

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 19-10-15-06

THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZING THE  
CHAIR TO SIGN TWO LETTERS OF  
SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF  
SPRINGFIELD'S GRANT APPLICATIONS.

**WHEREAS** the Department of Land Conservation and Development allocates Technical Assistance funds to local communities for the current biennium (FY19-21); and

**WHEREAS** this matter now coming before the Lane County Board of Commissioners and said Board deeming it in the best interest of Lane County to support the City of Springfield's application for Technical Assistance grants to work on two comprehensive plan update projects; and

**WHEREAS** the two technical assistance grant support letters will be addressed and submitted to the Department of Land Conservation and Development; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The Chair is authorized to execute a letter of support for obtaining grants funding to do a natural resource inventory and assessment within the City of Springfield's Urban Growth Boundary, substantially similar to attached Exhibit "A".
2. The Chair is authorized to execute a letter of support for obtaining grant funding to development and adopt a parcel-specific Comprehensive Plan Map, text, and amendments to the Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Area General Plan, substantially similar to attached Exhibit "B".

**ADOPTED** this 15th day of October, 2019



Pete Sorenson, Chair, Lane County Board of Commissioners

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 10-3-19

LANE COUNTY OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\*

October 15, 2019

Gordon Howard, Community Services Division Manager  
Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Howard:

The Lane County Board of Commissioners is aware that the City of Springfield has applied to your office for a Technical Assistance Grant made available to local governments each biennium. It is our understanding that the grant application requires a demonstration of support from the County. Please let this letter serve as a confirmation that we do support Springfield's request to the Department, and further urge you to make an award recognizing Springfield's need for funds that will contribute to the economic and environmental health of our region.

As outlined in its project proposal, Springfield is seeking Technical Assistance from the Department to update their local natural resources inventory and assessment. We understand they have completed similar work on three occasions since 1998. It is crucial that Oregon's cities have accurate Goal 5 inventories. Much of what makes our communities attractive to new residents is both preservation and access to areas where they can find solitude. Often, even they acknowledge that their community's priority of preservation of open space is sufficiently attractive to new residents, as well as new employers.

Lane County's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan prioritizes managing equitable services for urban and rural residents to enhance opportunities by embracing efficient systems and processes, collaboration with partners, and innovative approaches to problem solving. Specific initiatives resulting from this priority focus on a resilient, sustainable economy and on the natural environment. We view Springfield's proposal as being aligned with our work in this regard.

Particularly as Springfield continues to grow, it needs accurate information on how to best plan for urban development while also providing sufficient lands for jobs and future housing. Currently, this dynamic is playing out in the Gateway neighborhood and commercial area, with property owners in this area who are interested in accommodating future development. Appropriate siting of future employment sites, compatible with nature areas, will rely on the accuracy of the inventories carried out with this funding. We hope you will give serious attention to this request, as just last year we co-adopted documents relating to their new Urban Growth Boundary expansion in this area.

Sincerely,

Pete Sorenson, Chair  
Lane County Board of Commissioners

\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\*

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Springfield, Eugene, and Lane County historically collaborated on urban land use issues via a jointly developed document we titled the Metro Plan, and in 2007 the Legislature created a path towards splitting that effort such that each entity creates their own Comprehensive Plan. As a result of that policy, each of the jurisdictions have been incrementally making the requisite changes, and Lane County has participated as a co-adopter where changes affect lands within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Springfield staff are seeking assistance to create a parcel-specific Comprehensive Plan Map, text for the Land Use Element of its Comprehensive Plan, and to improve the experience of property research by providing better information to the public. The Board of County Commissioners recognizes that continued reliance on the Metro Plan Diagram is problematic. It has created ongoing legal woes for the City and un-necessary delays in the development projects.

Springfield staff are doing a great job in making their city a wonderful place to live and work. They are particularly making strides on improving the Glenwood, Downtown, and Gateway commercial areas. The updated mapping will ensure that these areas will develop in a coordinated fashion, and be "project ready" when it comes to funding opportunities.

Please let us know if there is any additional information you require from Lane County as you consider their request, and thank you for continuing to work with local governments on effective and strategic land use planning.

Sincerely,

Pete Sorenson, Chair  
Board of Commissioners