



Central Lane Scenario Planning

December 2013

Examining choices for how we grow

Over the past three decades, central Lane County has made important choices about how to grow. This thoughtful approach to managing growth has resulted in vibrant, livable communities that offer choices about where and how we live. Over the next twenty years, our communities are likely to welcome more than 70,000 new residents. Plans like those currently being developed in the region – Envision Eugene, Springfield 2030 and Coburg Crossroads – establish a local vision for how our communities will accommodate new residents and jobs.

Scenario planning – a process for considering a range of plausible futures – allows us to examine how different choices would affect our region. This means that we can compare what happens to our region if we grow as planned to what happens if we change our plans. Scenario planning also lets us compare these various futures based on a wide range of community goals, from how much each of us will drive, walk, bike and take transit, to how clean our air will be, to how much our households will spend on housing and transportation.

In 2009, the Oregon Legislature passed the Jobs and Transportation Act (House Bill 2001). The Jobs and Transportation Act requires the local governments in central Lane County to conduct scenario planning and cooperatively select a preferred scenario that accommodates planned population and employment growth while achieving a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles. To comply with this legislative requirement, Lane County, the cities of Eugene, Springfield and Coburg, the Lane Transit District, and the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization have begun the scenario planning process. The selected scenario will not bind our local governments or change existing plans or policy direction, but, through this process, we may learn important lessons that inform future land use and transportation planning.



Scenario planning process

The process is divided into three major steps. The first step is focused on understanding what would happen if existing plans and policy directions are implemented over the next 20 years. The second step is focused on developing and comparing different futures (alternative scenarios). The third step will

What is “Scenario Planning”?

Scenario planning is a process for considering a range of plausible futures, allowing for examination of how different transportation choices would affect the region in terms of land use, equity, public health, and other factors.

focus on refining the scenarios that best meet local goals and working toward cooperatively selecting a preferred scenario. While the greenhouse gas reduction goal set by the state must be considered during the process, the selected scenario is not required to meet the goal. Additionally, each jurisdiction can choose those actions that are most appropriate for their communities and that best match local plans and policies. The local governments of central Lane County will report back to the legislature in 2015 about what they learned from the process.



A basis for comparison

Before we begin developing alternative scenarios, we need to first understand how well our current plans and policy directions meet local goals. To accomplish this, we are considering how central Lane County will look in 2035 if existing plans are put into place. Though Eugene and Springfield are in the process of creating new land use and transportation plans (Envision Eugene and Springfield 2030), we used the draft results from both, in addition to results of Coburg Crossroads, as our best guess of existing plans and policies.

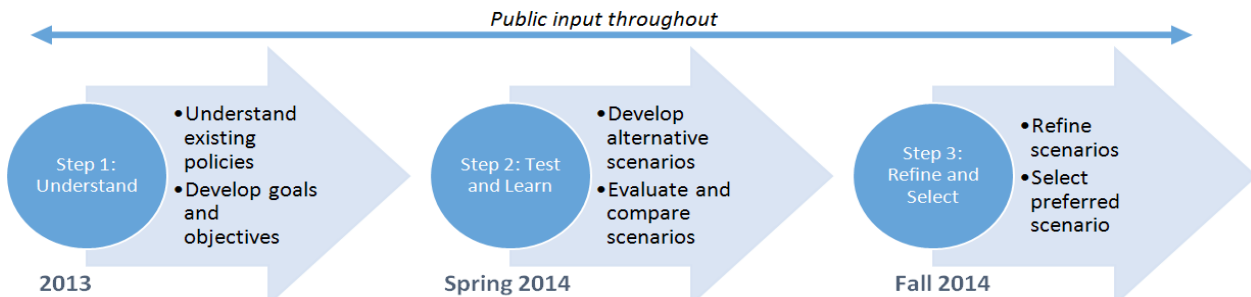


Figure 1. Scenario planning process

Since the Envision Eugene and Springfield 2030 plans are still works in progress, the technical team will make assumptions about pieces of these plans that are not yet completed. Because scenario planning is an exercise to consider alternate futures, this approach provides the best comparison for future policy changes. The details still being worked out in Envision Eugene and Springfield 2030 will likely not affect the themes that emerge from the scenario planning process.

Get involved

Watch our website (www.CLscenarioplanning.org) for information about public workshops and other ways to participate. If you would like to receive updates about the scenario planning process, send an email to questions@CLscenarioplanning.org and we will add you to our mailing list.

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