

Agenda Item Number 13.c

Economic Development Summit Proposal

Presenter: George Kloeppel

Action Recommended: None. Information Only

Background:

While not an LCOG enterprise, this should be worth noting... Mayor Piercy and Eugene City Manager Jon Ruiz have taken the lead in planning and coordinating a Regional Economic Summit. Utilizing the JEO, the Joint Elected Officials group (Lane County, Springfield and Eugene), and the SEL (CEOs from the larger jurisdictions), work has progressed toward better positioning the regional economy to take advantage of opportunities. Recognizing that the recession has significantly impacted Lane County, a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of approximately 13 members has focused on a broadly participatory process, the ten-year goals of which are to strategically create a net 20,000 new jobs, reduce the area unemployment rate below the state average, and increase the average annual wage to a point above the state average.

The initial principles underlying the Economic Summit idea include: Healthy living, smart growth, infrastructure preparedness, local independence, and regional identity.

It is anticipated that the TAG will utilize focus groups to solicit input from the broader community this summer and that the JEO will receive the TAG's recommendations in September. It is expected that a large-scale "Summit" event (perhaps 250 participants) can be convened in October to identify the structures that will be required to pursue economic opportunity areas.

LCOG's Lane Economic Committee (LEC) is represented with several members on the Technical Advisory Group. And the COG's assistance has been offered, as this concept takes shape and moves toward implementation.