

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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Action: Ordinance Amending the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan (Metro Plan) by Adopting a New Metro Plan Boundary that Is Coterminous with the City of Springfield Urban Growth Boundary East of Interstate 5; Adopting Savings and Severability Clauses; and Providing for an Effective Date  
(City File MA 11-1)

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Meeting Date: May 28, 2013  
Department: Planning and Development  
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Agenda Item Number: 5  
Staff Contact: Alissa Hansen  
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-5508

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### ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council will take action on the proposed Metro Plan boundary amendment to adjust the boundary on the Springfield side of the plan.

### BACKGROUND

In 2011, the Lane County Board of Commissioners initiated an amendment to the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan (Metro Plan) to make adjustments to the boundary of the Metro Plan. The purpose of this particular amendment is to seek jurisdictional autonomy on land use matters for those areas that are outside the urban growth boundaries of Springfield and Eugene, but currently inside the Metro Plan boundary. This proposal only pertains to the Springfield side of the Metro Plan Boundary.

The current Metro Plan amendment under consideration is to reduce the size of the Metro Plan boundary on the east side of I-5, with a resulting Metro Plan boundary that would be coterminous with the Springfield urban growth boundary (UGB). Approval of this amendment would result in Lane County having sole jurisdictional authority on all land use matters for land outside of Springfield's UGB that is currently within the Metro Plan, except that specific issues related to drinking water protection would remain a joint-governance matter between the Lane County Board of Commissioners and the Springfield City Council through an intergovernmental agreement.

Based on the Metro Plan's amendment procedures, Eugene is required to participate as a decision maker in this proposal to adjust the boundary on the Springfield side. The process included a joint planning commission public hearing and recommendation (in July/August 2011 and October 2011, respectively), followed by a joint elected official's public hearing (March 2012) and action. Since the joint elected official's public hearing, the City of Springfield, Lane County and the

Springfield Utility Board have worked together to reach an acceptable solution to ensure that Springfield's drinking water sources that fall within this area would remain adequately protected once removed from the Metro Plan boundary. In March 2013, the Springfield City Council voted 6 to 0 to approve the amendment to reduce the Metro Plan boundary to become coterminous with Springfield's urban growth boundary (UGB). The Springfield City Council also voted 6 to 0 to approve the provisions of an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the City of Springfield and Lane County regarding a number of land use matters, but principally actions to protect Springfield Utility Board drinking water source areas.

At the City Council's May 13, 2013, work session on this topic, five issues of consideration raised during the public process were addressed. With the exception of the first issue (drinking water protection), these issues are generally concerned with regional partnerships and governance, and require consideration by the council regarding the impact of the current proposal on these matters. A re-cap of this discussion is provided below.

- 1. Drinking water source protection:** The issue of adequate protection of Springfield's drinking water sources that fall within this area has been resolved to the satisfaction of the City of Springfield, Lane County and SUB through an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Springfield and Lane County that retains Springfield's decision-making authority as on issues related to drinking water protection.
- 2. Local decision-making authority/jurisdictional representation:** In this case, the City of Springfield loses decision-making authority with respect to plan amendments within this area; except that specific issues related to drinking water protection would remain a joint-governance matter between Lane County and the City of Springfield. The City of Eugene loses any ability to invoke the "regional impact" provision of the Metro Plan and participate as a decision maker in matters within this area that have an impact on City services or regional transportation or public facilities plans. There is no record of either city invoking the regional impact provision.

Approval would reduce the layers of government for residents in the area and clarify jurisdictional representation. Currently, residents within the subject area, elect and are represented by, the Lane County Board of Commissioners on most matters. However, when it comes to comprehensive land use planning for these lands outside of the urban growth boundary, the City of Springfield, and potentially the City of Eugene, participates as a decision maker.

- 3. Regional planning and collaborative decision making:** Approval of this amendment would change the nature of how the three jurisdictions plan, and make decisions in the area immediately adjacent to Springfield's urban growth boundary. Testimony from the public raised the concern that approval would negatively impact regional relationships by not requiring the jurisdictions to work together on matters of shared interest. Others have suggested that approval would allow these relationships to become more collaborative than under the current mandated system. The Eugene Planning Commission, as well as the Lane County Board, has suggested that the current Metro Plan structure is not necessary for regional planning to continue and that a different

mechanism could be as, if not more, effective.

4. **Comprehensive approach to changing Metro Plan:** Approval of this amendment would result in unequal decision making on one side of I-5 as compared to the other. Testimony from the public suggested that a comprehensive approach to changing the Metro Plan – after both cities have established separate urban growth boundaries – is preferable to the proposed two-phase approach. On the other hand, the cities are pursuing the establishment of separate urban growth boundaries in very different manners, and with separate community visions, values and relationships. Approval of this amendment would allow the City of Springfield to pursue the city’s vision consistent with its values, and re-define its relationship with Lane County.
5. **Intergovernmental relationships/partnerships:** This is the issue of how the jurisdictions work together over time and the relationships that are built and maintained. While approval would change the regulatory structure for decision making in this area, it also has the potential to improve and strengthen relationships with regional partners.

The Lane County Board of Commissioners has tentatively approved the proposal, and is scheduled to take final action on June 4, 2013, after both cities have taken action. All three jurisdictions must approve the same Metro Plan boundary location, including substantively identical ordinances for the proposal to take effect.

## **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan

## **COUNCIL OPTIONS**

The City Council may consider the following options:

1. Approve the ordinance
2. Approve the ordinance with specific modifications as determined by the City Council (Note: All three jurisdictions must adopt substantively identical ordinances for the proposal to take effect. Any substantive changes to the ordinance by the Eugene City Council will require new action by the Springfield City Council.)
3. Deny the ordinance

## **CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION**

The City Manager recommends that the City Council approve the proposed ordinance contained in Attachment A.

## **SUGGESTED MOTIONS**

Move to approve Council Bill 5067, an ordinance amending the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan (Metro Plan).

## **ATTACHMENTS**

A. Proposed Ordinance and Exhibits A-E

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Staff Contact: Alissa Hansen

Telephone: 541-682-5508

Staff E-Mail: [alissa.h.hansen@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:alissa.h.hansen@ci.eugene.or.us)