

# EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



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### Work Session: Scenario Planning Update

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Meeting Date: March 10, 2014  
Department: Planning and Development  
[www.eugene-or.gov](http://www.eugene-or.gov)

Agenda Item Number: B  
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#### ISSUE STATEMENT

This item will provide the City Council with an update and opportunity for discussion on the Central Lane Scenario Planning project.

#### BACKGROUND

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed the Jobs and Transportation Act which included a provision requiring the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to undertake a scenario planning process for the region. Specifically, this bill requires the MPO to evaluate alternative transportation and land use scenarios to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from light vehicles. The state has established a greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction target of 20 percent for the Eugene-Springfield region, though the region is not required to meet that target through the scenario planning process. Ultimately, the MPO must cooperatively select a preferred scenario. However, the bill does not require implementation of this scenario. The MPO is required to report its findings to the legislature by February 2015.

Given the fact that this project does not require implementation, this scenario planning process serves as a tool to explore how specific land use and transportation choices potentially affect GHG levels. Such information will help the State to better understand the practical and financial challenges facing local jurisdictions in reducing GHG emissions. Similarly, the results of the scenario planning effort may help inform local governments in future policy choices.

To assist in this effort, Kristin Hull with CH2M Hill is serving as the project manager. She and representatives of all the partner agencies (Eugene, Springfield, Lane County, Coburg, LCOG, Lane Transit, and Oregon Department of Transportation [ODOT]) comprise the staff team. This work is being funded by ODOT.

Staff has included a fact sheet and memo (Attachments A and B) which provides a more detailed explanation of the scenario planning process as well as the key steps involved in this project. The scenario planning project is laid out with three key steps:

1. **Understanding existing policies:** Collecting and evaluating existing data and policies
2. **Test and Learn:** Developing, evaluating and comparing alternative scenarios
3. **Refine and Select:** Refining scenarios for each jurisdiction and cooperatively selecting a

preferred scenario

The staff team has completed the first step of this work which provides a good opportunity to update the council and discuss upcoming steps.

### Understanding existing policies

One of the key components of Step 1 is to estimate the effect of continuing the current planning assumptions for the region. For Eugene, the strategies and assumptions of Envision Eugene have been evaluated to determine how well this policy direction moves the community toward achieving the GHG reduction target set by the State. Similarly, the comprehensive planning policies of Springfield, Lane County, Coburg, and LTD have been incorporated. Collectively, this policy direction comprises the reference case that will serve as the baseline for further scenario planning efforts. Staff has provided a summary of the reference case results and assumptions (Attachment C). The summary indicates that the region's current policy direction will help reduce GHG emissions by three percent (from 2005 levels), however these policies alone will not achieve the 20 percent reduction target. The next step in the process will be to develop scenarios that further reduce GHG levels.

In addition to meeting the State's requirement to evaluate GHG reductions, the MPO also agreed that it was important to assess how such transportation and land use choices affect other important goals such as economic vitality, public health, and equity considerations. These factors will be evaluated as part of the upcoming scenario alternatives analysis. Attachment D provides a synopsis of the evaluation measures that will be used to assess such impacts.

### Public Involvement

With the background work (Step 1) completed, the project team will now begin the work of developing alternative scenarios. This work will also kick off the public and stakeholder involvement program. A variety of public outreach efforts are anticipated, including public workshops, surveys, targeted outreach and the project website ([www.clscenarioplanning.org](http://www.clscenarioplanning.org)) which will provide regular updates and opportunity for feedback. The first of these workshops will be held in April to introduce the project and help inform the work around scenario development. A more detailed description of the public involvement program and decision making process is included in Attachment E.

### Next Steps

Following the first public workshop, staff anticipates returning to the City Council later this spring to discuss the draft scenario alternatives. Once the alternative scenarios have been determined, the project team will evaluate and compare the results of these scenarios. It is expected that this work will be completed this summer. The second half of 2014 will be devoted to refining the scenarios, followed by the process of selecting the preferred scenario.

## **RELATED CITY POLICIES**

The Jobs and Transportation Act of 2009 (HB 2001) requires the Central Lane MPO to conduct this scenario planning work.

The Climate and Energy Action Plan (2010) includes a goal to "Reduce community-wide

greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent below 1990 levels by 2020.”

**COUNCIL OPTIONS**

This matter is before the City Council as an update and discussion item. No action is required.

**CITY MANAGER’S RECOMMENDATION**

No recommendation is necessary as this is a discussion item.

**SUGGESTED MOTION**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Central Lane Scenario Planning Fact Sheet (December 2013)
- B. Scenario Planning Process memo
- C. Reference Case Results and Assumptions memo
- D. Evaluation Measures
- E. Stakeholder and Public Involvement Plan memo

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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