



REGION 2050

Sustaining Quality of Life in the Southern Willamette Valley

November 22, 2004

TO: Regional Policy Advisory Board Members and Alternates

FROM: Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC)

SUBJECT: November 29, 2004 Meeting Agenda Item Summary

This memo provides a brief summary of the agenda items to be covered in the November 29, 2004 Regional Policy Advisory Board meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the Regional Technical Advisory Committee (RTAC) member from your community or call Carol Heinkel, 682-4107.

Please review the attached materials prior to the meeting.

Meeting Purpose

This meeting is for Policy Board members and alternates to: review and comment on the alternative regional growth scenarios evaluation methodologies, assumptions, and issues for water, wastewater, and transportation and to discuss the Region 2050 process and comment on the draft responses to questions raised at the Lane County Board/Planning Commission meeting on Region 2050. As time allows, updates and status reports on other aspects of the project will be presented.

Agenda Summary

Welcome and Introductions

Local official and staff changes and new faces will be introduced at the start of the meeting.

Public Comment

Five minutes is allotted on each agenda to allow members of the public to make brief presentations and/or to distribute written materials to the Policy Advisory Board. No written comments were submitted for inclusion in this packet.

Process Check-in

Check-ins with elected and appointed officials from all eleven local governments have been completed. In the most recent check-in with the Lane County Board of Commissioners and Planning Commission, general support for Region 2050 was expressed. Questions by Commissioner Morrison stimulated general discussion about the Region 2050 process and potential outcomes. The questions raised by Commissioner Morrison and staff responses are included in the related attachment. This agenda item is for the Policy Board to discuss these and related questions and answers in order to ensure there continues to be a common understanding and clear expectations about the Region 2050 process and outcomes.

Subsequent to the joint meeting of the Lane County Board and Planning Commission, the questions raised by Commissioner Morrison were reiterated in questions and concerns expressed by city officials in Cottage Grove and Lowell. Representatives of these two cities are particularly interested in discussing the responses to these questions with the Policy Advisory Board. The attached "Frequently Asked Questions" paper was prepared as a possible format for answering these and other similar questions about process in the future. The end product could be posted on the home page of the web site in order to help keep the responses available to those interested.

Overview of Water, Wastewater, and Transportation Evaluation Methods Alternative Regional Growth Scenarios Evaluations

The methodology and assumptions for determining the impact of the alternative scenarios on the cost and capacity of major public facilities such as water, wastewater, and transportation presents unique challenges. Staff will present a brief introduction to overview the challenges common to these three evaluations.

Water Supply and Facilities

Staff will present the approach, issues and assumptions for completing the evaluation and request input from the Policy Board. Please see attachment for details.

Wastewater Facilities and Services

Staff will present the approach, issues and assumptions for completing the evaluation and request input from the Policy Board. Please see attachment for details. As a supplement to the attached paper, DEQ staff will present the methodology for evaluating the wastewater impacts in the Rural Growth Scenario, using modeling techniques; and DiDi Melarkey, former coordinator of the LaPine Project, will talk about the lessons learned in that process. The soils in LaPine are distinctly different from the soils in this region; thus the level and extent of the problem faced in that area are different from the experience likely to occur in this region. The LaPine Project offers information about the benefits of regional collaboration in dealing with any problem; the benefits of addressing any problem in a pro-active rather than re-active manner; and the specific tools the Regional Problem Solving Statute offers this regional process.

Transportation Facilities and Services

Staff will present the approach, issues and assumptions for completing the evaluation and request input from the Policy Board. Please see attachment for details.

Project Updates

Staff will provide a status report on the work program, budget, outreach material, and remaining evaluations, as time allows.

Work Program and Budget

No changes to the work program have been recommended by the RTAC at this time. However, the RTAC will meet in December to discuss the Policy Board's comments on the responses in the Process Check-In Attachment and to make any appropriate recommendations.

Public Outreach Materials

The RTAC discussed the revisions to the outreach materials proposed by the Policy Board at the September meeting. These changes will be incorporated into a revised draft that will be reviewed by the Policy Board at the December meeting. In addition, staff are requesting the state to sponsor technical assistance from a professional public relations firm for the messages and format of the outreach materials. The final draft will be reviewed by the Policy Board prior to distribution.

Remaining Evaluations

Economic

The RTAC recommends requesting a panel of state economic forecasting experts to conduct an economic evaluation of the alternative growth scenarios. The expert panel could include such experts as State Economist Tom Potiowsky, U.S. Bank economist John Mitchell, Portland economics consultant Bill Conerly, Oregon Employment Department economist Brian Rooney and Eugene-based economics consultant Ed Whitelaw. This recommendation is now being evaluated for cost and timing considerations.

Farm and Forest

The Lane County Board of Commissioners will be appointing a Resource Lands Committee, tentatively scheduled for the Board's mid-December agenda. The Resource Lands Committee is part of the Regional Problem Solving Statute which sets out the charge of the committee as follows:

... "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.”

Fire

This evaluation will be conducted after the Resource Lands Committee has examined the rural resource land commercial base data.

Education

Eric Parchen, an intern from the UO Planning, Public Policy and Management Program, has been doing further research on the Education Evaluation to address the comments made by the Policy Board. Work on the evaluation will continue with volunteer help from interns over the next couple of months. As requested by the Policy Board, staff will explore funding sources to conduct the capacity analysis requested by School Administrators.

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