers, foresters and soils scientists and representatives of the State Department of Agriculture, the State Department of Forestry and the Department of Land Conservation and Development.

(7) The Governor shall require all appropriate state agencies to participate in the collaborative regional problem-solving process. [1996 c.6 §5; 2001 c.672 §11]

**197.658 Modifying local work plan.** In addition to the provisions of ORS 197.644, the Land Conservation and Development Commission may modify an approved work program when a local government has agreed to participate in a collaborative regional problem-solving process pursuant to ORS 197.654 and 197.656. [1996 c.6 §6]

# **Statewide Planning Goals & Guidelines**

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**State Planning Program  
Oregon Administrative Rules  
(OARs)**



**Collaborative Regional  
Problem Solving  
(ORS 197.652-658)**

**Plan**

**Vision**

**Regulatory**

**Voluntary**

**Top-down**

**Bottom-up**

**Compliance-based**

**Consensus-based\***

**State-wide**

**Customized**

**Rural & Urban**

**Rural-Urban Interface**

\*All local and state participants must agree.

