



CITY OF

West Linn

Memorandum

Date: August 26, 2008

To: Chris Jordan, City Manager

From: Chris Kerr, Senior Planner 

Subject: Overview of the *Imagine West Linn Update 2008* project (PLN-08-01)

OVERVIEW

The City of West Linn's *Imagine West Linn* document was approved by the City Council in 1994. Its purpose is to outline the City's broad vision for the future and it includes a summary of trends and outcomes with both 'probable' and 'preferred' futures for the community, depending on the various actions taken by the City. It has served as an important tool for establishing the citizen's shared values and it includes recommended steps to achieve the 'preferred' future. Though it does not have any specific regulatory standing, this vision document has served as an important guide and reference for the City's decision makers when determining goals and policies for the City, particularly as they relate to the Comprehensive Plan.

BACKGROUND

The Council decided to re-examine the 14 year old vision document to determine any areas that may require updating. A key component of this effort was to reach out to the citizens and to the various established City organizations to solicit their input on the *Imagine* document. Specific components of the City's outreach efforts included:

- Media – Two detailed articles have been in the Tidings newspaper describing the project, with quotes from Councilors including specific requests for public input. Additionally, a formal notice of the item was included in the Tidings Public Notice section.
- Advisory Boards – the City's Citizen Advisory Committees (e.g. Parks & Recreation Board, Historic Resources Advisory Board, Transportation Advisory Board) were provided the document with a questionnaire to provide their recommendations back to the Council. The project was included as a separate agenda item by these Committees at their public meetings.
- Planning Commission– the PC and City Council have held two joint worksessions on the matter. Also, the Planning Commission has held two additional public hearings reviewing and discussing the document.
- City Council – The Council has discussed the item at numerous hearings, discussing the project and received progress reports from the Staff and the consultant.
- Neighborhood Associations – The Associations were notified of the project from its initial stages with a specific request to provide input. They have also been sent the numerous agendas complete with background packages for review, via email and in hard copy format.
- Direct citizen involvement - An announcement was placed on the first page of the City's website with a link to the document and a request for comments from any resident on

possible changes. Additionally, a description of the project has been provided at the City Library, encouraging public comment.

Based on the feedback received, and after a detailed reading of the original *Imagine* document, the Council concluded that the document, while certainly dated, still effectively encapsulated the values of the citizens and portrayed the shared vision for the City's future. Based on this, it was determined that a complete rewrite of the document was not warranted, although specific areas did require updating. The City hired Siegel Planning Services, LLC to assist with updating this document. An overview of the changes made to the document are described in the attached report completed by the consultant, however, they are generally limited to the areas of formatting, making necessary data/statistical updates, listing accomplishments that have taken place, and to recognize previously unfamiliar techniques that the City has identified since 1994 as important to its future (e.g. 'sustainability'). The majority of the changes proposed to the document came directly from the Planning Commission.

It is important to note that the *Imagine West Linn* update does not provide a new 'vision' for the future and it is not intended as a re-write of the document. A complete re-write of the document was determined by the Council and Staff to not be warranted at this time. This update is only intended to enhance and augment (rather than amend) the existing overall goals and established vision - while bringing the document as current as possible. Updating this document will ensure that the City's *Imagine West Linn* vision remains relevant and useful tool for the City.