

Agenda Item Number 6.

Comments from the Executive Director

Presenter: George Kloeppe

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

1. **Board Meeting Schedule**

We are grateful for the hospitality of Lane County and the Department of Youth Services. Our next meeting, Thursday February 28, will be hosted by Junction City. We are scheduled to be in Cottage Grove in April and in Florence in June. Included in the packet for today's meeting was the schedule for LCOG's 2008 Board meetings—with blank lines prominently shown for the meetings in September and December. Member jurisdictions that would like to host one of those meetings are encouraged to make their wishes known.

2. **Regional Transportation Plan Adopted**

Mayor Piercy will no doubt report on the RTP adoption by the Metropolitan Policy Committee under the next item. Let me say here that, from the staff perspective, the cooperation of all of the decision-making jurisdictions within the MPO is greatly appreciated. On a continuing basis, there remains a great deal that must be done to meet our work program obligations, but having the four-year RTP and the associated Air Quality Conformity Determination taken care of helps a lot. I can also report that high level staff from ODOT, DLCD, Eugene, Springfield, Lane County, and LTD have held two meetings, facilitated by LCOG, to scope the tasks necessary to update the metro area transportation system plans to bring those documents into consistency with the RTP and to meet State requirements.

3. Staffing Increases in S&DS Division

Since the Board has had to listen to my complaints about cut-backs in the staffing levels in the Senior and Disabled Services Division, it is only appropriate to share the positive as well. Since the current biennial budget was established by the Legislature, we have been able to hire five new employees to help address case load demands and reduce the strain on the existing overburdened work force. The five FTE increase is as far as we can prudently go for the time being and these new hands do not bring us up to the pre-2003 levels of staffing. But the help is much appreciated.

4. LCOG Staff Support for United Way and Earth Share

This past fall, LCOG staff members were invited to make their 2008 commitments to support human services needs in Lane County through United Way and environmental programs through Earth Share. Pledges to either or both are handled as payroll deductions at the direction of employees. This year, Marianne Griffin and Ann Mortenson facilitated the agency campaign. The results: “LCOGers” contributed \$2,748 to Earth Share and \$8,605 to United Way of Lane County. Thirty six employees agreed to participate through payroll deduction over the coming year.

5. Happy Holidays

The staff and management of your council of governments extend warmest wishes to our member agencies, Board of Directors and family members for a safe and happy holiday season.