

# MINUTES

## Lane Economic Committee

Lane Council of Governments – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
99 E. Broadway, Suite 400 – Eugene

February 23, 1:30 A.M.

PRESENT: John Tamulonis, Chair; Tim Black, Mike Blommé, Randy Derrik (for John Sullivan), Chuck Forster, Anna Morrison, Glenda Poling, Mike Sullivan, Hal Reed, Rob Scoggin, Mike Sullivan, Lynnette Wikstrom, Mitch Wilkinson, members; Jay Bozievich, Philip Hudspeth, Kari Westlund, *ex officio* members; Mike Galvin, alternate member.

Steve Dignam (LCOG); Tom Stinchfield, Peter Thurston (Lane County).

ABSENT: DeAnn Cherbas, Jim Ramseyer, Charles Spencer, members; Deb Schmidt, *ex officio* member.

GUESTS: Wendy Farley, Jim Lindley, Roger McCorkle, Meredith Palmer.

In the absence of Mr. Tamulonis, Mr. Reed called the meeting of the Lane Economic Committee (LEC) to order at 11:35 a.m. He invited those who were present to introduce themselves. He welcomed Mr. Blommé to his first meeting as a member. He determined there were no requests to change the agenda.

### 1. Public Comment

Mr. Bozievich introduced Mr. Lindley as the newly appointed Director of the Lane Community College Business Development Center. Mr. Dignam reported that Mr. Lindley would be asked to make a report about the Center on the agenda of a future LEC meeting.

Mr. Tamulonis joined the meeting at 11:45 and assumed the duties of the Chairperson.

Mr. Reed announced that it had been reported that the Hundai Hynix corporation had operated profitably during the previous year and was planning to make a \$1 billion investment in capital improvements.

### 2. Comments of Chair and Staff and Acceptance of Minutes

Mr. Tamulonis circulated a copy of promotional literature recently published by the Metro Partnership. He determined that Mr. Dignam had no staff comments to make.

*Ms. Morrison moved, seconded by Mr. Forester, to accept the minutes of the January 26 meeting. The motion was adopted unanimously, 14:0.*

### **3. Tourism Summit Report**

Ms. Westlund distributed copies of a document entitled “2004 Tourism Summit of Lane County – January 15, 2004.” She noted that it was a presentation of the economic impacts of tourism on Lane County and a summary of related developments. She referred to descriptions of regional and statewide tourism development it contained. She said agreement had been reached by participants in the summit that a county-wide strategic tourism plan was needed.

Ms. Westlund said additional convention facilities with attached hotel accommodations comparable with other areas was needed to ensure Lane County would remain competitive in capturing visitors and their related economic impacts. She said the Convention and Visitors Association of Lane County (CVALCO) was good for marketing the area, but was not appropriately allied to spearhead development of a new facility. She noted that the announced closing of the Clarion Hotel would result in an annual loss of 8,000 beds being available.

In response to questions from Mr. Tamulonis, Ms. Westlund said cost competitiveness was important in attracting convention and business meetings, the negative effects on tourism of the September 11 terrorist attacks were only beginning to lessen, established hotels were never champions of developing facilities which would be competition, and developing a new facility could be accomplished with private/public or only private investment.

Members discussed the report.

### **4. 2004 Needs and Issues Update**

Mr. Dignam reported that reductions in state funding would severely limit the ability of staff to organize the annual Needs and Issues Inventory prioritization of infrastructure projects. He said Oregon officials had not yet clarified but were preparing to publish guidelines.

### **5. Transportation Project Prioritization**

Lane County Transportation Planner Tom Schwetz referred to information distributed with the agenda related to updating the Statewide Transportation improvement program (STIP). He distributed copies of a February 6 letter from Lane County Public Works Director Oliver Snowden to mayors and staff of cities in the county regarding the process for considering 2006-2009 STIP project concepts. He reviewed information contained in the attachments to the letter.

Lane County Transportation official Tom Stinchfield reviewed information about the status of various Lane County transportation projects and answered specific questions about those of special interest to members. He said 63 bridges (45 on I-5) in Lane County would be repaired or replaced over the next 6-8 years, severely limiting funds available for modernization projects.

Members discussed specific projects and strategies for transportation projects.

Mr. Schwetz invited the LEC to join in making official comments to be included in the evaluation process in developing the STIP. He said reductions in State funding were making ranking of the projects more important.

Mr. Scoggin suggested that a special committee be formed to study the projects and to give them priority from the standpoint of economic development. Mr. Scoggin, Mr. Bozievich, Ms. Poling, and Mr. Tamulonis volunteered to serve.

Mr. Tamulonis announced that the next LEC meeting was scheduled for March 15.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

*(Recorded by Dan Lindstrom)*

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