

Lane County Process to Form an Area Commission on Transportation (ACT)

S U M M A R Y

Preview Meeting

Thursday, October 29, 2009, 6:00–8:00 PM

Buford Room, 5th Floor, Lane Council of Government, 859 Willamette St., Eugene

Present

Judy Volta (City of Coburg); Gary Williams (City of Cottage Grove); Bob Hooker (City of Creswell); Kitty Piercy (City of Eugene); Phil Brubaker (City of Florence); Don Hampton (City of Oakridge); Bob Garcia (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians); Rob Handy, Faye Stewart, Celia Barry (Lane County) Mike Eyster, Mark Pangborn (LTD); Byron Vanderpool, Andrea Riner (LCOG); Sonny Chickering, Savannah Crawford (ODOT); Rob Zako (project manager)

A certificate was presented authorizing the assembled body to function as a “temporary ACT” until October 29, 2009, at 8:00 pm. County Commissioner Rob Handy, representing the ACT, and Mayor Kitty Piercy, representing the Central Lane MPO, reported on the ODOT Region 2 “Super ACT” meeting earlier in the day. The balance of the meeting was devoted to discussing three questions:

1. Positive Outcomes of an ACT

As a result of having an ACT for Lane County, what positive outcomes do you hope to see?

- more regional approach, coordination & collaboration
- improved communication with ODOT
- ACT is functional/operational
- more inclusive of rural interests & communities off of I-5
- coast and coastal issues are more of a priority, e.g., tsunami preparedness
- give tribes seat at table & voice in process
- raise Lane County’s profile in statewide discussions, build capacity to advocate for interests

2. Key Transportation Issues in Lane County

What are the key transportation issues in Lane County you are concerned about—especially issues that would benefit from the coordinated committee discussion afforded by the ACT structure?

- prioritize transportation solutions before optional activities: transportation is the *raison d’être* of an ACT
- major state highways: I-5, Hwy. 58, Hwy. 126, Hwy. 99, Hwy. 36, Hwy. 101, Beltline, Territorial
- other modes: transit, rail, airport, bike/ped
- safety
- congestion
- preservation
- access to transit
- Cottage Grove interchange, Exit 172:
 - economic development potential
 - jobs/housing connection

- reducing commuter trips
- environmental issues
- Creswell: Hwy. 99 & railroad crossing: safety issue (immediate need)
- connectivity to coast along Hwy. 126: safety, economic impacts, access to critical services
- Coos Bay-Eugene rail line: what are the opportunities?
- Eugene:
 - Beltline
 - Hwy. 126 West
 - land use / greenhouse gas emissions (ACT can have input on policy development)
 - strong transit system needed region wide
 - rail improvements needed
- transit/LTD: need (demand) rising but revenues (supply) falling, not able to maintain let alone expand existing System Administrator
- how to balance/negotiate conflicting interests?
- Lane County: transportation is a high-priority service, county has role as facilitator for regional

3. (Other) Stakeholders

Who else has a stake in transportation issues in Lane County or has special expertise to offer—including people outside Lane County—and should be involved or consulted in the process to form an ACT for Lane County?

- air, sea, land
- cities (12), coastal & rural communities
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians
- Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Lane County
- Lane Transit District
- Port of Siuslaw
- ODOT
- trucking
- rail
- air(ports)—represented by cities?
- bicycle/pedestrian
- people with disabilities
- minority groups
- public safety, emergency & medical services
- schools: UO, etc.
- membership of ACT should provide balance, equity, focus
- members in core group vs. technical group or other advisory group (or subcommittee)?
- members task force (“Pre-ACT”) vs. ACT?
- how will ACT relate to/with other bodies: county commissioners, Lane County Roads Advisory Committee, Central Lane MPO, etc.?

Materials

1. agenda
2. temporary ACT certificate
3. *Proposed Process for Forming a Lane County ACT*