



Community Development Department

Planning Division Building Safety Division Environmental Health Division

117 NW Lafayette Avenue Bend Oregon 97701-1925
(541)388-6575 FAX (541)385-1764
<http://www.co.deschutes.or.us/cdd/>

2009 DESCHUTES COUNTY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT REPORT

BACKGROUND

State Planning Goal 1 requires cities and counties to create a Citizen Involvement Program that provides opportunities for community involvement in land use planning processes and decisions. The land use choices made by Oregonians 30 years ago shaped the Oregon of today, and the choices made today will shape Oregon in the future. These choices are best made through an open and public process that provides room for information gathering, analysis and vigorous debate. The Deschutes County public participation program is defined in the Citizen Involvement Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. This chapter contains a set of goals and policies and identifies the County Planning Commission as the required committee for Citizen Involvement. The County Planning Commission works with planning staff to ensure opportunities for public involvement.

This annual report on community involvement lists the four citizen involvement goals from the existing Comprehensive Plan, each of which identifies an aspect of the community input process. Specific actions are listed for each goal. This report is intended to provide the community with a tool to assess progress and suggest additional steps the County can take to ensure that the community is involved in a meaningful way in land use planning discussions.

2009 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

GOAL (A): To promote and maintain better communication between the community's various segments (i.e., governmental agencies, business groups, special districts and the general public)

ACTIONS: Communicating with the community includes many different aspects, involving both Planning Division staff and the Planning Commission. Planning Commission activities are described more fully under Goal B. Planning Division staff coordinate with other cities, sit on regional committees, maintain the County website on planning issues and make presentations as requested. Current Planning Division staff provide everyday answers to public questions on land use, from the rules for EFU zoning to the regulations for landscape management combining zones. Additionally, other Community Development Department staff are involved in meetings with the community. All of these activities promote better understanding between the County and other agencies, groups and individuals.

COORDINATION WITH DESCHUTES COUNTY CITIES AND AGENCIES

Bend

- Attended 15 interagency coordination meetings with City staff
- Participated in Board of County Commissioners work session, deliberation and vote on the proposed Bend Urban Growth Boundary expansion
- Monitored the correspondence between the Land Conservation and Development Department and the City of Bend
- Participated in joint meeting between the Board of County Commissioners and the Bend City Council to discuss the Bend Airport Master Plan update.

Redmond

- Gave presentations to and held open houses with the Redmond Planning Commission on destination resort mapping, the comprehensive plan update and the transportation system plan update
- Attended regular meetings with the City of Redmond, Department of State Lands and the Oregon Military Department
- Attended quarterly meetings with the Board of County Commissioners and the Redmond City Council to discuss relevant land use issues

Sisters

- Gave presentations to and held open houses with the Sisters Planning Commission on destination resort mapping, the comprehensive plan update and the transportation system plan update
- Gave a presentation on HB 2228 (Skyline Forest) with the Board of County Commissioners and the Sisters City Council
- Attended quarterly meetings of the Board of County Commissioners and the Sisters City Council to discuss relevant land use issues

La Pine

- Gave presentations to and held open houses with the La Pine Planning Commission on destination resort mapping, the comprehensive plan update and the transportation system plan update
- Adopted legislative amendments recognizing a conservative 20 year population forecast for the City of La Pine that can be used by City officials and the Department of Land Conservation and Development to estimate the City's 20 year land need and the location of an Urban Growth Boundary
- Conducted coordination meetings with La Pine's planning consultants to prepare for legislative amendments recognizing La Pine's Urban Growth Boundary

2009 Deschutes County Community Involvement Report

Bend/La Pine School District

- Met twice to address recent statute that requires large school districts, cities and counties to coordinate to assist schools in obtaining land for future growth

ODOT

Participated in the following refinement planning projects

- US97/US20 Refinement Plan EIS and Agency Coordination Committee and Technical Advisory Committee
- Wickiup Junction interchange or bypass
- U.S. 20 in Tumalo
- Southern extension of U.S. 97 Re-Route in Redmond

OTHER STAFF OUTREACH

South County Groundwater Protection Project

- Attended joint Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Land Conservation and Development Department (LCDRC) and Board joint work session in La Pine on July 22
- Responded to questions delegated by DEQ from their July 22 meeting responding to health hazard and Statewide Planning Goal 11

High Groundwater Development Project

- Hired facilitator in January 2009
- Conducted five open houses in Spring 2009 in La Pine and Sunriver
- Presented results to the Planning Commission and Board in June 2009

Destination Resort Remapping

- At the Board's direction, conducted 29 meetings with government agencies, business organizations and non-governmental entities from April through July
- Held work sessions and hearings with the Planning Commission and Board

Transportation System Plan Update

- Held stakeholders, Technical Advisory Committee and Steering Committee meetings for Deschutes County TSP
- Held workshops for the Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission on the TSP update

Wind Energy

- Distributed/collected a flyer/survey on how to manage small wind energy projects

Comprehensive Plan Update

- Staffed a booth at the Spring and Fall Home and Garden shows to initiate land use discussions with the wider community
- Held over 20 meetings with various stakeholders both before and after a draft Comprehensive Plan was released
- Sent over 140 letters to stakeholders on the completion of a draft Comprehensive Plan
- Presented copies of the draft Comprehensive Plan to agency partners
- Held six open houses around the County to get input on the draft Comprehensive Plan
- Held nine community meetings in Terrebonne, Tumalo and Deschutes Junction to discuss issues specific to those areas
- Initiated stakeholder meetings to assist in preparing community plans for Terrebonne, Tumalo and Deschutes Junction

2009 Deschutes County Community Involvement Report

WEBSITE/MEDIA

Maintained and updated information on the County website, including the following items:

- Planning Commission agendas and packets
- Information on all current planning projects
- County codes and property information
- Special web pages for major discussion topics and on-going projects
- Background information on planning issues
- Pending code amendments
- Comprehensive Plan Update and Community Plans
- Development in High Groundwater Areas

Provided press releases for all major Planning Commission discussion topics

Ensured that staff is available to the media for questions or interviews

PLANNING STAFF PARTICIPATION - COMMITTEES/ORGANIZATIONS

- Project Wildfire
- Deschutes River Mitigation and Enhancement Committee
- Provisional Advisory Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Association of Oregon Planning Directors
- State Destination Resort Working Group
- Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee
- South Redmond Collaborative Planning Group
- La Pine Transportation Advisory Group
- Commute Options Working Group
- Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Oregon Solutions Deschutes County Transportation Coordination Project
- Central Oregon Transportation Advisory Committee Rail Plan Technical Committee
- ODOT N 97 Technical Management Team
- City of Bend 97/Cooley Mid-Term Solution Technical Advisory Committee
- City of Sisters TSP Technical Advisory Committee
- Liaison to the Historic Landmarks Commission
- Technical Advisory Committee on the Trust for Public Lands Greenprint project

COUNTER/PHONE ASSISTANCE

- Provided a staff member to answer questions Monday-Friday

OTHER CDD STAFF

- Held monthly meetings with the Central Oregon Builders Association and Central Oregon Realtors Association

GOAL (B): To provide the opportunity for the public to identify issues of concern and encourage their involvement in planning to addresses those issues

ACTIONS: There were many issues discussed in Planning Commission meetings that provided an avenue for public participation. The comprehensive plan update and the transportation system plan update were on-going projects that required community involvement. The Planning Commission was also

2009 Deschutes County Community Involvement Report

busy reviewing numerous staff proposed or applicant initiated text or plan amendments. Many of the plan and text amendments were challenging and controversial, involving continuing public hearings to allow the public an adequate opportunity to understand and comment. On the plan and text amendments, ultimately the Commission made recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Staff Informational Presentations:

- Legal counsel provided an update on Oregon ethics law
- Community Development's website developer provided an update on the CD Mapping program
- Staff provided the Oregon Department of Transportation's drafts of Tech Memo #2 (Existing Traffic Volume Conditions) and Tech Memo #3 (2030 Forecast Traffic Volume Conditions) for the Transportation System Plan update
- Staff provided regular updates on the status of ongoing projects such as the community plans
- Staff provided regular updates on land use legislation and court cases

Comprehensive Plan Update:

Considerable Planning Commission time was devoted to the update of the comprehensive plan

- January through June devoted one meeting a month to comprehensive plan topics
- October through December held nine meetings to take informal input on the draft Comprehensive Plan
- All these meetings were open for public input

Other Code amendments and permits:

- Held hearings and made recommendations on 15 Plan and Text Amendments
 - Challenging issues such as weddings in the Exclusive Farm Zone, Destination Resort Remapping and the addition of 19th Street to the Transportation System Plan
 - Code clean ups such as minor amendments to the sign code, surface mining code, wireless communication code, EFU code and recreational vehicle park code
- Held hearings and made a decision on an outdoor mass gathering permit

PLANNING COMMISSION INITIATIVES

- In conjunction with staff, completed a Community Involvement Report for 2008 and sent it to the State Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee
- Participated in setting FY 2009-2010 work plan for the Planning Division

GOAL (C): To serve as a liaison between elected and appointed bodies and citizens of the county

ACTIONS: The Board of County Commissioners appoints the seven-member Planning Commission. The Planning Commission considers staff reports, takes public testimony and makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners on land use issues. The Planning Commission is also the Citizen Involvement Committee, with members representative of the various geographic areas and diverse viewpoints of Deschutes County.

Planning Division staff provide reports on planning issues and projects to Hearings Officers, Historic Landmarks Commission, Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. These reports are available to the public. Planning staff also initiate community land use discussions on a wide variety of topics.

GOAL (D): To provide educational opportunities for the people to learn about planning and how it may be used to assist their community and themselves

ACTIONS: All public meetings and hearings are intended to provide information to the public through staff reports, presentations and discussions. The County website also provides a wide range of information on land use planning. As part of the comprehensive plan update, planning staff and the Planning Commission held numerous informational meetings.

As the County continues in updating the Comprehensive Plan, a new set of goals and policies for community involvement are being discussed. The intent is to create policies that go farther in providing education about the Oregon planning system and to ensuring the community has opportunities to participate in meaningful land use conversations.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR 2010

The following list represents some of the major initiatives being discussed or currently planned that will involve engaging the public in land use discussions during 2010. All these issues require public input and they will be open to the public, publicized and posted on the County website. Overall, the County continues to look for effective methods of increasing awareness of land use issues and involving the public in meaningful land use discussions.

- Comprehensive plan update process
- Transportation Systems Plan (TSP) process
- Community plans for Tumalo, Terrebonne and Deschutes Junction
- Bend Urban Growth Boundary / Urban Reserve Area
- South county groundwater issues
- Initiate a discussion of farm land designations based on recent State legislation
- Update sections of Deschutes County Code as needed