



Lane Council of Governments

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March 29, 2004

TO: Metropolitan Policy Committee

FROM: Carol Heinkel, Principal Planner

SUBJECT: Scope of Work: Metro Plan Text Amendments Related to Urban Services
Delivery, Draft March 29, 2004

This memo responds to issues raised at a joint elected officials meeting on February 10, 2004 and provides background information related to the attached draft Scope of Work for text amendments to address Metro Plan urban service policy issues.

ACTION REQUESTED

Review and comment on the attached Draft Scope of Work. Following review by MPC, the scope will be finalized by the three elected bodies in separate meetings.

BACKGROUND

Administrative staff of Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County met with Planning Directors to discuss two issues raised by the elected officials at their joint meeting on February 10, 2004: Metro Plan urban services policy and the need to clarify local autonomy in metro planning. The attached Scope of Work incorporates the collective thinking of the staff group on the issue of urban services. Regarding the issue of local autonomy in metro planning, staff propose to work with legal staff to prepare a memorandum interpreting current Metro Plan provisions. That memorandum will be presented to the three elected bodies in the near future.

METRO PLAN URBAN SERVICES POLICIES: A LOOK BACK

The existing urban services policy structure of the Metro Plan was adopted more than 20 years ago. At that time, there was a proliferation of special districts providing overlapping service delivery in and beyond the metropolitan region. Cities and counties were viewed as the general service providers and were granted broad powers by the state. Primary focus during the preparation of the Metro Plan was on the River Road and Santa Clara areas near Eugene and North Springfield and Douglas Gardens adjacent to Springfield. A key question was “who would control growth?” The current Metro Plan policies pertaining to urban services reflect both the broad fiscal authority of cities and the priorities of this earlier time.

The Metro Plan fundamental principles and policies placed heavy emphasis on cities as the logical providers of urban levels of services. The County agreed that the cities should have more control of growth within the Metro Plan urban growth boundary (UGB).

Times have changed significantly since the early 1980s. City services funded primarily with property tax revenue have been increasingly subject to constitutional, statutory, political and practical constraints. These revenue constraints are forcing local officials to make choices among important city services, including reducing or foregoing some services in order to preserve or implement others.

The Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County have each identified advantages in looking to special districts as a way to provide services differently. The local governments have also begun to explore the disadvantages and limitations of this approach. The Metro Plan sets broad policy direction for the provision of urban services in the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area, and adjustments to these policies may be needed to accomplish local government objectives to provide services differently in the future.

SCOPE OF WORK

The attached Scope of Work was developed by LCOG staff working in collaboration with city and county administrative staff and metro planning directors. There was general recognition that the work program timeline is ambitious with Metro Plan amendments submitted for adoption by late fall, 2004. This timeframe allows for the City of Springfield to resubmit an application for fire district annexation in early 2005, if the City decides to pursue such as application. In order to meet the Boundary Commission's filing deadline for their February meeting, the application would need to be submitted by January 4, 2005. This deadline is important for 2005-2006 taxing purposes.

ATTACHMENT: Scope of Work: Metro Plan Text Amendments Related to Urban Services Delivery, Draft March 29, 2004

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