



The Lane Livability Consortium is a collaborative effort of eleven agencies serving the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan area to advance community growth and prosperity. The primary focus of the Consortium is to identify opportunities for greater impacts and linkages among our region's core plans including land use, transportation, housing, and economic development plans and investment strategies. Other elements include work on public engagement, regional investments, organizational capacity building, and identification of catalytic projects. The Consortium's efforts are funded through the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant program and through leveraged resources contributed by local partner agencies. Work through the Consortium commenced in 2011 and will conclude in 2014.

Partner agencies include City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Lane County, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Housing and Community Services Agency of Lane County, Lane Council of Governments, Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization, Lane Transit District, Oregon Department of Transportation, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Lane County, and University of Oregon Sustainable Cities Initiative and Community Planning Workshop. Other agencies are engaged in specific tasks or may join the Consortium in the future.

The Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area Plan and other related plans have been developed in accordance with Oregon's 19 Statewide Planning Goals. These goals embody the state's approach to issues ranging from Citizen Involvement, Agricultural and Forest Lands, and Natural Resources to Economic Development, Energy Conservation, Housing, and Transportation. While the Metro Plan provides an overall framework for growth and development, there are a multitude of additional plans addressing specific issues or geographic areas. Some plans have been developed in response to local initiatives or in response to federal requirements. There are many opportunities to better connect and leverage the goals and strategies embodied in these plans.

Activities of the Consortium

As all the participating agencies examine growth and public investment options, the Consortium will provide a regional forum for discussions regarding issues and challenges that are common to the region and are best addressed with a collaborative problem-solving model. Effectively engaging a diverse set of regional stakeholders will be the core component of our work. It will lead to new relationships within and between the partner agencies, new metrics for examining and establishing planning priorities and work plans, and will identify current gaps in how we are creating linkages among our current regional plans. This body of work will be presented to the local elected officials as they evolve the Metro Plan through their existing timeframes, and will also be applied uniquely within each organization as they seek future funding for projects identified and supported through the work of the Consortium.

Sustainability Baseline Assessment - The UO Sustainable Cities Initiative will lead the Consortium effort to produce a two-part Sustainability Baseline Assessment with one component focusing on public engagement strategies and one on existing plans. This will allow the region to identify strengths, gaps and barriers in our existing sustainability efforts, and to develop new opportunities to engage traditionally underrepresented communities.

Scenario Planning - The Consortium will support the Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization and partner agencies in developing a regional approach to scenario planning that aligns with local and state priorities. This work will include significant data and modeling development, research of equity considerations related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the development of scenario planning methodology, strategies, and decision-making models.

Smart Communities: Closing the Gaps - The Consortium will develop new strategies and new models for more integrated planning and decision-making, especially related to the focus areas of housing, transportation, and economic development. This work will build on the recommendations from the Sustainability Baseline Assessments and will include the development of a triple bottom line analysis tool and accompanying resources, as well as recommendations for new strategies related to climate change, public health, and social equity, and a comprehensive set of practices, planning processes, and decision-making tools that the partner jurisdictions can use to orchestrate changes in their respective policies and protocols. This will ensure that community members have the skills, resources and assurances needed to develop plans and programs that address economic, environmental and social problems and opportunities and direct investments that are supportive of the community's vision.

Moving Plans to Actions - The Consortium, in collaboration with the UO Sustainable Cities Initiative, will lead the effort to develop a Regional Investment Strategy that will better link key housing, transportation, economic development and other infrastructure investments. This work includes cataloguing and evaluating planned capital investments and available funding sources to develop draft and final Implementation and Financing Plans and refining the Triple Bottom Line Analysis Tools to consider how best to equitably distribute infrastructure, amenities and services, ensure that public revenue sources are economically sustainable, promote equity, foster healthy ecosystems and create communities of opportunity.

These new investment strategies, processes and tools will be put into action with the development of a concept plan and preliminary budget for a catalytic capital project in the Franklin Corridor, an area where the three general purpose governments independent planning responsibilities have common boundaries and connections, as well as a set of smaller projects based on the opportunities identified in the Regional Investment Strategy. These projects will require significant agency collaboration and stakeholder involvement, and will include detailed project scoping, preliminary project review and analysis, Triple Bottom Line Assessment, as well as development of capital and operating costs estimates and identification of preliminary funding sources. Implementation agreements will be secured to implement the projects.