



LANE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Lane Council of Governments is a diverse, and in many respects complex, organization; and that can make explaining the organization's work challenging. However, at its core, this 58-year-old association remains true to its original purpose—to make this region a better place and to help its member governments serve the people efficiently and effectively.

Although LCOG has a good deal of day-to-day interaction with the state and federal agencies, it is very much a local governmental entity. That is important, because it helps explain why 26 independent units of government have voluntarily joined forces in difficult financial times to support and maintain an association that serves the public interest. LCOG is owned by its membership and is controlled by local elected officials who sit on the Board of Directors. As reflected here, LCOG has addressed its diverse work program by bringing people together, focusing on high priority local needs, and promoting good government through cooperation. Lane Council of Governments is a resource that local leaders have effectively applied to enhance the well-being of the people of this region.

LCOG's owners, members and stakeholders have reason to be proud of their council of governments. As with other public and private organizations, we are doing more with less in difficult financial times. We remain, however, firmly committed to both the principle and the reality of high quality service that addresses the priority needs of the regional community. I am deeply grateful for the dedication and support of the Board of Directors; and likewise, I extend my sincere appreciation to the outstanding professionals who have so ably served LCOG and the community over the past year.

As Lane Council of Government's Executive Director, I hope that you find this report informative. We are extremely proud of this organization and I invite you to get to know us better. If additional information is needed or there are questions about LCOG, please know that I am always available to respond, as are other LCOG staff members.



www.lcog.org

ON THE WEB...

Detailed information on many of the programs and projects mentioned in this report can be found on Lane Council of Governments' website at www.lcog.org. The site offers complete publications for download, meeting schedules and agendas, links to member agencies, and current news of record.



www.sdslane.org



www.rlid.org

LCOG also maintains informative websites for its Senior & Disabled Services Division at www.sdslane.org, the Regional Land Information Database (RLID) at www.rlid.org, and the Lane Regional Information Center at www.laneinfo.com.

BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

TO SOLVE COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL PROBLEMS

Lane Council of Governments was established in 1945 to develop the Eugene-Springfield area's first comprehensive regional plan. Growth and change have drastically altered the metropolitan region, but the agency's ability to bring local, state and federal decision-makers together for the good of the region has remained strong.

REGIONAL GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Region 2050 project continued its work on a Regional Growth Management Strategy and was awarded a Regional Geographic Initiative Grant to evaluate the impact of three alternative growth scenarios by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

PUBLIC INFORMATION ACCESS

LCOG continued to provide access to public documents and meetings, allowing the citizens of the region an opportunity to become involved in community decisions in a more direct way than previously possible. LCOG's Metro Television channel airs Eugene City Council meetings and Board of County Commissioners meetings. The agency also maintains notes and agendas for all LCOG meetings on its website for download and review.

LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES FORUMS

To educate candidates and State Legislators about the needs and concerns of senior citizens and people with disabilities, LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services Advisory Councils sponsored two candidates forums prior to the 2002 General Election and four dialogue events while the 2003 Legislature was in session.

ADVOCACY FOR SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Advocacy Committee of LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services successfully worked for the passage of Senate Bill 833, which requires most newly-constructed publicly-financed affordable housing built in Oregon after July 2004 to be accessible by people with mobility impairments. SB 833 was drafted locally by an ad hoc group created by LCOG's Disability Services Advisory Council.

REGIONAL PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING

Working with the Eugene and Springfield City Councils, Lane County Board of Commissioners, and Willamalane Park and Recreation District Board, LCOG managed a regional parks and open space visioning process which concluded in May 2003. In collaboration with citizens, elected officials, and representatives from state, local, and federal agencies, a consensus vision was developed and endorsed by interest groups and local authorities alike.

EUGENE WETLANDS ASSISTANCE

LCOG facilitated the planning between local governments, state agencies and the federal government to continue the protection and restoration of wetlands. The agency's design work for the West Eugene Wetlands Mitigation Bank resulted in the implementation of approximately 25 acres of wetland restoration and enhancement in 2003 at the Willow Corner and Oxbow West sites. In addition, the Mitigation Improvement Plan for the 76-acre Dragonfly Bend site developed by LCOG is scheduled to be implemented in 2004.



ADDRESSING THE NEEDS

OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND THE CITIZENS OF LANE COUNTY

For nearly 60 years, Lane Council of Governments has facilitated work on projects that require regional perspective. Providing assistance and support to the communities and citizens of the Lane County region has been a hallmark of LCOG during its decades of service.

FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT

LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services initiated a new set of services to support and assist unpaid family care givers. The Family Caregiver Support Program was formed to provide information about the availability of support services for caregivers and families.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Improving and strengthening the regional economy was a major focus of LCOG in 2003. Increased lending activity in the business loan program created or saved 260 jobs in Lane County during the past fiscal year. LCOG was awarded video lottery funds to fund its work on several economic development projects, including Targeted Industries Analysis, Industrial Site Readiness, and Technology Transfer Enhancement.

PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATION

A number of projects supporting public safety were administered by LCOG in 2003, including continued work on 9-1-1 coordination services for all of Lane County and the re-establishment of the Community Emergency Notification System (CENS) to alert region residents to an emergency situation. The Public Safety Coordinating Council benefited from \$23 million in federal grants during the six years of LCOG staffing.

DIRECT SERVICES TO SENIORS AND DISABLED PERSONS

LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services provided a broad array of services to 16,000 seniors and people with disabilities, including 2,895 per month who received long-term care services; 7,000 per month who received medical assistance, food stamps, and general assistance benefits; 1,860 who received meals; and 2,570 seniors who were not eligible for Medicaid but still received assistance and case management support.

SENIORS AND DISABLED PERSONS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

As required every four years, LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services completed a comprehensive assessment of the needs of senior citizens and people with disabilities. The assessment reviewed the needs of disabled adults age 18-64 years and senior citizens ages 65+ residing in Lane County in order to clearly identify demographic characteristics, current service utilization patterns, perceived needs, and to determine gaps in the service delivery system.

PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

LCOG provided current planning assistance to Junction City, Creswell, Lowell, Veneta, and Lane County in 2003, culminating in the review and adoption of several plans. Other LCOG planning assistance to cities yielded the Oakridge Tourism Action Plan, Junction City Downtown Plan, economic development strategic plans for several local communities, and Junction City code amendments.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING COORDINATION

LCOG made the transition to Transportation Management Area status in 2003, successfully completed Federal Certification Review of Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) process, and brought together various agencies to draft both the Transportation Demand Management Refinement Plan and the Intelligent Transportation System Plan.



PROMOTING EFFICIENCIES AND EFFECTIVENESS

THROUGH SHARED EXPERTISE OF STAFF AND ADVISORY GROUPS

The professional staff of Lane Council of Governments includes an extraordinary range of talented people whose expertise gives the agency the ability to deliver solutions for a number of the region's most pressing issues. In addition to in-house personnel, LCOG has had great success in assembling and staffing advisory groups to lead discussion and planning in a wide range of areas relating to the Lane County region.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

LCOG staff developed a new web-based economic development tool prototype, *Opportunity Lane*, for querying, reporting, and administering an inventory of industrial and commercial properties in Lane County. The agency also continued to maintain and enhance its *Regional Land Information Database* system (RLID) for the benefit of regional partner agencies, non-partner governments, and commercial subscribers.

REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT

The provision of regional telephone service and technology coordination for local governments, including a public area network of fiber optic high-speed communication, is a continuing LCOG success story. The Telephone Consortium also contracted with a new long-distance carrier to reduce rates for members by 45 percent. The Telephone Consortium and Metro Television worked together to bring video conferencing to the governments in Lane County.

AUTHORITY ON SENIORS ISSUES

Senior & Disabled Services management researched and advocated for a more accurate interpretation of federal Medicaid rules relating to "protected eligibility" for certain clients in Oregon. This successful advocacy changed Oregon Department of Health and Human Services rules statewide. Locally, at least 119 clients who would have lost prescription drug coverage retained full medical coverage.

ELDER CARE TRAINING

Working together, LCOG's Senior & Disabled Services and Metro Television created and produced a ten-minute elder abuse prevention training video. This video garnered two national video production awards and is now used during home care worker and adult foster home orientations.

EFFECTIVE COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

In-house programming expertise was used to develop a number of computer applications that addressed the needs of LCOG staff and member agencies. Among the projects completed in 2003 were the enhancement of an Adult Protective Services program, a modeling program to assist with the optimization of community safety usage, and a new scheduling application for S&DS staff members. LCOG also provided technical assistance to the *Parenting Warmline* effort led by the United Way of Lane County.





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