

PLANNING SESSION: THE ECONOMY

NOMINATED STRATEGIES/TOPICS

Stan Biles facilitated a discussion with the LCOG board members regarding the issue of the current economy. Each board member was asked to identify an issue or strategy that they felt the LCOG Board should or could address. The following topic areas and strategies were identified:

TOPICS

- Public Safety
- Local Investment Programs
- Debt Reduction
- Support for Local Employers
- Infrastructure Issues
- Workforce Issues
- Secure Rural Schools Funding
- General Funding
- Regional
- Technology/Communications
- Infrastructure
- Business Planning

STRATEGIES

- Communication
- Coordination
- Advocacy
- Planning
- Convener

PRIORITIES

Following the brain-storming session, each board member identified their top three priorities for further consideration and discussion.

#1 PUBLIC SAFETY (TOPIC)

The topic of county-wide public safety was identified as the Board’s highest priority. In considering the appropriate strategy to address public safety concerns, Commissioner Stewart cited that the Board has a unique ability to take advantage of the diverse perspectives of the board membership. These diverse perspectives will be invaluable in addressing this universal issue, as public safety impacts small and large cities, school districts and colleges, park and recreation agencies, and utility providers. The Board can likely apply all of the various strategies, including communication, coordination, advocacy, planning and convenership to advance public safety in Lane County.

Related Comment: Another public safety item identified the need to quantify the costs of not adequately funding public safety and to communicate these costs more effectively. This related specifically to the

earlier discussion of the County's capacity-based inmate release program.

#2 COMMUNICATON (STRATEGY)

Although the Board identified public safety as its highest priority, in terms of strategies, the issue of communication ranked highest. Several communication-related components were also included under this broad category, including gathering and translating complex information, coordination among various agencies, joint planning efforts and facilitating partnerships. The ability of the group to apply diverse perspectives in finding common ground was again cited as a particularly valuable strength of the board's composition and intent. In discussing the example of the Federal Stimulus initiative, a strategy to assess and report back on post-July results of the County's success in obtaining stimulus funds was well supported.

#3 LOCAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMS

Expanding local investment programs was the Board's third highest priority strategy for addressing the current economic situation in Lane County. Board members supported an effort to investigate and pursue additional resources needed to enhance the current program and to identify additional capital for the revolving loan program.

STRATEGIES TOPICS	COMMUNICATIO N	COORDINATION	ADVOCACY	PLANNING	CONVENOR
Public Safety	X	X	X	X	X
Local Investment Programs	X	X	X	X	X

OTHER COMMENTS

The following strategies forwarded by Jim Torrey were also well supported and identified as a likely focus for future planning sessions:

- Identify systematic new ways to do business to provide for an improved future for the County. Include an effort to find our next leaders.

- Create a better mechanism for the public to communicate and participate fully in defining the priorities for services and spending in Lane County. Develop a consistent program to better *report, listen, and respond* to the constituency

Additional strategies and topics identified and discussed include the following:

- Investigating agency debt reduction strategies, such as refinancing;
- Supporting local existing employers;
- Coordinate the provision of services to address existing redundancies and overlaps;
- Advocating for long-term funding at local, state, federal level;
- Coordinating a plan for regional technology and communication infrastructure; and
- Coordinating the development of a long-range regional business plan.

DRAFT

NOMINATED STRATEGIES FOR THE LCOG BOARD

Public Safety (#1 Issue, received 16 votes)

Take advantage of the broad and diverse perspectives of the board membership to address this universal issue with multiple efforts

Local Investment Programs (#3 Issue, 7 votes)

- Investigate and pursue
- Expand capital for revolving loan
- Enhance the program

Consider Debt Reduction strategies, such as refinancing

Communication (#2 issue, 13 votes)

- Provide information, coordinate such as federal funding to lcog member agencies
- Translate federal stimulus and other similar initiatives and assist with strategies
- Report (from below) post-July to see how we did as a county

Support local existing employers

Partnerships

Find common ground as basis for resource developing, finding funds
Imbedded in Coordination/Planning effort

Coordinate Services

- Address redundancies in existing services

Planning

- Look for joint planning efforts

Advocacy:

Communicate and coordinate and find partners relating to
Infrastructure, public/private
Workforce issues

Foster public private communication towards partnerships

Advocacy for long-term funding at local, state, federal level

Regional technology and communication infrastructure

Strategies Continued

Reporting Post-July to see how we did as a county

Identify systematic new ways to do business for our future
Find our next leaders
Report, Listen, Respond

Create mechanism for public to communicate, define what county provides/Priorities
Provide info regarding public safety costs of empty beds, etc. quantify costs of NOT spending on public safety

Long term regional business plan

Coordination

Communication

Advocacy

- Public Safety

Convener

Planning