

Agenda Item Number 14.

Walkable Community Workshops

Presenter: Jeff Krueger

Action Recommended: Information Only

Background:

From May 10-12, 2004, Lane Council of Governments hosted four interactive *Walkable Community Workshops* in our area including two in Springfield and two in Eugene. A total of 115 individuals participated in these four workshops including citizens, elected officials, planners, engineers, planning commissioners, public health officials, disability services managers, landscape architects, and educators. The workshops were presented by the National Center for Bicycling and Walking (NCBW) expert trainers Charlie Gandy and Bruce Appleyard who combined vision with real-world experience in implementation.

Workshop Funding

Lane Council of Governments was one of ten Metropolitan Planning Organizations from around the country selected to participate in this year's program. The workshops were funded by the NCBW and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which provided approximately \$20,000 in technical assistance. Matching funds were provided locally by the cities of Eugene and Springfield, Lane Transit District Commuter Solutions Program, Lane Council of Governments, and Oregon Department of Transportation.

Workshop Locations and Format

Each of the four workshops followed the same basic format, but focused on a unique study area. The study areas were selected to provide a representative sampling of commercial areas found in our community. Workshop locations included Main Street/South A Street in Springfield, Gateway Street in Springfield, Willamette Street in Eugene, and the downtown Eugene LTD station and vicinity. The typical workshop included an introduction of participants, a NCBW presentation, a walking audit of the study area, a small group design exercise, and the presentation of results. Workshop participants learned about successful pedestrian design, safety, education, and encouragement. Each workshop may have looked at a specific site, but the solutions proposed can be applied in other areas throughout our community.

A copy of the summary report will be handed out at the board meeting and will also soon be posted on the LCOG web page.