

September 6, 2007

To: LCOG Executive Committee
From: Bob Swank, Associate Director
Subject: Lane County Coordinated Population Forecasts

At its September 22 meeting, the LCOG Board will be asked to adopt “Coordinated Population Forecasts” for Lane County. Under this item, the Committee is invited to review the proposal and, as appropriate, to offer a recommendation to the Board of Directors.

Background

By state statute, ORS 195.036, urban growth boundary (UGB) population projections are required to be coordinated within counties.

“ 195.036 Area population forecast; coordination. The coordinating body under ORS 195.025 (1) shall establish and maintain a population forecast for the entire area within its boundary for use in maintaining and updating comprehensive plans, and shall coordinate the forecast with the local governments within its boundary. [1995 c.547 §7 (enacted in lieu of 195.035)]”

In Lane County, the role of “coordinating body” was transferred from Lane County to the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) in 1974. The coordination effort requires that the population of all UGBs in Lane County, plus the population outside UGBs, coordinate with a county-wide projected population total prepared by the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis (OEA).

The most recent Coordinated Population Forecasts were adopted by the LCOG Board in February, 2005. This spring, four cities requested that the Forecasts be recalculated using the two new years of population estimates that have become available. Since February, the LCOG staff has worked with our twelve cities and Lane County to develop revised Forecasts that are acceptable to all the

jurisdictions. We now have acceptance, or no comment, from all of the jurisdictions in Lane County. The Lane County Coordinated Population Forecasts for 2030 and 2035 are contained in the attached spreadsheet.

The Forecasts were developed using historical trend information for a 15-year period and a five-year period. The jurisdictions were asked to choose between those two new options, the existing forecasts that were adopted in 2005 or submit documentation for a different forecast. If a jurisdiction did not respond with a choice, it was assumed that the 2005 forecast should be used. Four cities selected a forecast option, one chose to submit its own forecast with documentation and the remaining jurisdictions have the same forecast as adopted in 2005.

One forecast will probably change within the next two years. The forecasts are for Urban Growth Boundaries, so there is a forecast for the Metro Area rather than separate forecasts for Eugene and Springfield. New legislation requires that Eugene and Springfield have individual UGBs, so population forecasts for the two cities will be developed when requested.

After a public hearing is conducted, Board action to adopt the Resolution and thereby the Lane County Coordinated Population Forecasts for 2030 and 2035 is recommended.