LCOG Planning Staff Experts in Developing Environmental Assessments

Whether building a community library, extending high-speed fiber optic networks, or restoring rivers and streams, projects designed for community improvements need environmental review. Environmental assessments are required for a wide variety of project types. LCOG staff facilitate projects for member agencies and partners in the design phase, following federal guidelines for environmental review. Different projects require different types of environmental review, and LCOG staff have been assisting area partners negotiate the sometimes rough waters of environmental assessments.

Oakridge recently received a Community Block Development Grant to expand their library. The new library building would provide a cost-effective, centrally-located facility with increased capacity and improved services for library patrons. LCOG staff completed the Environmental Review before construction on the vacant lot could begin, ensuring that the new building will have minimal negative impacts while maximizing positive social and environmental benefits.

See Environmental Assessments next page
In Lane, Douglas, and Klamath Counties, a recent federal stimulus grant will provide improved internet service to unserved and underserved cities and communities (see www.connectingoregon.org). LCOG staff completed the environmental assessment, consulting with environmental and other governmental agencies to ensure that the project would have no significant adverse environmental effects as broadband is provided to places such as the Klamath Tribal Medical Clinic, the Canyonville Fire Department, and Peace Harbor Hospital in Florence.

LTD contracted with LCOG to assist with environmental review of the West Eugene EmX project. LCOG coordinates the Metro Waterways project for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with area partners, and is writing the environmental assessment.

LCOG planning staff is eager to continue providing expertise in environmental review and facilitating completion of environmental assessments for valuable community projects.

For more information about Environmental Assessments, contact Hilary Dearborn at (541) 682-6559 or hdearborn@lcog.org.
Public and Private Sector Volunteers Indispensable

Periodically, I have used this space to applaud the people throughout our region who volunteer their time and energy to make their communities better. It is a favorite refrain of mine. Having worked in local government for a good number of years, I remain profoundly impressed with, and thankful for, the dedication of those who step forward to run for, and hold, public office. You good people who sit on boards and councils—doing the public’s business—not only hold our society together, but you prove that the American democratic experiment works. As a part of the “paid help,” I am honored to work with, and for, local elected officials.

But the importance of volunteerism goes far beyond the halls of government. I am struck by how much is accomplished by caring people who work without monetary reward for non-profit organizations, civic and service clubs, and faith communities. The value of those thousands of hours of what is certainly a labor of love cannot be measured. We can agree, however, that, absent the volunteer work of caring people, our world would be a darker, colder place and our “standard of living” would be far lower. A couple of decades ago, when I was privileged to participate as part of the leadership of United Way of Lane County, two undeniable truths came into focus. First, the non-profit sector is not just a “nice to have.” It is absolutely critical. Second, the non-profit organizations in this community could not do the wonderful, caring job that they do without volunteers. Even the largest and best established human service agencies extensively utilize the help of volunteers.

At LCOG’s annual Appreciation Dinners, this agency holds up and honors individuals for their work of improving the regional community. Award recipients, for all of their contributions, are really standing on that stage accepting a plaque on behalf of hundreds of others. This month, the “Age Knows No Limits” project will again raise up and honor an extraordinary group of mature adults—none under 60 years of age—who have done tremendous things for the region, in most cases after a full career of work has ended in retirement. I know several of this year’s award recipients, and I attest to their demonstrated energy, skill and wisdom. Our lives are enhanced by the work that they do.

Those who step forward to provide volunteer service to their communities will say that the rewards of such service are immense. Even those of us who feel like full-time jobs keep us plenty busy can and do find the time and energy to participate in volunteer work, thus making this a better place to live. I encourage it—both for myself and for others. And if one day I find myself among the ranks of the retired, I want to do more. There is much work to be done. Those that say Yes make the world go ‘round.

George Kloeppel
LCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
New Look and Functionality for Creswell and MetroTV Websites

The City of Creswell this month unveiled their new website, designed and built by the Lane Council of Governments Creative Services team. The new site offers users a streamlined experience with several new features.

In addition to a completely redesigned look, users will find new services such as online bill payment, citizen requests with status tracking, and a robust sortable calendar. Navigation and document serving have been improved to allow easier access to information from meeting materials to city department contacts. The new site can be accessed at www.ci.creswell.or.us.

LCOG’s MetroTV.org also received a new look in April. The updated website still provides information on the Comcast Cable 21 schedule of programming, but now with an easier to visualize interface. Citizens have been e-mailing and calling the station with compliments on the site. In addition to a full page of programming content, the site also incorporates access to staff profiles, updated news on productions and a link to recently completed programs produced for local jurisdictions. The front page displays information about what is currently playing as well as information about current productions underway. It also contains a video overview of the Metro Television operation.

A new logo was also implemented as part of the website update and is being used throughout the MetroTV world, on-air and part of all productions. The new site can be accessed at www.metrotv.org.

For more information about website development and design, contact Colene Doll at (541) 682-4389 or cdoll@lcog.org.
New Advanced Search Capabilities Added to RLID

The RLID Development team has just released new Property Search tools that add both expanded property filters and a map-based property selection option to the existing standard search tool. Users can now select and report properties by drawing their area of interest on a map, clicking the mouse on individual properties on a map, or by specifying one or more desired property characteristics such as lot size, zoning, and improvements. These search tools can also be used in combination to quickly identify specific properties of interest in particular locations.

Additional search criteria will soon be added to assist in locating commercial properties (e.g., business name, NAICS or SIC code, sales volume) as will the ability to search for properties by specifying a nearby road intersection. Additional output formats are also coming including new report options and mailing lists/labels to complement currently available reports and data export options.

A review of current RLID property search capabilities:

**Standard Search** - Allows searching on the most common property attributes: site address, map/taxlot number, tax account, owner name, and subdivision.

**New Advanced Search** - Allows users to specify property selection criteria or filters using a wide array of property and location characteristics organized on a series of tabs.

**New Map Search** - Allows users to interact with a map to select custom areas or groups of properties for reporting or data export. Map tools allow selection of tax-lots using a user drawn point, line, rectangle, or custom area. Properties of interest selected using the Map Search can be further refined using the filters available in the Standard and Advanced Searches. Criteria can be specified on a single tab or combined from multiple tabs. Property selections can be further refined geographically using the new map search.
Business Commute Challenge

2011 Business Commute Challenge: Get Ready - Get Set - Get Commuting!

There was a recent buzz in the business community as the 2011 Business Commute Challenge (BCC) event was held the week of May 14-20. The Business Commute Challenge, a week-long friendly competition amongst local area businesses, is a fun opportunity to help employees rethink their way to work by trying a more sustainable form of transportation to work other than driving alone.

This year’s event was connected to LCOG by more than just a category win (LCOG won the 2010 challenge in its category with a 48% participation rate). The LCOG Creative Services team took over the Challenge website and implemented the new design and features for 2011. The LCOG Web Team also provided support to point2point Solutions throughout the Challenge.

The Business Commute Challenge was developed in 2000 and was housed in the Transportation Options program at the City of Eugene. The Challenge was a week-long event for Eugene-only businesses, which took place every October with a designated “Challenge Day” when the total number of participants and mileage was counted. The Commute Challenge won a Creative Excellence Award at the International Association for Commuter Transportation Conference in 2004.

Over the years, more employees and employers from the neighboring cities wanted to participate. It was decided, by the region’s Transportation Options Advisory Committee, that the Business Commute Challenge should be a regional program. The area’s regional transportation options program, point2point Solutions was selected.
to be the lead agency. As a result, in 2010, the Business Commute Challenge event transitioned from the City of Eugene’s Transportation Options program to point2point Solutions.

point2point Solutions is a full service transportation options program housed at Lane Transit District that began in 1995, helping people in our region to get from point a to point b. The program’s regional partners include the Cities of Eugene, Springfield and Coburg, Lane County, Lane Transit District and the Oregon Dept. of Transportation.

The Business Commute Challenge is point2point’s signature event. The BCC does a great job of energizing and encouraging regional employees to try using a more sustainable commute mode other than driving alone. Participants have the opportunity to win prizes donated by local businesses, build teamwork amongst coworkers, and help reduce congestion and carbon emissions all at the same time. Everyone is a winner in this event.

Participation doubled last year with 2,236 participants represented by 169 business/work teams. The Challenge participants walked, biked, bused, pooled, and clicked (tele-worked) 63,904 miles, saving 51,744 pounds of carbon dioxide from being released into the atmosphere. How cool is that?

Details about this year’s Commute Challenge can be found on commutechallenge.org.
Mike Greenwald

SENIOR TRANSPORTATION PLANNER
PLANNING SERVICES

Mike joined the LCOG team just this past February. He comes to LCOG from Seattle, where he worked in a small firm as the lead statistical modeler and GIS specialist. His most significant projects while in Seattle were the development of data and policy models, for King County and Washington State DOT, to help estimate the influence of urban form on household travel related GHG output, using regional travel diaries.

The current focus of his work is looking at travel behavior surveys, as they relate to the travel demand modeling. He is involved in LCOG activities related to the Oregon Household Activity Survey, and is also serving as the LCOG contact in a partnership with University of Oregon to start a new round of surveys on the travel behaviors of University of Oregon students, faculty and staff. Mike has also been retained by the University of Utah to help with data assembly efforts related to their HUD Sustainable Communities analyses.

Prior to that, Mike was a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, in the Department of Urban Planning. He earned a Bachelor’s in Political Science from UCLA in 1995, and a Master’s and Ph.D. in Urban & Regional Planning in 1997 and 2001, respectively. To contact Mike, call (541-682-6595), or e-mail mgreenwald@lcog.org.

Area Commission on Transportation Formed

The Lane Area Commission on Transportation (LaneACT) was formed by the Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC) in November 2010. Commissions on Transportation provide a forum for regional discussions on transportation needs and priorities, and serve as advisory bodies to the OTC. Lane Council of Governments is assisting ODOT Region 2 by staffing and supporting the operations of the LaneACT.

The first meeting of the LaneACT was held in February 2011, with regular monthly meetings occurring since. Key agenda topics included developing operational guidelines and recruiting up to 10 citizens to represent a diverse membership.

By the June 2011 meeting, a full membership, as required by its Bylaws, will be seated. The Lane ACT includes representatives for Lane County; each of the 12 incorporated cities in Lane County; Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua & Siuslaw Indians; Port of Siuslaw; Lane Transit District; Lane County Roads Advisory Committee; Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO); Central Lane MPO Citizen Advisory Committee; ODOT; a citizen representative from the Highway 126 corridor east of Springfield; four citizen Designated Stakeholders representing rail, trucking, bicycle and pedestrian, and environmental land use interest areas; and four citizen additional Stakeholders representing other interest areas from around Lane County.

Over the summer, the ACT will receive presentations on the adopted 2010-2013 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the process on developing the 2013-2015 STIP.

LaneACT meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the McLane Room at the offices of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) Region 2 offices at 644 A Street in Springfield. For more information, go to www.LaneACT.org or contact Paula Taylor at LCOG, (541) 682-4425, or Savanna Crawford of ODOT, (541) 741-1354.
Age Knows No Limits Project 2011
Honoring Older Americans Breaking Barriers

May is National Older Americans Month and a time to celebrate older Americans and the many ways they contribute to society, the workplace, our communities, and our families.

The Age Knows No Limits Project is recognizing nine people, 60 years and older, whose active engagement is breaking barriers for themselves or their community. They are active, creative, and vital Lane County residents who are inspiring role models and who capture the true essence of this year’s theme, “Breaking Barriers.”

Please attend the Reception at 4:00 p.m., Thursday, May 19, 2011 at the Willamalane Adult Activity Center, 215 W. C St. in Springfield.

This year’s honorees will be introduced and the 2011 poster will be unveiled.

2011 Honorees Include:

JOE ZINGO
CAROLYN SCOTT KORTGE
ED NECKER
FRANK LONG

ADALBERT (BERT) TOEPEL, JR.
VICTORIA & ALBERTO ASTHUAMAN
MARTHANA GUGLIELMO
PAM RING

The Age Knows No Limits Project is a volunteer alliance of Lane County Programs which serves people ages 60 and over. Members include: American Red Cross, Campbell Center, River Road Park & Recreation District, RSVP, Senior & Disabled Services, Senior Companion Program, Senior Connections, Senior Meals Program, Viking Sal Senior Center, Willamalane Adult Activity Center.
Need a Grant Writer?

Show me the money? LCOG can help. LCOG’s grant writing staff is pleased to assist you in finding potential funding sources, developing a project budget, coordinating and/or writing grant applications, providing grant award administration, and carrying out project evaluation. Staff will work with you to create a work plan for application preparation that best fits your budget, your timeline, and your staff resources. Perhaps you’ve completed an application and would like a new set of eyes to review and edit it. Grant writers Susan Sowards at (541) 682-7493 and Christine Puetz at (541) 682-3063 are happy to assist.

Metro Plan Update

The Metro Plan is an inter-jurisdictional planning effort among the Cities of Eugene and Springfield and Lane County. The Metro Plan diagram has been updated to reflect amendments through December 31, 2010. A link to the 11x17 adopted version is available at www.lcog.org/metroplan.cfm.

The map is only valid at 11x17 scale.