

October 14, 2009
Comments to Core 4
Other Cities Washington County
Chris Barhyte – Tualatin City Council President

Thank you for giving the Cities of Washington County the opportunity to participate in the urban and rural reserves process.

When we started this process back in early 2008 I asked “what do our communities need to do to participate”. I was told “Develop Local aspirations for each city. What does your community want to be?”

Most of the Washington County Cities had already completed an extensive visioning process which assisted each City in completing their local aspirations. We continued to engage our residents and ask “what do you want your community to look like in 50 years?”

We have used this feedback to develop our local aspirations which was one of the key components that helped determine our Urban Reserves. The major theme that emerged was that residents of each City did not want to add an overwhelming amount of density to existing neighborhoods which would change the quality of life in each of the communities forever.

John Kitzhaber once said Oregonians don't like **sprawl**, but they don't like high **density** either.

Many of you have asked, “How could Washington County along with its Cities ask for so much land?” The process that lead to those results was well organized and thought out. Let me provide you with the highlights of that process.

The County created a screening system to help them determine how the five mile study area met the rural or urban criteria. The County planning staff spent the 22 months of this process collecting data. The initial recommended urban land need was 107,000 acres and after another round of screening the number fell to 70,000 acres. The final step was to apply the local aspirations of Cities.

Each of the Cities within County needed to determine the estimated population and jobs in 40 to 50 years. As we gathered those numbers we worked on how many people and jobs each City could accommodate within its current Urban Growth Boundary through redevelopment and infill. They compared those numbers to the estimated population to determine how much additional land they would need.

Each City had different local aspirations Cornelius has the desire to add additional jobs land to provide them with a balanced community. Hillsboro would like to add additional land to help them attract additional businesses in their already successful business cluster. This story goes on with community members and elected officials in each City within Washington County.

Each City had a different philosophy and methodology to push additional density to help them accommodate the future population. Tigard for instance has a plan to add significant density to the Tigard Triangle. All the other Cities have similar plans over the next 50 years to help them accommodate the estimated population.

After this phase was complete, it became clear that all the population and employment could not be accommodated within the Cities current boundaries.

All of this brought us to our current estimate of 34,250 acres, half the previous estimate.

Metro asked each of our communities to produce local aspirations.

We agree that local aspirations is a fundamental process towards a successful land use system.

Goal 14 actually mentions that local governments may specify characteristics, such as parcel size, topography or proximity, necessary for land to be suitable for an identified need.

We have gone through an exhaustive process to determine the specific needs right for each community.

The mission statement of our statewide planning organization is to support **ALL** of our partners in creating and implementing comprehensive plans that reflect and balance the 19 statewide planning goals.

Again, each of our communities have developed comprehensive plans.

The vision and purpose of the statewide planning system is to improve the well-being and prosperity of citizens, businesses and communities throughout Oregon.

While governance is essential, the well-being and prosperity of our citizens feels different for each community. Our plans reflect these varying views.

In closing we ask for your support of our plans developed which were a result of a solid process and focused on our local aspirations.

We feel that our residents vocalized the needs of our businesses and citizens within our fine Cities and we, in turn, are being good stewards of their wishes by incorporating them into the plans presented.

We feel that the original process was sound. Supporting local aspirations will continue to foster livable communities in our region and State.

Chris Barhyte
Tualatin City Council President
Representing Other Cities Washington County