

April 8, 2004

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Jeff Krueger

Subject: Item 4.d. Walkable Community Workshops Preview

Action Recommended: Information only

Issue Summary:

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization has been selected as one of the 10 Metropolitan Planning Organizations nationwide to participate in the National Center for Bicycling and Walking's (NCBW) Walkable Community Workshop program. This program is providing our MPO with approximately \$20,000 in training and technical assistance and will support four half-day workshops to be held in May 2004. These workshops are designed to bring together elected officials and citizens as well as professionals in the fields of planning, engineering, law enforcement, public health, and education..

The workshop program presents information on how to turn communities into pedestrian-friendly places and combines practical presentations on the latest thinking on community design and traffic operations with fieldwork where participants apply what they're learning. Each workshop will be focused on a specific site within our MPO and will identify potential short- and long-term improvements to those areas. The workshops are presented by a team of NCBW expert trainers who combine vision with real-world experience in implementation.

Attached is information on the dates and locations of each of the four workshops. By all accounts, these are excellent workshops and I encourage you to attend at least one of these sessions.

Walkable Community Workshops

Scheduled for May 10-12

The upcoming *Walkable Community Workshops* are half-day events for elected officials, citizens, and professionals in the fields of planning, engineering, law enforcement, public health, landscape architecture, and education. These interactive workshops will provide information on how we can turn our community into the kind of pedestrian-friendly place we all like to experience. Lane Council of Governments was one of ten Metropolitan Planning Organizations from around the country recently selected to participate in this program. The workshops are funded by the National Center for Bicycling and Walking (NCBW) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and are being sponsored locally by the cities of Eugene and Springfield, Lane Transit District Commuter Solutions Program, Lane Council of Governments, and Oregon Department of Transportation.

We invite you to participate in at least one of the four workshops scheduled in our area in May. The workshops are presented by NCBW expert trainers Charles Gandy and Bruce Appleyard who combine vision with real-world experience in implementation. During the four-hour workshop, participants will identify opportunities to eliminate barriers and enhance walkability, while building consensus on what needs to be done to improve conditions for pedestrians.

As a workshop participant, you will learn about successful pedestrian design, safety, education, enforcement, and encouragement. A walking audit of the study area will help us understand and identify obstacles specific to each of the four workshop study areas and may lead directly to on-the-ground solutions.

Workshop Focus Areas and Dates:

Main St./S. A St. (Mill to 10th), Springfield
Monday, May 10, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Location: Springfield Library Meeting Room

Willamette Street (24th to 29th Ave.), Eugene
Tuesday, May 11, 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Location: Tsunami Books (2585 Willamette St.)

Gateway Street, Springfield
Tuesday, May 11, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Location: Gateway Mall Meeting Room
(adjacent to Movies 12 and Food Court)

LTD Downtown Station and Vicinity, Eugene
Wednesday, May 12, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Location: Eugene Library (Bascom-Tykeson Room)



It is important that we have a fairly accurate count of participants prior to the workshop so please contact Jeff Krueger at LCOG (682-4122, jkrueger@lane.cog.or.us) or your local sponsor if you can attend, or have questions about the workshops.

The workshop will include a tour of the site, so please plan to wear comfortable shoes and clothing suitable for the weather that day.

We hope you will be able to participate in one of these pivotal workshops!