



# MEMORANDUM

City of Eugene  
777 Pearl Street, Room 105  
Eugene, Oregon 97401-2793  
(541) 682-5010  
(541) 682-5414 FAX  
www.eugene-or.gov

**Date:** October 26, 2009

**To:** Members of the Sustainability Commission

**From:** Keli Osborn, 682-5406 or [keli.m.osborn@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:keli.m.osborn@ci.eugene.or.us)

**Subject:** Staff report: Items of interest to the Sustainability Commission

### Sustainability Manager position

- Working with other managers to fill position from existing City staff for interim period, starting in November; position could then be posted externally.
- As in the past, dedicated staff would provide direct staff support to the Sustainability Commission, assist with the Community Climate & Energy Action Plan, provide leadership on adopted recommendations and projects, play a liaison role inside the organization and with partners, community members, and professional colleagues, and carry out analysis and education activities.

### Future Sustainability Commission agendas

City staff members have requested time on your December agenda to discuss several work plan items and issues (please see below). Per your request, the November meeting will include a presentation by LTD's Tom Schwetz, with follow-up discussion including Mr. Schwetz and Rob Inerfeld, City of Eugene Transportation Planning Manager. You may wish to schedule additional item(s) for November, and your confirmation will be needed on the requested December items.

Unscheduled items that have been identified in your work plan or discussions include:

- Commission communications plan
- Reports on Sustainability Board liaisons
- Eugene comprehensiveness lands assessment (ECLA)
- Policy updates (state and federal legislation)
- Focus on specific actions commission can take/ be involved in
- Green economy -- presentations could include: Jack Roberts, Eugene Chamber, GreenLane, UO business school, others
- Ways to strengthen understanding of social equity issues
- Presentation by Eugene/Springfield Solidarity Network on performance standards
- Green building incentives update
- Other food security groups, possibly including Lane Food Policy Council, Food for Lane County, Willamette Food & Farm Coalition

### **November 18**

- Suggested: Discuss Saturday planning session for January
- Suggested: TBL tool update

- Confirmed: EmX West Eugene extension (LTD and City transportation planning staff)

*Note: Economic summit set for Nov. 19*

## **December 16**

\* Requested: Draft internal climate and energy plan - City operations & services (Lynne Eichner-Kelley, Facility Management/Central Services, and interdepartmental staff team)

\* Requested: Downtown strategies (Amanda Flannery Nobel, Planning & Development)

\* Requested: Draft food security scoping & resource plan (Anne Donahue and Ethan Nelson, Planning & Development)

*Note: Orientation for all advisory group members to be scheduled (topics: Robert's Rules, open meetings and public records, ethics, others)*

## **January 2010**

- Election of new Chair and Vice Chair

### *Climate Leadership Academy and U.S. Sustainability Directors Network*

City of Eugene and Lane Council of Governments staff in September met with colleagues from across the country in five days of strategic discussions on land use, transportation and sustainability initiatives.

Eugene was selected for participation in the *Climate Leadership Academy: Reducing Carbon Emissions through Smart Transportation & Land Use Policies and Practices* and the first annual Urban Sustainability Directors' Network meeting, which occurred in Chicago in late September. Staff joined peers from other communities including Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; Austin, Texas; and Atlanta, Georgia. Sponsoring organizations have obtained funding that allows Eugene and other participants to participate in these sessions over a two-year period. Eugene's participants were Eugene Planning Director Lisa Gardner, Transportation Planning Manager Rob Inerfeld, City Manager's Office Division Manager Keli Osborn, and Transportation Program Manager at Lane Council of Governments Andrea Riner. Meetings highlighted ideas and challenges, and networking has alerted us to opportunities to work with other communities on such items as federal climate legislation (potential for additional Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant and other funds for local jurisdictions). Takeaways we identified also include:

- Leadership on the multiple benefits of climate-friendly land use and transportation policies (Enrique Penalosa at <http://www.livablestreets.com/streetswiki/enrique-penalosa>).
- More integration and improved alignment inside City of Eugene organization and at regional level needed. Follow-up discussions have occurred or are set with key players on climate and energy action plan, city activities and planning.
- Compact development can save time, money, energy and emissions – but, significant political, social and financial challenges in reaching consensus on where growth occurs, enacting and enforcing smart growth incentives and regulations, and synchronizing land use and transportation decisions.
- Emphasize “co-benefits” for climate-friendly policies, including improved health and new, more comprehensive way of thinking about housing costs and affordability (transportation costs associated with location impact household's economic bottom line: <http://www.cnt.org/tcd/>)

As the commission discusses issues and next steps with the Land Use and Transportation Subcommittee, you may wish to include staff from Planning, Public Works transportation planning and the Lane Council of Governments.

### *City Earns Statewide Sustainability Award for Paving Practices*

The City of Eugene has earned a sustainability award for its innovative and pioneering paving practices. The Eugene Public Works Department received the 2009 Julian Prize for Sustainability for its use of warm-mix asphalt concrete (WMAC) to repair streets. The award, which included a certificate for a tree to be planted in Eugene in recognition of the accomplishment, was presented at the fall conference of the

Oregon Chapter of the American Public Works Association in Grand Ronde. WMAC is a technology that intrigued City staff for its multiple benefits of reduced energy need to produce the product, reduced emissions, increased ability to use recycled materials, and enhanced pavement life. Working with the Asphalt Pavement Association of Oregon, and resources at the Texas Department of Transportation, staff developed a special specification for use of WMAC on City projects. A pilot project was implemented on the paving of Roosevelt Boulevard last spring, and the results were so encouraging that staff expanded the option to use WMAC on most of this year's paving repair projects. Egge Sand & Gravel, Wildish Construction and Knife River Corporation also saw great benefits in the use of WMAC. These firms chose to make significant local investments in WMAC production facilities and used warm-mix on a total of 14 City paving projects, putting down a total of 55,000 tons of warm-mix. Staff has calculated that this reduced greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 190 metric tons. "Through research, cooperation with industry groups and a willingness to step outside of the box, the City of Eugene was able to work with local contractors and asphalt concrete producers to bring a new more sustainable paving product to market in the Eugene-Springfield area," says Matt Rodrigues, manager of the City's pavement preservation program. "And through the success of the WMAC implementation in Eugene, we have set the groundwork for expanded use of the product around the state." For more information, contact Matt Rodrigues at 682-6036 or [Matt.J.Rodrigues@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:Matt.J.Rodrigues@ci.eugene.or.us).

#### Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant award

The US Department of Energy announced that the City of Eugene will receive \$1,485,800 from the energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The money will be used to decrease community-wide carbon emissions, create jobs, reduce long-term energy use, and leverage funds for on-going energy efficiency and conservation initiatives. The City submitted an application for the grant funds in May with a list of proposed projects that focused on improving energy use in City of Eugene facilities and increasing energy efficiency in homes, businesses, and transportation choices throughout the community. The projects were based on existing City sustainability goals and plans. It is estimated that the EECBG funds will generate between 80-90 jobs in the local economy. The City will use EECBG funds to:

- create a revolving loan fund for local downtown businesses energy efficiency upgrades;
- provide grants to retrofit affordable multifamily housing to reduce energy consumption;
- convert existing steam heating systems in City facilities to high efficiency gas;
- upgrade or recommission 113 small heating, ventilation and air conditioning units in City facilities with smart controls to reduce energy use;
- launch a transportation options program called SmartTrips to encourage pedestrian and bicycle transportation; and,
- provide green building assistance for residences through building permit rebates for energy efficient new construction.

Together these projects are estimated to reduce green house gas emissions by 882.692 annual metric tonnes for internal building projects, 183.964 annual U.S. short tons for external community projects, and ten percent of Vehicle Miles Traveled in local neighborhoods. The EECBG is a new program established this year to provide grants to U.S. local governments, states, territories, and Indian tribes to fund programs and projects that reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions and improve energy efficiency. It is modeled after the Community Development Block Grant Program and administered by the US Department of Energy. Congress appropriated \$3.2 billion for the EECBG Program, most of which, over \$2.7 billion, will be distributed through formula grants. For more information contact Stephanie Jennings at [Stephanie.A.Jennings@ci.eugene.or.us](mailto:Stephanie.A.Jennings@ci.eugene.or.us) or 541-682-5529.