



Background

Over 25 years ago, in November 1979, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners adopted the current transportation element of the County Comprehensive Plan, which includes goals (1.0140) and policies (1.0145). Updating this element with a Transportation System Plan (TSP) will allow Lincoln County's Comprehensive Plan to be consistent with changes in regulations and to evaluate future transportation needs.

Changing Regulations. Lincoln County is now required under Oregon's land use planning program, specifically the Transportation Planning Rule (OAR 660-012), to develop and adopt a TSP. The Transportation Planning Rule (TPR) became Oregon law in 1991, and since then has undergone several amendments. The most major of these amendments have addressed issues of bicycle and pedestrian connections, transportation demand management, transportation improvements on rural lands, and funding of planned transportation improvements.

The TPR requires that local governments adopt land use regulations consistent with state and federal requirements "to protect transportation facilities, corridors, and sites for their identified functions." A TSP considers transportation issues and guides transportation policy choices and system development for the next 20 years. A TSP determines the existing and future transportation needs, and plans for financing roadway, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, air, rail, water, and pipeline facilities. To avoid unnecessary land use actions and delays in developing transportation facilities and services, the TPR requires adoption of ordinances that clearly allow the improvements that have been selected in the TSP.

Previous Efforts. Work on a new TSP was started 7 years ago in 1999, but the TSP was never completed. That effort included public involvement to identify transportation issues in the county and develop goals and objectives for a TSP.

The Current Effort. Lincoln County has obtained the services of CH2M HILL and Angelo Eaton & Associates to help the County update and complete the TSP. A cooperative transportation planning effort is now under way involving the public, Lincoln County, the Oregon Department of Transportation, all the cities, and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz.

The public input from 1999 is being used as the starting point for this effort, and additional input is invited to prepare a draft TSP. Three Open Houses to obtain public comment are planned for 2006. The TSP will be an amendment to Lincoln County's Comprehensive Plan, so public hearings will be held by the Lincoln County Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners. Adoption of a TSP by the Board of Commissioners is expected in early 2007.

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