



S&DS IN FOCUS • INFORMATION & REFERRAL

Senior & Disabled Services Information & Referral Line Links Callers to Services

by Kathy Thomas

A caller on the phone to the Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) Senior & Disabled Services' (S&DS) Information & Referral (I&R) line is asking about housing options. His wife was recently placed in a nursing facility and he is now living in the woods. The previous caller, a staff person from an Area Agency on Aging elsewhere in Oregon, called to notify S&DS that a man with Alzheimer's bought a bus ticket to Eugene, and he is on his way.

The four-member staff of the S&DS I&R program handles tens of thousands of inquiries each year from individuals who seek information or services. "We meet the needs of the

caller and help them with their problems. Sometimes we are the only link for people in the community. After experiencing a life-changing event such as paralysis or the death of a spouse, often the first call an individual will make is to S&DS. It is the first time that they have let their guard down to ask for help. Those are the moments when I feel most fulfilled in my job," said **Peggy Thompson** who joined the group in 1990.

The Access Unit supports the I&R line, (541) 682-4038 and the toll-free line 1-800-441-4038, which takes calls Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Staff duties include conducting interviews to

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Major Change in the Works for Information & Referral Phone Line

For the first time, the Senior & Disabled Services' (S&DS) Information & Referral (I&R) line will begin using an automated telephone tree. In the past, S&DS has resisted a move to an automated telephone system, but the volume of incoming calls is forcing the change.

The telephone tree will direct callers to departments within the organization,

which will allow I&R staff to promptly respond to callers reporting abuse and neglect.

Development of the automated line is in progress and implementation is expected by summer.

For information, contact **Sue Hawk**, Access Supervisor, at (541) 682-2483.

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by George Kloeppel

“The modifications take into account both revenue changes and changes on the expense side of the budget.”

Proposed Budget Revision Goes to Board

At its April 26 meeting, the LCOG Board of Directors was asked to consider a revision to its current year budget. This action is consistent with the long-standing practice of amending the budget after the end of the third quarter to accommodate changes that have come to light since the document was originally adopted in June. The modifications take into account both revenue changes and changes on the expense side of the budget.

This year's proposed *Revised Budget* would make a hardly noticeable change in the organization's total fiscal authorization. It would increase the bottom line amount by \$469,798, or approximately 1.7 percent. As proposed, the new total for Fiscal Year 2000-2001 will be \$26,953,642.

In a very real sense, the adoption of what is essentially a housekeeping budget revision is far from newsworthy. I flag it here for three reasons: there is good news, there is not-so-good news, and there is genuine appreciation for the good work being done.

First, the good news. LCOG continues its long tradition of providing high quality, flexible, and relevant services, both to our member governments and to the citizens of this regional community. The fact that the budget revision seeks Board approval for an increased budget authorization is a reflection of the agency's prudent fiscal management and its pursuit of resources to address the varied tasks set forth in the annual work program. Advisory bodies and LCOG staff have been successful in garnering federal support for our work activities well in excess of what was projected last June. The *Revised Budget* would

increase this revenue line item by \$624,000 to a new total for the current fiscal year of \$10,956,774. Other revenue line items will be increased by the revision, as well, and overall, the pattern is one of stability and responsibility.

The bad news—and that label may overstate the case somewhat—can be found in a couple of specific areas. For example, the proposal reduces the funds that the agency can anticipate this year from the State of Oregon by \$344,059. That cutback in state funding for our Local Government Services Division is even more profound, with the reduction exceeding \$450,000. The fact that State support for our activities has trailed off may be an anomaly or temporary condition. But it certainly bears continued monitoring. Another element of *bad news* is the fact that our end-of-year Undesignated Reserves, as highlighted in the organization's audited Financial Statements for Fiscal Year 1999-2000, came in \$120,000 less than that which was anticipated when the original Budget was adopted last summer. This, too, deserves a watchful eye, because the Board of Directors has maintained its goal to continue to build Undesignated Reserves to smooth the inevitable cash-flow irregularities that are experienced from time to time.

Although the total proposed *Revised Budget* reflects a modest increase from the budget that it will replace. The changes *within* the document are not distributed evenly. Indeed, the external forces at play within specific areas of the organization necessitate a measured reduction in LCOG's total staff complement. Throughout all

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200 Attend Speaker's Task Force on Senior and Disabled Forum

By Kathy Thomas

As part of the Lane Council of Governments' Senior & Disabled Services' (S&DS) advocacy work for seniors and people with disabilities, S&DS recently sponsored a community forum. The focus of the event was proposed cuts in the State budget—cuts that would drastically and negatively affect S&DS clients, among others.

About 200 concerned citizens packed into Hilyard Community Center on March 7 to show their support for refunding the cuts to a variety of services to seniors and people with disabilities. The room was packed, with many people filling the hallway and others standing outside trying to hear testimony through windows.

The Governor's budget, released in December, called for \$87 million in cuts to programs that serve seniors and people with disabilities. The cuts include elimination of Oregon Project Independence and reductions to

Medicaid that would stop service to people at survivability levels 15, 16, and 17.

Nearly 600 Lane County clients would lose services that include personal care and home care.

Members of the bipartisan task force named by House Speaker **Mark Simmons** heard an earful from people who face cuts to their service and from providers as well. Ruth Schussler, 81, a diabetic who has undergone several surgeries, depends on her caregiver to help her bathe. "I am totally incapacitated. What will I do without assistance? I'd have to give up on food. Please don't take this necessity from seniors. Let us keep our self-respect," Schussler said.

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Members of the state Task Force on Senior and Disabled Funding listen to testimony from S&DS staff and clients.

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divisions, a total of 9.62 full-time-equivalent (FTE) positions will be cut out of the current year's authorization. That is a reduction—almost entirely within Local Government Services—that will bring the new staff authorization for the fiscal year to 219.02 FTE.

My final observation about the *Revised Budget* is the simple, but sincere, expression of thanks to the staff of this organization for their collective stewardship of the resources with which we have been entrusted. It is

difficult for the chief executive to assert that this is a very well-run organization without sounding boastful. The fact is that I am proud of, not only what LCOG is able to do, but also of how it manages its responsibilities. The budget is but one indicator of the nature and character of an organization. As LCOG's budget changes and adjusts to the circumstances of our environment, we will, as an agency, remain prudent and responsible. And that is a reflection on the people who make this place work.

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determine potential program eligibility, asking potential clients about their ability to care for their basic physical needs, and requesting financial information that determines if the individual is eligible for public programs.

Staff is also responsible for taking calls about cases of neglect or abuse of seniors and adults with disabilities.

For information, contact **Sue Hauk**, Access Supervisor, at (541) 682-2483.



Peggy Thompson, Human Service Specialist, joined Senior & Disabled Services (S&DS) in 1988. Her areas of expertise include knowledge of eligibility information for S&DS programs, an understanding of the local social service network; and a familiarity and understanding of the issues that face seniors and adults with disabilities.

Currently, Peggy's day-to-day work involves responding to calls from the public, hospital staff, and other social service providers; interviewing callers and visitors about their eligibility for S&DS programs; and preparing for the introduction of an automated telephone tree system.

To reach Peggy, call (541) 682-4038.

Benefits Help Meals on Wheels Raise Funds

Springtime has Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) Senior & Disabled Services' (S&DS) staff busy organizing fundraisers for the Meals on Wheels (MOW) program.

The first such event was held on the evening of April 10 at Mazzi's Italian Restaurant. Guests not only enjoyed delicious Italian food, they helped the MOW program: 50 percent of all food and beverage sales were donated to MOW. In all, the program received \$2,350. Staff and volunteers were overwhelmed by the record-breaking amount, and thank all those who attended.

The next MOW benefit will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2001, at McMenamins North Bank at 22 Club

Road. Again, 50 percent of all food and beverage sales from 5:00 p.m. until closing will be given to the MOW program. Families are encouraged to attend.

June 16 is the date of the ninth annual Vitality Walk/Run. All proceeds of this event benefit the MOW program. Hosted by the Downtown Athletic Club, the Vitality Walk/Run targets people 50 years of age and older, but welcomes all ages. The event will take place at Alton Baker Park with participants receiving a commemorative T-shirt and a two-week pass to the Downtown Athletic Club.

For more information, contact **Stephanie Dresie Chaney**, S&DS, at (541) 682-4483

S&DS Program Update

Following news of a series of accidents involving wheelchair users, the Senior & Disabled Services' Disability Service Advisory Council (DSAC) is seeking solutions to the problem. DSAC members joined forces with the Accessibility Committee of the City of Eugene's Human Rights Commission to study issues involving the safety of persons with disabilities, elderly pedestrians, and wheelchair users in Eugene.

On Friday, April 13, 2001, the two groups generated ideas on how best to address the problem. Further meetings will allow the group to prioritize their ideas, select the best ways to address the safety issue, and finally develop and implement an action plan.

For more information, contact **Ted Stevens**, Senior & Disabled Services, at (541) 682-4432.

Clients Rely on LCOG's Regional and Natural Resources Program

by Steve Gordon

For many years, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) has been involved in natural resources and regional planning issues related to Lane County and the broader Willamette Valley region. This program area was formalized in the LCOG organization in 1999.

LCOG provides staff support to the Willamette Valley Livability Forum; the Oregon Planning Institute, in cooperation with the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association; the Lane County Local Government Boundary Commission, a State agency; and a variety of natural resource and park and open space topics.

Currently, there are seven staff in the program, who together have 95 years of experience at LCOG and another 83 years of other governmental, private consulting, or academic experience. The staff is multi-disciplinary with degrees in geography, urban geography, urban and regional planning, soil science, political science, leisure studies, outdoor recreation planning and management, and water resources. In addition, many staff members have extensive land use experience and interact regularly with urban planning, transportation, geographic information systems, and production staff.

Natural resources staff assist with a variety of specific and ongoing projects, including:

- Particular local boundary changes;
- Wetlands in west Eugene, Springfield, Dunes City, Florence, and Veneta;
- Eugene stormwater program;
- Metropolitan parks and open space planning;
- Parks planning in Eugene and Willamalane Park and Recreation District,
- Mitigation bank restoration planning;
- Stream restoration in Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County Fairgrounds;
- Watershed councils, including the McKenzie Watershed Council;
- Soils analysis for Lane County;
- Groundwater protection for Coburg, Springfield Utility Board, and Junction City; and
- Environmental education in west Eugene.

The program also performs broad natural resources studies on wildlife, habitat, riparian corridors, and uplands, and is currently managing the metropolitan natural resources study and the natural resources component of the Region 2050 project. Staff has assisted Eugene, Lane County, and Springfield in lobbying for various natural resource projects.

For more information, contact **Steve Gordon**, LCOG, at (541) 682-4426.

Boundary Commission Supports Cities and Special Districts

Who decides if property is to be added to one of the 12 cities in Lane County? Or when a rural fire protection district is asked to add property to its service area, who approves such action? The answer: the Lane County Local Government Boundary Commission (LCLGBC).

A State agency, LCLGBC has decision-making authority for certain kinds of boundary changes for cities and certain special districts in Lane County. Boundary changes include requests to annex to an existing city or district, form a new taxing district, or dissolve an existing taxing district, among others. Examples of special districts for which the LCLGBC processes boundary changes include rural fire protection districts, water districts, park and recreation districts, and library districts. In addition, the LCLGBC has authority over extraterritorial water and wastewater extensions, and the creation of new community water and wastewater systems.

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The LCLGBC contracts with the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) for all services, including staff support, space, equipment, and other needs to complete LCLGBC business. During the current fiscal year, LCLGBC work has included approval of the following boundary changes:

-Annexations to:

- Cottage Grove: 1
- Creswell: 2
- Eugene: 18
- Springfield: 10
- Heceta Water District: 1

-Wastewater Extensions: Eugene: 1
Springfield: 1

The LCLGBC consists of seven members, each appointed by the Governor to serve a four-year term. Recent new appointees are Karen Seidel, a Eugene resident; Van Heeter, a Florence resident; Chris Larson, a Springfield resident; and Jim Spickerman, a Eugene resident. These new members join Walt Sands, from Creswell, and Emily Schue, from Eugene, on the commission. There is one vacancy on the LCLGBC.

For more information, contact **Paula Taylor**, LCOG, at (541) 682-4425.

LCOG Staff Assists With Various Wetlands Projects



For the past 14 years, Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) has assisted the City of Eugene and Lane County in numerous wetlands projects. In addition, staff helps several cities and customers with wetlands issues ranging from planning and coordination to citizen involvement and lobbying.

Work pertaining to the West Eugene Wetlands Program has included assistance in development of the *West Eugene Wetlands Plan* (WEWP) and aid in the establishment of the first working wetland mitigation bank in Oregon. Staff continues to provide assistance with the design of wetland restoration projects. In addition, LCOG has assisted with wetlands lobbying efforts that have resulted in over \$10 million of federal funds going

to the Eugene District of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to purchase wetlands.

Other LCOG work includes:

- Assistance with two Amazon Creek stream restoration projects, which included widening the stream and constructing bicycle paths. These projects were funded by \$13 million of federal, state, and local funds;
- Establishment of the summer youth corps program in the wetlands, a program that is now coordinated by the City of Eugene and is entering its sixth year;
- Assistance with coordination of partnership efforts involving the BLM, the City, The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps;
- Assistance to the BLM and other partners for an environmental education program in the west Eugene wetlands; and
- Assistance to the cities of Springfield, Dunes City, Florence, and

Veneta in conducting local wetland inventories with grants from the State.



Environmental education to area youth is one goal of the west Eugene wetland partners.

Eugene Mayor Torrey addressed the task force, noting that while children are the focus of his charitable efforts, no one should be left out. "We as government must be compassionate and listen to these people in the room," he said. "They paid their dues."

The light moment of the day came from Disability Services Advisory Council Chair Ed Necker who now lives independently, but relied on state services after he suffered a head injury. "It only takes a moment of bad luck to become disabled, he said. And if you're fortunate enough not to become disabled, you'll get old. Need I say more?"

The Eugene hearing was the first of eight scheduled meetings. For more information, contact **Kathy Thomas**, S&DS, at (541) 682-4660.

PROGRAMS IN FOCUS

Economic Development Program Keeps Busy

by *Cynthia van Zelm*

During the last several months, Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) staff has continued to assist member agencies with economic development projects. Significant efforts involved the Benton-Lane-Linn-Lincoln (BL3) Regional Investment Board.

State lottery funding for economic and community development projects became available through the Regional and Rural Investment Funds, which were created by the 1999 Oregon State Legislature. The BL3 Regional Investment Board, established to distribute the Funds in the four-county region, is made up of five representatives from each county and represents various local interests including counties, cities, ports, special districts, and the private sector.

On October 23, 2000, the BL3 Regional Investment Board approved

\$2.2 million for 37 regional and rural projects, and \$247,000 for eight multi-region projects. Of the 37 projects approved, 11 are in Lane County. Projects include repairing inflow and infiltration at the Lowell sewer system; job training for persons with employment barriers through Goodwill Industries; and infrastructure and building rehabilitation at the Oakridge Industrial Park. LCOG assisted with project development, completing the applications for funding, and managing the project coordination. All four county commissions approved the funding in November 2000.

Contracts have been developed between project sponsors and Cascades West Council of Governments, the administrative agent for the BL3 Regional Investment Board. LCOG will continue to work with project sponsors as projects begin.

2000 Census Population Data Available

by *Clair Van Bloem*

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released 2000 Census data on population. These data, the first released from the 2000 Census, indicate that Lane County's population grew slower than the State's during the 1990s. Creswell was the fastest growing city, followed by Florence. However, in terms of numerical change, approximately 63 percent of all Lane County's population growth occurred inside the City of Eugene. Eugene continues to be the second most populous city in Oregon.

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) is the affiliate data center in the U.S. Census Bureau's State Data Center Program; information on population and the economy of Lane County can be found at LCOG's Local Government Services' Information and Analysis web page at www.lcog.org/lgs/ira.html.

For more information, contact **Clair Van Bloem**, LCOG, at (541) 682-4437.

Metropolitan Natural Resources Study Produces Draft Inventory

by Kathi Wiederhold

Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) recently produced the *Draft Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Natural Resources Inventory and Significance Criteria (Inventory and Significance Criteria)*. This document, now undergoing public review, is the first major product from the Metropolitan Natural Resources Study, a local planning effort that focuses on wetlands, riparian corridors, and upland wildlife habitat areas within the boundary of the *Eugene-Springfield Metro Area General Plan*. The Study meets the requirements of the statewide planning program, with a focus on local priorities. In all, the inventory includes 75 sites that cover 6,841 acres inside the urban growth boundary (UGB) and 2,965 acres, excluding upland wildlife habitat, outside the UGB.

The Study consists of two phases: first, completion of the inventory and development of significance criteria to identify sites for further analysis. The second phase includes analysis of the significant sites and development of policy recommendations to fully protect, allow full development, or allow some combination of development and protection of the resource.

The current review of the *Inventory and Significance Criteria* concludes the first phase of the study. This review included a public information session on April 18, 2001, and a Joint Planning Commission meeting on May 8, 2001, both of which will provide information

and an opportunity to gather public input on the inventory and significance criteria. The Planning Commissions of Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County will then make recommendations to the elected officials regarding use of the inventory and significance criteria in conducting the analysis and policy phase for the Study. Subsequently, the public adoption phase of the Study will begin in mid-2002.

In addition to the recent opportunities to provide input, in June 2000, approximately 150 citizens attended public workshops. Through these events, citizens submitted over 200 comments in the form of letters, e-mails, and comment forms. The results of this feedback were the addition of ten new sites to the inventory, adjustments to the boundaries of 20 sites, and an updated compilation of the inventory including new site maps.

More detailed Study information such as upcoming events, documents, and maps is available at www.ci.eugene.or.us/NRS. **Kathi Wiederhold**, LCOG, may also be reached at (541) 682-4430 for more information.



Hendricks Park a Gem in Eugene

Residents and visitors of Eugene enjoy the area's outdoor opportunities—bike paths, running trails, greenways, parks, and more. Perhaps one of the most popular sites is Hendricks Park.

Overlooking the Willamette River, the University of Oregon, and the city of Eugene, the park offers 77 acres of beautiful vegetation. Visitors can enjoy Douglas fir trees, wandering trails, and an abundance of forest foliage. Wildflowers, ferns, and other natural plant life create a seemingly endless beautiful and serene spot for relaxation and awe.

A well-liked feature of the park is the Rhododendron Garden. Shaded by Oregon white oaks, thousands of rhododendrons and other plants thrive amongst meandering walkways and secluded seating areas. Founded in 1951 by the American Rhododendron Society and the Eugene Parks Department, the garden displays ornamental plants, including rhododendrons, azaleas, and magnolias.

For more information, call (541) 682-5324.

The Metropolitan Natural Resources Study includes wetlands, riparian corridors, and upland wildlife habitat within the Metro Area General Plan boundary.



Eugene Facts

Incorporated: 1862
Population: 137,893
(2000 Census)
Size: Approximately
36 square miles

Elevation: 426 feet
above sea level
Rivers: Willamette,
McKenzie
Buttes: Skinner
Butte, Spencer
Butte

Average tempera-
ture: 53 degrees
Annual rainfall: 43
inches

Form of government:
Council/manager
City Council: Eight
elected members
Mayor: Presides
over City Council

Eugene Offers a Little Bit of Everything

In the mid-1800s, Eugene began as a town of small log cabins, large tracts of land, and an agrarian- and lumber-based economy. Today, it is Oregon's second largest city, well known for its outdoor enthusiasts, political activists, unique and diverse population, and a variety of cultural, educational, and commercial opportunities.

Settled in 1846 by Eugene Skinner and his wife Mary Elizabeth, Eugene was the earliest settlement in Lane County. Skinner built the first house, a one-room log cabin, on a 640-acre tract on what is now called Skinner's Butte.

Over the next few years, other land claims were made across the river in the present day Willakenzie area and the outlying areas. Ultimately, this growth brought about the incorporation of Eugene City in 1862, with Eugene Skinner as its first mayor. Renamed Eugene in 1888, the town was the first official city in the region.

Eugene's early economy was agrarian-based, with wheat as the first commercial crop. Water diverted from the Willamette River via the millrace provided power to flour, lumber, and woolen mills. Other early industries included furniture making, a brewery, quarries, brickyards, iron foundries, planing mills, and the cannery. The public square was home to early businesses including a grocery, dry goods store, livery, millinery, mercantile, hotel, and tavern.

In 1887, Eugene welcomed the Southern Pacific Railroad, which accelerated the town's growth and opened the market for the shipment of crops and

goods. During the first half of the twentieth century, other changes occurred to the transportation system: a bridge replaced Skinner's ferry, the Oregon Electric Railroad began service, the automobile replaced street cars, and the Mahlon Sweet Field was dedicated.

By 1960, Eugene was a significant wood products processing center, with logs cut from the Cascade and Coast Range forests. However, by the 1990s, the decline of the timber industry and growth in the high-tech sector brought a change to Eugene's economy.

Today, Eugene is a regional center for employment, education, government offices, medical facilities, shopping, and other commercial activities. Eugene offers cultural events, as well as transportation opportunities such as passenger train and air transportation. Scenic and recreational values are preserved in the Willamette River system, surrounding hills and farmlands, and an elaborate system of parks, open spaces, and natural areas.

In all, Eugene offers diverse opportunities for its residents and visitors: biking, running, walking...all possible here. Having a voice in local planning, being active in political events...also possible. Living among people from all walks of life...here. College, work, career, health care...all here as well.

From that small settlement of 1846, Eugene has grown into a city that offers a variety of opportunities to residents and visitors.

Willamette Valley Livability Forum Nears Completion on Three Projects

by Peter Watt

The Willamette Valley Livability Forum (Forum), created in 1996 by **Governor John Kitzhaber**, is nearing completion of three major efforts—all with the goal of helping Valley residents identify the choices necessary to move toward enhanced livability in 2050. Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) is providing the staffing and administrative support for all three Forum projects.

The Alternative Transportation Futures Project takes a long-range look at the future of Valley transportation. Work on the project, funded by the Federal Highway Administration, began in July 1999 and complements the work of two other studies by evaluating the long-term effects of growth on traffic congestion and mobility in the Valley.

Guided by a 13-member steering committee, the Forum evaluated seven scenarios to examine the effects of alternative land use and transportation policy choices over the next 50 years on city-to-city highway congestion and travel behavior in the Valley. The policy choices considered include: amount of urban land available for development, investments in highway and transit infrastructure, and cost of driving. By simulating possible futures and their transportation impacts, the Forum aims to identify the policy choices that can help prevent or minimize future impacts of growth on transportation and enhance the livability of the Valley.

Another Forum project, a publication inserted in Valley newspapers on

April 4, was distributed to approximately 460,000 households. The document includes the findings from three research projects on alternative 50-year futures for the Valley. In addition to the Forum's Alternative Transportation Futures Study, the publication includes the results of research on the long-term effects of growth on the Valley's ecosystem and on its farm and forest economies. The Forum hopes the document will inspire Valley residents to think about the possible futures and how they want the Valley to be in 2050.

Finally, the Forum and other sponsors hosted the Willamette Valley Choices for the Future Conference. The conference was meant to bring together and share the results of extensive work concerning the Valley's future quality of life. This work includes the Forum's *State of the Valley* report and 50-year vision of a livable future, the three alternative futures studies, the recently released *Willamette Restoration Strategy*, and the *Oregon State of the Environment Report 2000*.

The conference was held on April 26, 2001, at Oregon State University. It provided an opportunity for participants to consider a livable future for the Willamette Valley and identify the key choices necessary now in order to ensure that the Valley moves toward that future. Conference sponsors hope to inspire a network of citizens who will commit time and effort toward sustaining the quality of life in the Willamette Valley.

For more information, contact **Peter Watt**, LCOG, at (541) 682-4429.



Peter Watt, Principal Planner, joined LCOG in 1991.

His areas of expertise include regional land use and transportation planning, policy analysis and development, project management, and alternative dispute resolution/collaborative problem solving processes.

Currently, Peter is managing the Willamette Valley Livability Forum, as well as the Alternative Transportation Futures Project, which looks at transportation impacts of possible 50-year land use and transportation futures. Other Forum work includes managing the publication of a newspaper tabloid and organizing the Forum conference on April 26. In addition, Peter is assisting with another Forum-related project: the development of a Willamette Valley public investment strategy.

To contact Peter, call (541) 682-4429.

**Region 2050—A
Vision for the
Future**

The Southern Willamette Valley. Life here is good. History shows that it was good 50 years ago, even 100 years ago. What will life here be like in another 50 years? Will it include clean water and air? Will land use reflect a shared respect for agriculture? Will land use reflect wise decision making for movement of commuters? Will the quality of life be desirable?

Will tomorrow's residents enjoy what today's citizens have?

The answers to these questions lie in the Region 2050 process, a collaborative effort initiated by the elected officials of Lane County and the ten cities in the Southern Willamette Valley region, in partnership with state agencies, in March 2000. The county and these ten cities—Coburg, Cottage Grove, Creswell, Eugene, Junction City, Lowell, Oakridge, Springfield, Veneta, and Westfir—are guiding the effort at both the staff and elected official levels. According to the Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) Board Chair **Peter Bartel**, "Region 2050 is a process to help keep Oregon the wonderful

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**Regional Policy Advisory
Board Begins Series of Meetings**

The Region 2050 Regional Policy Advisory Board has begun the process of providing guidance for the Region 2050 process, beginning with a kick-off meeting on January 30. At this first meeting, the participants discussed what it means to be part of the Southern Willamette Valley region and the objectives to be served by Region 2050, a public-private process to improve and sustain livability in the Southern Willamette Valley over the next 50 years.

Key speakers at the January meeting included Congressman **Peter DeFazio** and **Greg Wolf**, Governor Kitzhaber's Community Policy Advisor. In his pre-recorded speech, Representative DeFazio remarked that if we do not look forward we would not be able to preserve what we recognize as Oregon and its "extraordinary quality of life." He stated that "we need to set a thoughtful vision for how to serve people in a more environmentally friendly and efficient way for transportation, utilities, and other services," and that "we need to predict what the economy will be like in the future in order to attract the industries that we need, and to support the required infrastructure." The Congressman pledged his support for Region 2050 and stated his intention to seek federal funding in the upcoming budget cycle.

Greg Wolf spoke about state-local collaboration, remarking that "Region 2050 is the only region in the state using the Community Solutions Team process, the Regional Problem Solving process, and state sustainability tools all at the same time and in one place." Created by state statute, Regional

Problem Solving allows the participants to develop solutions that do not necessarily comply with the letter of administrative land use rules if solutions comply with statewide planning goals and are agreed to by all the state and local partners. Mr. Wolf said that the Community Solutions Team will continue to work with the Policy Advisory Board and that "Region 2050 is clearly an example of collaboration that will chart the future to address job-housing imbalances and help distressed communities."

George Kloeppe, Lane Council of Governments' (LCOG) Executive Director, took the participants on an LCOG-produced virtual field trip of the region. Kloeppe presented information about each community and asked the Policy Advisory Board members to respond to two questions: what is the most important issue facing your community today? and what is the most important issue facing us collectively as a region over the next 50 years? Issues of high importance for communities today and in the future include: transportation impacts from inter-city commuting; school funding and location; water, stormwater, and wastewater facility upgrades in small cities; public safety; watershed health; economic growth, development, and diversification; downtown revitalization in small cities and redevelopment in the metro area; the desire to maintain sustainable neighborhoods with quality employment, shopping, services, and diverse residential choices; the need to preserve the family farm and agriculture as a resource; the need for greenspaces between communities;

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Transportation Video Wins Awards

Last year, Commuter Solutions, a department of Lane Transit District (LTD), partnered with the Eugene School District 4J and Lane Council of Governments' Metro Television to produce a video on transportation choices that would be acceptable to the local middle and high school audience. Following completion, the video was submitted for consideration of several production awards—and won three.

Most recently, the video won a Telly Award, one of the highest awards granted for video production. The competition had 11,033 entries, about 7-10 percent of which received awards.

Competition for awards came from businesses such as Dick Clark Productions, IBM, and Coca-Cola USA.

Robert Lewis of Metro Television entered the competition last spring on behalf of LTD and received notice in late February that the video was a winning entry.

In addition to the Telly Award, the video won a 2000 Communicator Crystal Award, as well as an Aegis Award of Excellence. Crystal Award recipients are recognized by their peers as being outstanding in the field of communication. Similarly, Aegis Award recipients are judged by fellow professionals throughout the country.

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meeting the growing public demand for open space; housing affordability; and transportation connectivity and maintaining existing roadways. In the future, important issues for the region are: maintaining quality of life in the face of growth; maintaining a clean, adequate supply of potable water; sustaining rural, small town quality of life; actively managing and developing sustainable resources; accommodating projected growth through redevelopment and the wise development of greenfield sites; and maintaining community identity while still providing an attractive place for people to live and industry to locate.

Policy Advisory Board members then identified what they hoped to achieve with Region 2050. They agreed with the recommendation of the Regional Technical Advisory Committee that Region 2050 set livability goals and objectives for land use, transportation, economic development, housing,

natural resources, and community facilities and services, and that it develop an action plan for implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. Many members expressed their desire that the Region 2050 strategy be a *living document*, that a means of future collaboration be decided, and that the regional partners continue to play an active role in monitoring the vision over time. The Regional Policy Advisory Board held its second meeting on April 17 and explored a profile of the entire region, and shared their visions of those aspects of the region that need to be enhanced or at least sustained over the next 50 years. The participants in the Region 2050 project will continue this discussion in May and June of this year. In Phase II, starting in July 2001, a broader public outreach effort will begin.

For more information, contact **Carol Heinkel**, LCOG, (541) 682-4107.

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state that we as Oregonians and people all over the country recognize. In the growth that we will continue to experience we are, and must be, partners. LCOG has been at the forefront of efforts to bring together regional partnerships. We are at the beginning of a process that will recognize our interconnectedness, protect us from sprawl, and keep our communities healthy and safe."

The 12-member Regional Policy Advisory Board was created to guide the Region 2050 process and consists of representatives from the Lane County Board of Commissioners and the region's ten cities, as well as a representative of Governor John Kitzhaber.

With assistance from the Oregon Community Solutions Team, the Governor's Community Development Office, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Lane Transit District staff, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Economic and Community Development, numerous other state agencies, and the Regional Technical Advisory Committee, Region 2050 participants can find the answers to the questions above. Together, they can help the Southern Willamette Valley region reach desirable goals for 2050.

CALENDAR

May

8	1:30	Senior Services Advisory Council	Hilyard Community Center
10	11:30	Metropolitan Policy Committee	LTD Board Room
10	1:30	Transportation Planning Committee	LTD Board Room
10	3:00	Public Safety Coordinating Council	Juvenile Justice Center
10	5:00	LCOG Budget Committee	LCOG 4 th Floor Small Conference Room
10	6:00	LCOG Executive Committee	LCOG 4 th Floor Small Conference Room
11	1:30	Disability Services Advisory Council	Ed Luczycki Conference Room
14	12:00	PSCC-Policy Committee	LCOG 4 th Floor Large Conference Room
15	3:00	PSCC-Community Corrections Committee	LCOG 4 th Floor Large Conference Room
16	1:30	Region 2050 Regional Technical Advisory Committee	TBA
21	11:30	Lane Economic Committee	LCOG 4 th Floor Large Conference Room
22	10:00	Special Transportation Fund Advisory Committee	LTD Board Room
24	1:30	PSCC-Prevention and Juvenile Justice	Eugene Public Works, Conference Room A/B
24	1:30	Transportation Planning Committee	LCOG 4 th Floor Large Conference Room
24	3:00	PSCC-Research and Evaluation	PSB Conference Room B/C
24	7:00	LCOG Board	Creswell
31	5:30	Regional Policy Advisory Board	EWEB Training Center, North Building