



Community Development Department

Planning Division Building Safety Division Environmental Soils Division

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2010 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. Land use legislation, policies and implementation measures made by Oregonians 30 years ago helped shape Oregon's urban and rural environments. Likewise, choices made today will ultimately shape these areas in the future. Land use planning is 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 Planning Commission works with staff to ensure there are numerous opportunities for public involvement.

This annual report on community involvement lists the four citizen involvement goals from the 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 Deschutes County residents and stakeholders with a tool to assess progress and suggest additional steps the County can take to ensure that its diverse communities can remain involved in a meaningful way in land use planning discussions.

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2010 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 public includes many different aspects involving Planning Division staff from both Current and Long Range Planning and the Planning Commission. Planning Commission activities are described more fully under Goal B. Planning Division staff coordinates with cities, sits on regional committees, maintains the County website and makes presentations as requested. Current Planning Division staff provides everyday answers to public questions on land use and the County's development code. These questions can cover many topics from Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning, to regulations for landscape management combining zones, to home occupation permits on rural lands. All of these activities promote better understanding between the County and other agencies, groups and individuals.

COORDINATION WITH DESCHUTES COUNTY CITIES AND AGENCIES

Bend

- Monitored the correspondence between the Land Conservation and Development Commission and the City of Bend on the proposed Bend Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion
- Kept the Board of County Commissioners updated on the progress of the Bend UGB expansion
- Attended four interagency coordination meetings with City staff on the Bend UGB expansion
- Participated in all meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Bend Airport Master Plan update
- Participated in two Bend 2030 coordination meetings

Redmond

- Attended regular meetings with the City of Redmond, Oregon Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and the Oregon Military Department as part of the South Redmond Collaborative Group
- Attended quarterly meetings with the Board of County Commissioners and the Redmond City Council to discuss relevant land use issues, such as destination resorts
- Attended a Redmond Planning Commission meeting to discuss the draft County Comprehensive Plan

Sisters

- Attended quarterly meetings of the Board of County Commissioners and the Sisters City Council to answer questions about destination resorts, historical preservation and other relevant land use issues

La Pine

- Collaborated with the City of La Pine to adopt a UGB
- Participated in development of first City of La Pine Comprehensive Plan
- Reviewed an application from Biogreen, a bio-mass plant, for a text amendment to provide for taller structures associated with utility facilities in the Industrial District
- Reviewed application from Biogreen to site their biomass plant in La Pine
- Reviewed facility management plan for U.S. 97 in downtown La Pine

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ODOT

Participated in the following refinement planning projects:

- US Highway 97 at the north end of Bend
- US Highway 20 in Tumalo
- O'Neil Junction

OTHER STAFF OUTREACH

South County Wetland Inventory

- Mailed 4,652 property owners regarding a 18,937 acre local wetland inventory study
- Hosted public workshops in March and November to explain the local wetland inventory and answer questions

Transportation System Plan Update (TSP)

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

Comprehensive Plan Update

- Worked with the Planning Commission to review and revise Deschutes County's draft Comprehensive Plan
- Attended south County meetings of the Community Action Group and Upper Deschutes River Coalition to discuss future South County policies
- Met with stakeholders as requested

Regional Economic Opportunity Analysis

- Coordinated regional project for identifying large acreage industrial properties in Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties

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 and recently adopted code amendments
- Comprehensive Plan Update and Community Plans
- 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
- Sustainability Committee
- Association of Oregon Planning Directors
- State Destination Resort Working Group
- Association of Counties Farmland Activities Task Force
- Bend Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee
- South Redmond Collaborative Planning Group
- Central Oregon Area Commission on Transportation (COACT)

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- Highway 97/20 Project Technical Advisory Committee
- La Pine Comprehensive Plan Technical Advisory Committee
- Bend Airport Master Plan Update Technical Advisory Committee
- Wickiup Junction/97 Technical Advisory Committee
- US 20 in Tumalo Project Technical Advisory Committee
- Central Oregon Rail Plan study group
- Commute Options Working Group
- Deschutes County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Bend Airport Master Plan Technical Advisory Committee
- Greenprint Technical Advisory Committee

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 at Planning Commission meetings that provided an avenue for public participation. The comprehensive plan update and the TSP update were on-going projects that required community involvement. The Planning Commission was also busy reviewing numerous staff proposed or applicant initiated text or plan amendments. Many of these were challenging and controversial, involving continuing public hearings to allow the public an adequate opportunity to understand and comment. Ultimately the Planning Commission made recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

Staff Informational Presentations:

- Staff provided an overview of American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) ethics requirements
- Staff provided the ODOT's drafts of updated Tech Memo #3 (2030 Forecast Traffic Volume Conditions) and Tech Memo #4 (proposed mitigations for road segments identified in Tech Memo #3 as deficient) for the TSP update
- Staff provided regular updates on the status of ongoing projects such as community plans for Terrebonne and Tumalo
- Staff provided regular updates on land use legislation, court cases and statewide land use working groups

Comprehensive Plan Update:

- Held 15 work sessions (not public hearings but the public had opportunities to speak)
- Held four public hearings in Bend, Sisters and La Pine
- Held three meetings to deliberate and vote to recommend the draft Comprehensive Plan
- Held two public hearings on proposed transportation and land polices for Deschutes Junction in the Comprehensive Plan

Code amendments and permits:

- Held hearings and made recommendations on 17 Plan and Text Amendments

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- Challenging issues such as raising height limitations in an industrial zone, the Deschutes Junction Comprehensive Plan policies and regulations for small wind energy.
- Code clean ups such as minor amendments to guest ranches, minor variances and traffic standards
- Amendments resulting from major public outreach efforts such as the Tumalo and Terrebonne Community Plans
- Held a hearing and made a decision on an outdoor mass gathering permit

Other

- Held two joint meetings with the Board of County Commissioners to discuss the draft Comprehensive Plan and other land use issues
- In conjunction with staff, completed a Community Involvement Report for 2009 and sent it to the State Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee
- Participated in setting FY 2010-2011 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 representing the various geographic areas and diverse viewpoints of Deschutes County.

Planning Division staff provides 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 initiates 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 the County continues updating the Comprehensive Plan, a new set of goals and policies for community involvement are being proposed. 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.

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FOR 2011

The following list represents some of the major initiatives being discussed or currently planned that will involve engaging the public during 2011. All these issues will be open to the public, publicized and posted on the County website.

- Comprehensive plan update completion
- Local Wetland Inventory completion
- Destination resort remapping completion
- Regional Economic Opportunity Analysis
- TSP process
- Initiate a South County Community Plan
- Initiate a review of farm land designations based on recent State legislation
- Initiate a review of all Goal 5 inventories and programs
- Update sections of Deschutes County Code as needed