

The Clackamas County Coordinating Committee– Still Moving Forward

Summary of the Outcomes from the September 2009 C-4 Retreat

C-4 Aspirations

The members of the Clackamas County Coordinating Committee (C-4) created a number of Aspirations in 2008 relating to the future of the County, its Communities, and its Citizens. At its September 2009 Annual Retreat, C-4 revisited these aspirations and modified them to reflect achievements of the past year and the challenges that lie ahead.

The following aspirations envision not only a physical state of things in the future, but also an image how it will be to live in Clackamas County. These aspirations provide a broad framework for the development of C-4's Work Program, as well as Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.

- *WE aspire to work together as a team to build trust with citizens and each other to forge consensus and collaboration. We will not do things as we always have, but instead will think differently and endeavor to be creative.*
- *WE aspire to create complete communities that have access to multi-modal transportation options and are not dependent on the use of a car. Our communities should have easy access to jobs, services, schools, and public transit.*
- *WE aspire to have Communities that strive to provide the necessary infrastructure and social institutions that support and enhance the qualities of a great place.*
- *WE aspire to retain and create good jobs, support business and innovation, as well as enhance educational opportunities. We seek to improve the standard of living for all while considering social equity in all that we do.*
- *WE aspire to develop within the carrying capacity of each community and the region. We do not assume the Urban Growth Boundary must be expanded. We will approach our planning from a regional perspective while being mindful of local community aspirations.*
- *WE aspire to build efficient infrastructure we need for most of the time, building connected systems that work, are practical and affordable. We will get ahead of the curve for coordinating planning, financing, building, and maintaining infrastructure.*

C-4 considered a number of issues and opportunities effecting the communities within the County and how those influence and help shape the operation of C-4 itself. This introspection identified these factors:

C-4 Purpose

C-4 provides a forum to respond to local and regional issues and problems in a structured way. It helps the communities determine as a group what works and what doesn't. C-4 connects the County to its communities. In other words, it leverages each of the member jurisdictions in a way that maximizes benefits to the citizens of Clackamas County.

C-4 provides a forum where members can learn about other jurisdictions—their experiences, strategies, etc. thus allowing better representation of C-4 at the local and regional levels. C-4 offers educational opportunities that increase the understanding of issues by its members.

The Clackamas County Coordinating Committee– Still Moving Forward ***Summary of the Outcomes from the September 2009 C-4 Retreat***

C-4 can undertake projects that can benefit the entire region including helping to allocate the growth pattern of Clackamas County; reviewing and improving Urban Growth Management Agreements; and engaging how best to handle the anticipated cuts to services.

Specific value can be found in providing a comprehensive database of the contracts and services the County has with the local governments. C-4 staff will undertake this project in 2010.

C-4: What Works

C-4 is all about networking and relationships. It allows communities to learn from one another and to coordinate as a group with the County while allowing the County a forum to present its issues and concerns to its partners. It better connects urban and rural areas. C-4 has enormous value in its ability to create a unified voice in regional, state, and federal venues.

C-4 has taken on the persona of a powerful force in the region because it is perceived to be a positive and inclusive forum that produces outcomes that are supported county-wide.

Operationally, the funding and resources provided by County has allowed C-4 to make significant progress. The addition of Hamlets, Villages and most recently Citizen Planning Organizations (CPOs) as C-4 members also enhances the group. The newly expanded Board of Commissioners has really contributed to a much higher level of involvement, discussion, and results. The C-4 Retreat is once again becoming a great opportunity to advance and discuss issues in an informal manner.

C-4 Structure

The whole purpose of the coordinating committee is to have the jurisdictions working with the County on common issues. But there needs to be a clear understanding of what can be expected from membership in C-4. Historically C-4 was comprised of the governments within the County, including cities, and special districts who need to coordinate on regional issues. Over time, citizen committees and groups have become more active in local government and now C-4 can benefit from their inclusion because they provide even a broader voice and involvement of the unincorporated areas of the county.

However, there are no special rights granted to any jurisdiction as a member of C-4. It still remains a coordinating committee. It is not advisory in a formal sense, although it can serve as a forum to discuss issues and build consensus. The subgroups of C-4 still must make formal decisions regarding regional matters that are apart from the larger C-4 membership.

What's Next

As the structure of C-4 has evolved and expanded, the bylaws and other process and procedures must be updated and modified to reflect these changes. First order of business is to amend the C-4 Bylaws. Secondly, the group must lay out its new workplan and meeting structure and times to optimize the effectiveness and efficiency of C-4. As part of this effort, C-4 will prioritize issues of concern and targets for discussion or further education. A rolling calendar will be created that keeps topics on the list and identifies opportunities for addressing them. The new and revised structures and processes will be considered and modified where appropriate at the 2010 C-4 Retreat.