

# Agenda Item Number 6

## Information from the Executive Director

**Presenter:** George Kloeppe

**Action Recommended:** None. Information Only

**Background:**

**1. Board Meeting Schedule**

Our thanks go to Patrick Lanning and the Eugene Water and Electric Board for hosting tonight's meeting. As a reminder, we will be at the Bethel School District on May 22, in Veneta on June 26, and in Cottage Grove on July 24.

**2. Programs Ending**

The LCOG Budget Committee is currently working on the fiscal year 2003-04 budget and the Executive Committee will review the proposed work program for the coming year at its May meeting. The recommendation for the new year's *Work Program and Budget* will come to the Board next month, and adoption is scheduled for June. In the meantime, however, the Board should be aware that several familiar programs that have been a part of our array of services for some time will not appear in the new work program. While the Legislative Session continues, we do not expect that the Oregon Project Independence (OPI) program will be funded in the new biennium. As was reflected in the Area Plan update that the Board approved last month, which anticipated zeroing out the program, OPI reductions in the next budget year for case management, home and personal care will total over \$344,000. Also cut from the fiscal year 2003-04 work program is LCOG staff support to the Public Safety Coordinating Council. This too has been reported to, and discussed by, the Board. The Friends of the Lane County Historical Museum, a non-profit corporation, has decided not to contract with LCOG next year for payroll and benefits services, as in the

past. Finally, in its proposed budget for next year, Lane County has deleted its support for cable franchise administration (\$40,000 annually for a number of years) through the Regional Cable Television Commission, a confederation involving the County and a number of cities throughout western Oregon.

**3. Regional Focus Moves to Quarterly Schedule**

In our pursuit of cost-saving measures, we now intend to publish the LCOG newsletter, *Regional Focus*, on an every-three-month basis—four times each year, rather than six. The April-June issue will be out early in May. We will continue to “focus” upon individual member agencies and Board members in each issue; and of course, we will attempt to summarize pertinent activities and programs of the organization.

**4. Western COG’s Conference This Summer**

August 19-22 are the dates for this summer’s Western COGs Conference, to be held at Mount Bachelor Village Resort in Bend. The California regional councils are working on the program and the COGs from Washington state are handling the logistics. This event has been well regarded by attendees in the past, and Board members who may be interested in representing LCOG are encouraged to block the time on their calendars. As soon as more definitive information and registration material is available, it will be passed along to the Board.

**5. Transportation Planning Certification Review**

Under LCOG’s new Transportation Management Area (TMA) status, our MPO’s planning process will be reviewed by the federal Department of Transportation on a triennial basis. The first review under this new scheme will take place next month with representatives of the FHWA and FTA here May 7-9. There will be eight different sessions dealing with different groups and topics during that period; and Board members may want to be aware of two of them. A public workshop will be held on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> where the public can offer comments about the MPO process—6:00 p.m. in the Springfield Council Chambers. The regular MPC meeting for May will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 to 1:30 in the Bascom/Tykeson Room of the Eugene Library. That meeting, while public, will primarily be an opportunity for questions and dialogue between the MPC members and the feds. Upon

the completion of the review, U.S. DOT has several options ranging from a certification that our process fully meets federal requirements to a withheld certification, which would jeopardize apportionments and projects, at the other extreme. We expect that in this first review cycle the department will certify us, subject to certain specified corrective actions. The MPC is expected to report back to the Board of Directors after the certification review is completed.