

Agenda Item Number 6.

Comments from the Executive Director

Presenter: George Kloeppe

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background:

1. Board Meeting Schedule

LCOG appreciates School District 19's hospitality this month. On May 27, we will meet in Oakridge and, to end the fiscal year, we will be hosted by the Port of Siuslaw on June 24. LCOG's six-meeting-per-year schedule will begin in July.

2. Item of New Business, Advocacy to Oregon Transportation Commission

See attached memo from Tom Schwetz. After the agenda for the April meeting was finalized, we became aware of an issue that the Board may wish to make official comment upon. Under our process, an item not on the published agenda requires a separate vote to be considered. If such a motion is approved, it is suggested that this topic be addressed under agenda item 9.A.

3. Western COGs Conference in San Diego, July 27-30

Each summer, the state associations of regional councils in the west jointly sponsor a conference for key staff and policy officials. The 2004 Western COGs Conference will be held July 27-30 in San Diego at the Shelter Pointe Hotel. I am aware that the planning is moving forward rapidly and, as soon as the program information becomes available, it will be passed along to the Board. Last year, there were four people from LCOG at the Conference at Mt. Bachelor Village in Bend. While this year's location makes for a somewhat longer trip, these conferences have been found highly valuable in

the past, and I would hope that several Board members will be able to help represent LCOG in San Diego. More information to come... Please let Jerry or myself know of your interest in attending.

4. Board Agenda Format

Board members' discussion over recent months about the form and content of Board meetings prompted several suggested changes in the agenda. The primary changes reflected in this month's agenda are:

- A separation of "public comment" from the internal (typically written) reports of committees;
- Elimination of the "state and national association report;"
- Elimination of divisional categories for the entries under "information items;" and
- Adjustment of the "special presentation" item to follow business- and internal information items, so that it flows directly into a newly labeled "agency reports and discussion" section

Though not well illustrated with this month's agenda, it is understood that the Board wishes as much business as possible to be either handled by the Executive Committee or included for summary action in the "consent agenda." The value that motivated and guided these changes was to take care of routine business in the most efficient fashion and leave opportunity for informed discussion of regional topics.

5. S&DS Funding

In light of the fact that the Board will tonight be asked to approve a *Revised Budget* that will, once again, impose reductions on LCOG's Senior and Disabled Services Division, it is noteworthy that we expect in the coming fiscal year to be able to rebuild some of what has been lost, as a result of action by the Legislative Emergency Board. On April 9, the "E-Board" approved DHS' plans for responding to the defeat of Measure 30. While other cuts were made within the department, no further reductions were made to services for senior citizens and people with disabilities. Indeed, the E-Board restored Medicaid-funded long-term care services for individuals at

levels 11 and 12, and added \$1 million statewide to the appropriation for Oregon Project Independence. The latter decision will mean that some in-home services can be provided to former Medicaid clients assessed at level 14. Before services for clients in levels 11 and 12 can be re-started, federal approval will be needed; but such approval is expected and should not take more than three months. The E-Board also approved the retention of the Oregon Health Plan (the “Plus Plan”) for eligible individuals, but withdrew funding for the OHP (“Standard Plan”) serving low income people who are not eligible under federal law. The net result for our clients—and your constituents—is that more people can access the services that they need. Funding was provided by shifting funds within the Department’s biennial budget for 2003-05, by capitalizing upon a favorable change in the matching ratio for federal Medicaid funds, and by committing approximately one half of the 2003-05 Emergency Fund to the provision of priority DHS services. LCOG’s fiscal year 2004-05 budget, currently in the hands of the Budget Committee, will be presented to the Board next month, and it is expected to show an increase in funding for of S&DS services.

6. Senior Meals Program Fund Raiser

Tonight, the Board is being asked to approve recommended reductions in service for the Senior Meals Program (Item 10.B). It is important to remember, however, that even with those cost-saving measures, the fund-raising obligations on the Program are substantial. The generosity of several area restaurants has provided a mechanism to raise money to support Meals on Wheels; and another opportunity for a low-burden contribution is available next month. On Monday, May 3, McMenamins North Bank Restaurant will contribute 50 percent of the proceeds from 5:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., to Meals on Wheels, managed by both the Red Cross and LCOG’s S&DS. As with restaurant fund-raisers, the Board is encouraged to participate.

7. City-County Transportation Finance Meeting Scheduled for April 28

While not an LCOG enterprise, a reminder may be appropriate that the Board of County Commissioners has again invited representatives of our 12 cities to a meeting to discuss Road Fund allocations to cities. The meeting is scheduled for 5:30 in LCC’s conference facility (Building 19) on Wednesday, April 28.

April 23, 2004

The Honorable Stuart Foster, Chair
Oregon Transportation Commission
355 Capitol St. NE Room 101
Salem, OR 97301-3871

Dear Chairman Foster:

The Metropolitan Policy Committee and the Lane Council of Government's Board of Directors are writing out of concern over ODOT's plans to eliminate its funding of match for the federal planning funds used by the state's MPOs.

Over the past 30 years, ODOT's matching funds have helped leverage a tremendous amount of federal planning funds for the MPOs. The federal MPO planning requirements are one of the few 'funded mandates' in place today. The federal funds, both the PL and STP funds, are the only sources of funding available to MPOs for meeting the federal and state transportation planning requirements, making the match a very effective use of ODOT funds.

At a time when the Central Lane MPO is taking on additional responsibilities as a Transportation Management Area (TMA), ODOT's continued funding of our match is particularly critical. The amount of match provided by ODOT for PL and STP funds in 2004 was approximately \$45,000 or 7% of the overall MPO budget.

ODOT recently ended its provision of supplemental funds to the Central Lane MPO process, resulting in reductions in MPO staff. These supplemental funds averaged \$265,000 annually between 1995 and 2000. To address this cutback, and enable the MPO to address the increased responsibilities of a TMA, MPC approved the use of \$250,000 in local discretion STP funds for MPO planning purposes in FY 2004 and FY 2005. Elimination of ODOT's matching funds puts the MPO's ability to meet its federal and state requirements at risk.

The MPO process has proven exceptionally productive over the past three decades. A tremendous framework has been established in each of the state's major metropolitan areas. This framework has facilitated collaboration between the state, transit district, and local governments on what is arguably one of the most important elements of community building – the region's transportation system. We respectfully request that the Commission explore options to sustain its financial support of this resource.

Sincerely,

Bonny Bettman, Chair
Metropolitan Policy Committee

Jerry Miller, Chair
LCOG Board of Directors

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Delicious Food, Ale & Wine at*



to Benefit



Enjoy an Evening Out at
22 Club Road
343-5622
Eugene

Mark your calendars for

May 3, 2004

Monday Night

Come and Enjoy Anytime Between

5:00 - 11:00 p.m.

50% of all proceeds benefit
the Meals on Wheels Program in Lane County.
165,000 Meals on Wheels
will be delivered by volunteers of both
the American Red Cross and the
Senior & Disabled Services this year.

*Thank you McMenamins North Bank for
supporting Meals on Wheels!*

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