

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Area Commission on Transportation (ACT) 101

Meeting Date: April 12, 2010
Department: Intergovernmental Relations
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: C
Staff Contact: Brenda Wilson
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ISSUE STATEMENT

The purpose of this work session is to update the City Council on the formation of a Lane County Area Commission on Transportation (ACT).

BACKGROUND

Area commissions on transportation or “ACTs,” are advisory bodies chartered by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) to address all aspects of transportation, including surface, marine, air, and transportation safety. ACTs focus primarily on the state system, but also consider regional and local transportation issues as they affect the state system, and work with other local organizations in relation to transportation issues. ACTs provide a conduit for improved communication and interaction between the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) and stakeholders at the local level and increased opportunities for local officials to advise the OTC on policy and funding matters.

The primary roles of an ACT include:

- Providing a public forum and a public process that advances understanding of transportation issues;
- Making recommendations to the OTC about program funding for the Statewide Transportation Improvement (STIP) and making recommendations to ODOT about special funding opportunities and programs (like ConnectOregon);
- Communicating and coordinating regional transportation priorities with other organizations, including State agencies and other regional transportation organizations.

Senate Bill 944

Lane County is one of only two areas in the state without an ACT, with the Lane Board of Commissioners currently providing the advisory functions of an ACT for all of Lane County. In 2009, the Oregon State Legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 944, introduced by Senator Prozanski and Representative Holvey over concerns of rural communities and smaller towns throughout Lane County that believed they were not being included in regional transportation planning and funding determinations.

SB 944 requires Lane County “in consultation with other elected local officials and with transportation stakeholders in Lane County” to develop a proposed charter for the creation of an Area Commission on Transportation by September 30, 2010. SB 944 requires the proposed charter to include:

- A description of the criteria that the area commission on transportation will use in prioritizing project selection and a statement of expectations regarding feedback from the Oregon Transportation Commission to the area commission on transportation when the Oregon Transportation Commission receives the area commission's priorities.
- A description of the conflict resolution process the area commission will use to produce equitable outcomes, including the prioritization of spending on urban and rural projects, and a process for tracking and maintaining records of resolutions and outcomes.
- A plan for regular and consistent communication and coordination among the adjacent area commissions and with metropolitan planning organizations.
- A plan for public involvement with the area commission.

Formation Process

The ODOT Policy on Formation and Operation of ACTs specifies how an ACT is to be formed. The proposal for the formation of an ACT is to have broad local support. Because of the necessity to show support for the proposed charter, the Lane County Board of Commissioners undertook a three-stage process to form the ACT: identification of stakeholders; the creation of a Task Force to draft a charter for the ACT, and the ACT charter approval.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners approved the formation of a task force, the Forum for the Area Commission on Transportation for Lane County (FACT-LC). Representatives of jurisdictions to the FACT-LC were to include the following:

- A Lane County commissioner.
- The ODOT Area 5 Manager.
- A Lane Transit District (LTD) representative.
- Each of the 12 incorporated cities in Lane County were invited to designate a representative.
- Each of the following were also invited to designate one representative:
 - The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.
 - The Port of Siuslaw.
 - The Central Lane MPO.
 - The Lane County Roads Advisory Committee (RAC).
 - The Central Lane MPO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC).
 - The Oregon Economic Revitalization Team (ERT).

The forum was encouraged to invite representatives of other stakeholders to participate in the discussion, such as: airports, rail (passenger and freight), trucking, public transit (bus and rail) riders, bicyclists and pedestrians, business, freight, tourism, public safety and health, schools, neighborhoods, senior citizens, people with disabilities, minorities, environmental interests, land use interests, and unincorporated areas of Lane County, etc.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners directed that the FACT-LC submit a final report to the board which includes:

- A proposed charter for an ACT for Lane County,
- A description of the level of support for the proposed charter, and
- Any minority opinions or alternative options.

The FACT-LC has been meeting monthly since January 13. Work to-date has included development of purpose and mission statements, recommendations for representation and membership, decision-making and voting protocols, public involvement, staffing and meeting logistics, interagency coordination guidelines, and the designation of ACT officers.

Next Steps

The FACT-LC will meet on April 14, 2010, to finalize consensus on the bylaws. It is expected that the FACT-LC will present their Final Report to the Lane County Board of Commissioners in May or June of this year.

RELATED CITY VALUES

City of Eugene Value # 4: Effective, Accountable Municipal Government.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

This is a work session only to update the City Council about the formation of a Lane County ACT. No action is necessary at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

None. Information only.

SUGGESTED MOTION

None. Information only.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Senate Bill 944 (2009)
- B. Draft By-Laws
- C. Comparison of ACT Membership Structures

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Enrolled
Senate Bill 944

Sponsored by Senator PROZANSKI, Representative HOLVEY

CHAPTER

AN ACT

Relating to Lane County Area Commission on Transportation.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The governing body of Lane County, in consultation with other elected local officials and with transportation stakeholders in Lane County, shall develop, not later than September 30, 2010, a proposed charter for the formation of an area commission on transportation for Lane County.

(2) The proposed charter must comply with the policy guidelines established in the Policy on Formation and Operation of Area Commissions on Transportation as approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission on June 18, 2003, and must include:

(a) A description of the criteria that the area commission on transportation will use in prioritizing project selection and a statement of expectations regarding feedback from the Oregon Transportation Commission to the area commission on transportation when the Oregon Transportation Commission receives the area commission's priorities.

(b) A description of the conflict resolution process the area commission will use to produce equitable outcomes, including the prioritization of spending on urban and rural projects, and a process for tracking and maintaining records of resolutions and outcomes.

(c) A plan for regular and consistent communication and coordination among the adjacent area commissions and with metropolitan planning organizations.

(d) A plan for public involvement with the area commission.

(3) The Department of Transportation, acting through one or more representatives selected by the Director of Transportation, shall provide staff support to the governing body of Lane County for developing and submitting the proposed charter in a manner consistent with this section and the guidelines established in the Policy on Formation and Operation of Area Commissions on Transportation.

(4) The governing body of Lane County shall submit the proposed charter to the Oregon Transportation Commission for deliberation and action. If the proposed charter establishes a process for establishing membership, terms of office and voting procedures that are all consistent with the policy guidelines established in the Policy on Formation and Operation of Area Commissions on Transportation as approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission, the Oregon Transportation Commission may not reject the proposed charter based on the composition of its membership.

(5) Not later than October 31, 2010, the Oregon Transportation Commission shall schedule a meeting with the governing body of Lane County, other elected local officials and transportation stakeholders to discuss the proposed charter.

(6) Not later than October 31, 2010, the governing body of Lane County shall report to the appropriate interim committees of the Legislative Assembly on:

(a) The steps taken toward the formation of an area commission on transportation for Lane County; and

(b) The initial membership of the area commission on transportation, if the charter has been approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission, or a plan, including remaining steps and a timeline, for obtaining approval of the area commission on transportation for Lane County.

Passed by Senate May 4, 2009

Received by Governor:

Repassed by Senate June 11, 2009

.....M,....., 2009

Approved:

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Secretary of Senate

.....M,....., 2009

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President of Senate

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Governor

Passed by House June 9, 2009

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

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Speaker of House

.....M,....., 2009

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Secretary of State