

November 17, 2008

To : Lane Economic Committee – Agenda item #7

Subject: Continuation of Economic Development Needs & Issues (N&I) Process

Issues

- A Needs & Issues process could be continued by the Lane Economic Committee
 1. The Lane Economic Committee (LEC) functioned as the Regional Coordinating Agency for Lane County when the N&I process was directed by the State of Oregon. The State of Oregon has greatly curtailed the frequency of N&I updates.
 2. The LEC has a broad diversity of backgrounds and regional representation which gives the group a unique set of applicable skills.
 3. The N&I process fits well under LCOG's umbrella as a regional planning agency.
 4. The N&I process fits well within LCOG's expertise in community development.
 5. The N&I process fits well with LCOG's efforts to support regional cooperation.
 6. The LEC would have very little overlap with other organizations such as Lane Metro Partnership or Lane Workforce Partnership as these other organizations tend to focus more on economic development or workforce development as opposed to community development.
 7. Certain other organizations such as the US Economic Development Administration have maintained a requirement that a project should be listed on the Needs & Issues Inventory prior to acceptance by EDA of a grant application.
 8. The State of Oregon requires that a project be listed on the Needs & Issues Inventory in order to request CDBG funding (although this requirement may be eliminated in 2009).
 9. Inclusion on the N&I list could be advantageous on grant applications, even in situations where presence on the list is not mandated in the grant application process.
 10. A prioritized project list could potentially be utilized by the Lane County United Front lobbying group.
 11. The N&I list could be incorporated into and form the basis of the regional Cascades West Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.
 12. The N&I list could be disseminated to elected local State of Oregon legislators in order to educate and inform them regarding the funding needs of their local constituent communities.
 13. All infrastructure projects with the exception of transportation projects would be targeted.

14. Communities would submit a brief written project description to LCOG and the LEC for an annual evaluation and ranking and would then have opportunities to add or delete other projects during the year.
15. Communities would periodically have the in-person opportunity to present their projects to the LEC.
16. The LCOG Board would have the final authority to approve the N&I list.
17. The project could be funded by the existing EDA technical assistance contract which is currently used to staff the LEC.

Proposed Actions

LCOG Staff supports implementation of this concept.