

Memorandum

Date: April 1, 2016
To: Multnomah County Planning Commission
From: Rich Faith, Senior Long-range Planner
Joanna Valencia, Transportation Planning and Development Manager
Subject: April 11, 2016 Planning Commission Work Session

The purpose of this work session is to apprise the Planning Commission of the County Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation System Plan updates that have been in progress since late 2014 and that are now scheduled for a public hearing by the Planning Commission on May 2, 2016.

The current Comprehensive Plan was originally adopted in 1977. Although portions of it have been updated and amended at various times since then, a complete review of its policies, strategies and structure has not been conducted. Much has changed in the nearly 40 years since the Plan was adopted. The document needs to be revised to reflect current times, and to better guide future land use and transportation decisions. The current Comprehensive Plan incorporates transportation related policies within the framework of the Plan, but with the new updated Comprehensive Plan, transportation policies and associated information will be embodied in a separate Transportation System Plan that functions as an element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The process to overhaul the current County Comprehensive Framework Plan, along with three of the four Rural Area Plans and their associated transportation system plans, commenced in November 2014, when several open houses were held to inform the public of this planning project and the steps that will be followed through its completion. During this same time, a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was created to assist County planning staff and the consultant team in identifying key issues, developing plan policies, and guiding overall preparation of the document.

The Community Advisory Committee played a major role in the formation of the new Comprehensive Plan and Transportation System Plan. Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, the advisory committee was comprised of 16 county residents representing the different geographic areas of the County and providing a cross section of public opinion and interests to ensure that the Plan reflects the needs and desires of the general public. The CAC met 15 times over a 15-month period to discuss key planning issues and to recommend policies addressing those issues. The full advisory committee was divided into four subcommittees who focused their attention on specific topics and drafted policy language that was then discussed and voted upon by the entire advisory committee. The four subcommittees held a total of 19 meetings. All of the CAC and subcommittee meetings were open to the public and were publicized through the project website and by email notices to our master list of interested persons.

The Community Advisory Committee has completed its work on the Comprehensive Plan and the Transportation System Plan updates. At its February 24, 2016 meeting, the CAC approved the two plans and recommended that they be advanced to the Planning Commission for consideration. At the work session, County Planning staff and the project consultants will provide greater detail about the process used in preparing the plans, their organization and contents, and the major policy issues within them.