

Agenda Item Number 15.A.

Lane County Population Projection Coordination

Presenter: Clair Van Bloem

Action Recommended: Information only

Issue Summary:

- Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) is the coordinating body for Lane County. In this role, LCOG is coordinating the urban growth boundary (UGB) projections within Lane County.
- As part of this endeavor, LCOG plans to process and adopt these projections using the LCOG Board on which all jurisdictions are represented. Over time, LCOG is prepared to obtain population information such as yearly population estimates, decennial census counts, and other relevant population studies and will review this information in relation to the coordinated UGB population projections.
- At this point, the coordinated projections are preliminary. It is likely to be six months to a year before they are finalized and ready for adoption.

Background:

In 1974, Lane County transferred the role of “Coordinating Body” from Lane County to the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG). One task of the coordinating body is to coordinate the urban growth boundary (UGB) projections within the county. To comply with this state statute, LCOG obtained a small grant from the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) in 2001. The purpose and product of the grant are to develop coordinated projections for all UGBs in Lane County plus the population outside UGBs from 2000 to 2030 in five year increments. The state requires that the Lane County population projections developed by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis (OEA) are used as the Lane County population control total. The population for all Lane County jurisdictions must total to the OEA Lane County projection.

In late February, all jurisdictions in Lane County received copies of the OEA preliminary projections for their review and comment. The 2003 OEA projections forecast lower population figures for Lane County than the previously released 1997 projections. The projections done in 1997 over-projected the 2000 Lane County population by approximately 2 percent. For Lane County, the 1997 projections forecasted an annual average increase of 1.13 percent between 2000 and 2030 while the 2003 projections forecast a .96 annual average percent increase in this same time period. Between 1990 and 2000, Lane County's annual average increase was 1.3 percent.

To develop the UGB coordinated projections, existing sources of projections and historic trends were used. LCOG staff reviewed 1990 and 2000 population figures and historic trends of the proportion the UGB population was of the total Lane County population. Projections from comprehensive plans and transportation system plans were also reviewed. Also, projections used for the Region 2050 project were included in the analysis. For the population outside of UGBs, Lane County staff provided information on the total potential for future dwelling units outside UGBs. The resulting projections countywide exceeded the 2003 OEA preliminary projections for Lane County and adjustments were made to control to the OEA preliminary projections. The outcome is that the preliminary coordinated projections for some jurisdictions are lower than are presently in use. This is due to the fact that many of the projections presently in use by jurisdictions were based, at least to some extent, on the old 1997 OEA projections and as noted earlier the 2003 projections are lower. For example, in 2030, the 2003 projections are 33,757 persons lower than the 1997 projections.

A meeting will be held in June of all jurisdictions to discuss the preliminary coordinated projections and procedures for modifying these and future coordinated projections. It is important to note that once these projections are adopted and forwarded to the state, they will serve as the 20-year UGB population projections for comprehensive land use plans, facility plans and transportation system plans.