March 7, 2014

TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission

FROM: Jim Rue, Director
Carrie MacLaren, Deputy Director
Rob Hallyburton, Community Services Division Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 13, March 13-14, 2014, LCDC Meeting

CITY OF NEWBERG – URBAN GROWTH BOUNDARY AMENDMENT
SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

I. SUMMARY

The Land Conservation and Development Commission (commission) conducted a hearing on February 13, 2014, to consider a referral from the director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development (department) of an amendment to the Newberg urban growth boundary (UGB) submitted by the City of Newberg (city) and Yamhill County. The commission received oral argument from the city and several objectors, deliberated, and continued the hearing to its March 13-14, 2014 meeting. This report addresses issues raised at the hearing, other items in objections, exceptions, and materials submitted after the February 13, 2014 hearing that the commission has not yet considered.

A. Staff Contact Information

If you have questions about this agenda item, please contact Angela Lazarean, Mid-Willamette Valley Regional Representative, at (503) 934-0056 or angela.lazarean@state.or.us.

B. Recommendation

The department recommends the commission remand the Newberg UGB amendment submittal for further development of the record and analysis. The specific recommendations are provided below, with changes to the recommendation in the Staff Report indicated by underscore for additions and overstrike for deletions.
The department recommends the commission instruct the city, on remand, to:

1. Demonstrate that the following “site characteristics” identified by the city pursuant to OAR 660-009-0015(2) and OAR 660-024-0060(5) are meaningfully connected with the operation of a target industry or a group of target industries with compatible operational requirements, or consider the site and area needs during the analysis of alternative expansion areas under the Goal 14 location factors:

   Exclude sites that abut residential neighborhoods on more than 25% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical buffers are present, such as a stream corridor, arterial street, state highway, rail line, or park.

   Exclude sites that require truck traffic to travel through or adjacent to a residential neighborhood to reach an arterial street or state highway.

   Exclude sites that, for community centers, abut residential neighborhood on more than 50 percent of the site perimeter unless effective topographical or road buffers are present or planned.

   Include parcels or contiguous group of parcels [that] adjoin an existing industrial or commercial area or an area with sufficient buildable land to allow expansion of the industrial district.

   Include parcels or contiguous group of parcels [that] adjoin an existing industrial or commercial area, or an area with sufficient buildable land to allow expansion of the industrial district.

   Include parcels or contiguous group of parcels [that] have suitable truck access to a state highway or arterial street within one-quarter mile.

   Exclude [study areas] that are not predominantly less than 5 percent slope within buildable areas.

2. Demonstrate that the following “site characteristic” identified by the city pursuant to OAR 660-009-0015(2) and OAR 660-024-0060(5) is typical of and meaningfully connected to the operation of a target industry or a group of target industries with compatible operational requirements or consider the site and area needs during the analysis of alternative expansion areas under the Goal 14 location factors:

   Exclude sites that abut residential neighborhoods on more than 25% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical buffers are present, such as a stream corridor, arterial street, state highway, rail line, or park.
3. Explain why target industrial uses must be in close proximity to an arterial street or state highway and not a collector.

4. Provide adequate evidence regarding the number of industrial sites needed during the planning period.

5. Include the content required in OAR 660-009-0015(3) in the employment land inventory.

6. Provide information regarding why the vacant A-dec site was not included in the buildable lands inventory.

7. Provide information regarding whether a portion of the Springbrook District Village area is designated for non-commercial uses and how the land it was accounted for in the employment land inventory.

8. Explain how the determination of the capacity of the existing UGB to accommodate employment growth considered employment growth on fully developed land.

8. Clarify that the Zimri Road area (Site VI) is not adjacent to commercially zoned land, and provide adequate justification as to why this site cannot reasonably accommodate industrial uses, or consider it in the Goal 14 analysis of alternative locations to accommodate industrial land needs under OAR 660-024-0050(4).

9. Adequately justify why the portion of South Springbrook Road outside the existing UGB (Subarea 12) is unsuitable for industrial use or consider the area in the Goal 14 analysis of alternative locations to accommodate industrial land needs.

10. Adequately justify why Sites 8 and 9 (Newberg-Dundee corridor) are unsuitable for industrial use or consider them in the Goal 14 analysis of alternative locations to accommodate industrial land needs.

11. Consider the Waste Management site vacant in the employment land inventory.

12. Supplement the analysis of alternative expansion areas with an adequate factual base to demonstrate the Goal 14 location factors have been considered and balanced.

II. RECORD

The materials before the commission are:

1. The written record submitted by the city (listed in the department’s January 23, 2014 staff report at p. 14)
2. Objections to the submittal submitted by:
a. Kathleen Carl  
b. Shirley Cooper  
c. Lee M. Does  
d. Friends of Yamhill County and 1000 Friends of Oregon (Friends objection)  
e. Ranee Salmonsson, and  
f. Grace Schaad

3. The department’s January 23, 2014 staff report to the commission (Staff Report)
4. Exceptions to the Staff Report:  
   a. City of Newberg (Newberg exception)  
   b. Friends of Yamhill County and 1000 Friends of Oregon (Friends exception)
5. The department’s February 10, 2014 supplement staff report (Supplemental Report)
6. List of questions presented to the commission by the department at the February 13, 2014 hearing
7. Newberg’s February 20, 2014 response to issues raised at the LCDC hearing (Newberg response)
8. Lee M. Does February 26, 2014 rebuttal to Newberg response
9. Friends of Yamhill County and 1000 Friends of Oregon February 27, 2014 rebuttal to Newberg response (Friends rebuttal)

All of these materials are hyperlinked above and available collectively at http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/Pages/newberg_ugb.aspx.

III. SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The city’s use of site characteristics for limiting its consideration of land for UGB expansion has been a central issue in the objections to the submittal, and in the commission’s initial hearing. The commission discussed to what extent its decision is bound by the opinion of the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA) and subsequent decision by the Court of Appeals in an earlier appeal of Newberg’s Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA).¹ Specifically, the commission discussed the appropriate interpretation of when a characteristic of a site is “necessary” for the site to be suitable for the intended use or for the intended use to operate.

To review, the relevant rule regarding application of site characteristics to a UGB amendment is OAR 660-024-0060(5):

> “If a local government has specified characteristics such as parcel size, topography, or proximity that are necessary for land to be suitable for an identified need, the local government may limit its consideration to land that has the specified characteristics when it conducts the boundary location alternatives analysis and applies ORS 197.298.” (Emphasis added.)

¹ Friends of Yamhill County v. City of Newberg, 62 Or LUBA 5 (2010) aff’d 240 Or App 738 (2011). Note that the hyperlinks are to electronic versions of the opinions.
For employment land, a local government specifies site suitability characteristics during completion of an EOA. The definition of a “site characteristic” as it applies to employment land is found in OAR 660-009-0005(11):

“‘Site Characteristics’ means the attributes of a site necessary for a particular industrial or other employment use to operate. Site characteristics include, but are not limited to, a minimum acreage or site configuration including shape and topography, visibility, specific types or levels of public facilities, services or energy infrastructure, or proximity to a particular transportation or freight facility such as rail, marine ports and airports, multimodal freight or transshipment facilities, and major transportation routes.” (Emphasis added.)

LUBA and the Court of Appeals both interpreted how strictly the term “necessary” should be applied in the determination of site characteristics. The Court of Appeals’ opinion states:

“[W]e agree with LUBA that ‘site characteristics’ need not be ‘indispensable’ to a particular use in order to be ‘necessary for a particular industrial or other employment use to operate.’ The intent of Division 9 is to ensure that there is an ‘adequate supply of land for economic development and employment growth in Oregon,’ OAR 660-009-0000, which is vital to the health, welfare, and prosperity of the state ***. That overriding intent to allow and plan for anticipated economic growth--in part, through the identification of ‘site characteristics’ that make the land ‘suitable’ to meet the needs of anticipated growth--suggests something other than petitioners’ strict ‘indispensability’ test that would take into consideration only those ‘site characteristics’ without which particular industry and employment uses could not operate. Rather, the planning scheme (based on projections and economic trends) suggests, as LUBA adopted, a more pragmatic approach toward accommodating economic growth: That ‘necessary’ site characteristics are those attributes that are reasonably necessary to the successful operation of particular industrial or employment uses, in the sense that they bear some important relationship to that operation. Friends of Yamhill County v. City of Newberg, 240 Or App 738, 747 (2011) (emphasis added).

The Court of Appeals articulated its understanding of the upper boundary of how strictly the term “necessary” should be applied as it interprets the commission’s rule: not as “indispensable,” but rather as “reasonably necessary” in a way that bears some “important relationship” to the particular operation. LUBA, in its opinion, used the term “meaningful connection.” While neither body addressed the lower boundary in detail, LUBA’s opinion states:

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2 As noted in the Staff Report, the Court of Appeals’ articulation of “necessary” differed from LUBA’s. See Staff Report at 16-17. Specifically, the Court of Appeals articulates a “necessary” site characteristic as one that is “reasonably necessary” in the sense that it bears an “important relationship” to the operation of the particular use. LUBA characterized “necessary” in a two prong test: whether the site characteristic was “typical” and “meaningfully connected” to the operation of the particular use. While using different terminology, the Court of Appeals notes that the interpretation is essentially the same: “LUBA’s formulation of the relevant inquiry adequately captures the concept of reasonable necessity that is embodied in the rule.” Friends, 240 Or App at 747.
“[T]he city’s apparent belief that it can select site characteristics solely to give it sites that will have competitive advantages gives no meaning to the OAR 660-009-0005(11) requirement that a site characteristic must be an ‘attribute’ that is ‘necessary’ for the desired industrial use to ‘operate.’ The city’s exclusive focus on marketing concerns also runs the risk that the city might run afoul of other statewide planning goal and statutory obligations for establishing urban growth boundaries in a way that balances the need to provide adequate land for industrial development and statutory and goal standards for protecting agricultural, forest and other sensitive lands.” Friends of Yamhill County v. City of Newberg, 62 Or LUBA 5, 19-20 (2010) (slip op at 15), aff’d 240 Or App 747 (2011).

To summarize, LUBA and the Court of Appeals rejected interpretations of the term “necessary that would mean “indispensable” (at one end of the spectrum) or simply a “marketing advantage” (at the other). Instead, the appellate bodies believed the commission intended something in between, but still with substance: reasonable, important, and meaningful as related to operational needs.

In its review, the department did not question whether LUBA’s two-pronged definition was appropriate but rather analyzed the submittal and objections with the assumption that a site characteristic is “necessary for a particular industrial or other employment use to operate” if the city demonstrated that LUBA’s two prongs – “typical” and “meaningfully connected” – were satisfied. Accordingly, the department’s review focused on whether the city’s findings and conclusions are reasonable and based on substantial evidence, not whether it was the only or best application of the rules as interpreted by LUBA and the Court. In several instances, the department found that only one, or neither, component of LUBA’s definition had been demonstrated.

However, as discussed at the hearing in February, the commission has the authority to interpret its own rules. Thus, the issue before the commission is whether the city has demonstrated that the challenged site characteristics are “necessary for a particular industrial or other employment use to operate” such that the city can appropriately exclude certain lands from consideration as a UGB expansion area.

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3 LUBA articulated the two-part test as follows:

“we believe that site characteristics are properly viewed as attributes that are (1) typical of the industrial or employment use and (2) have some meaningful connection to the operation of the industrial or employment use.” Friends, 62 Or LUBA at 19.

4 For continuity between reports, the department continues to use the phrase “meaningfully connected” to mean “necessary.”
IV. ISSUES BEFORE THE COMMISSION

The department provided a list of questions to the commission at the February 13, 2014 hearing. The department intended the list to be an inventory of issues raised in objections to the Newberg UGB amendment submittal and in exceptions to the January 23, 2014 DLCD staff report to the commission. The questions and the department’s recommended response follow.

1. Did the city inappropriately exclude land from consideration for a UGB expansion under OAR 660-024-0060(5) due to its interpretation of the definition of “site characteristics”? (Friends Objection 1; Staff Report at 19-34; Friends Exception 1, Newberg exception at 6-14; Supplemental Report at 4; Newberg response at 4-6; Friends rebuttal at 4-9)

The department concluded that the answer to this question is “yes,” for the reasons set forth in the answers to the following subset of questions.

   a. Did the city demonstrate that the challenged site characteristics are “typical” of a particular use? (Friends Objection 1; Staff Report at 26; Friends Exception 1; Newberg Exception at 6-10; Newberg response at 7; Friends rebuttal at 4-7; subsection V.A.1 of this report)

The department notes that the city’s analysis of what is “typical” was undertaken in response to the first prong of LUBA’s two-prong interpretation of “necessary.” In the department’s view, LUBA included “typical” because OAR 660-009-0015(2) directs cities to identify site needs based in part on site characteristics that are “typical of expected uses.” This rule provided LUBA context for interpreting the commission’s intent for the term “necessary” in the definition of “site characteristic.” As noted in chapter III, the commission need not adopt LUBA’s interpretation.

The department found that the submittal includes substantial evidence to demonstrate that most of the site characteristics the city employed are typical of target industrial uses. The department found that the city’s study of industrial uses in similar cities in the region adequately described the typical attributes of particular industrial uses in the area because the city chose areas that included Newberg’s target industries. The department notes that there are a variety of ways that the term “typical” can be interpreted, and the department found the city’s interpretation reasonable. The department concluded that one site characteristic has not been justified as “typical”:

“Exclude sites that abut residential neighborhoods on more than 25% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical buffers are present, such as a stream corridor, arterial street, state highway, rail line, or park.”

The department found that “wanting to be a good neighbor and not blending well with residential use do not address the operational needs of employment uses. (Emphasis in original.) Staff Report at 24. Notwithstanding the sample of industrial area that showed the observed uses have
less than 25 percent of their boundaries adjacent to residential areas, the department did not find that the city demonstrated complaint avoidance to be an operational need of industry.

b. *Did the city demonstrate that the challenged site characteristics are “meaningfully connected” to a particular use?* (Friends Objection 1; Staff Report at 19-34; Newberg exception at 7; Newberg response at 4-6, 7; Friends rebuttal at 7-9)

The department concluded that the city has not demonstrated that most of the site characteristics it employed are meaningfully connected to a particular use. This conclusion was based on the city’s method of defining required site characteristics, which began with general industry operational needs (not related to particular or targeted industries) and refining these based on attributes observed in industrial areas in similarly sized cities in the region. This stage of refinement also did not connect the site characteristics to particular uses, but rather to industrial districts. After developing a list of typical site characteristics, the city related them to the target industries. Table 12-24, Rec. at 5882-5888. The department found that the record did not adequately explain the operational needs of the target industries or reasonably establish that many of the site characteristics are meaningfully connected to the operation of those industries. For example, the city only considered areas suitable if they are located within one-quarter mile of an arterial street or state highway. The findings for the transportation needs of high-tech manufacturing state:

> **Typical uses have frequent truck traffic to receive supplies and deliver product. Many serve other industries, so close access is important.**

While the department does not disagree with this finding, this finding does not explain the operational needs of high-tech manufacturing adequately to demonstrate that this use needs to be within one-quarter mile of an arterial.

c. *Is an industrial district or park a “particular use” as that term is used in OAR 660-009-0015(2)?* (Friends Objection 1; Staff Report at 17; Newberg exception at 11-13; Supplemental Report at 6; Newberg response at 7; Subsection V.B.1 of this report)

The department concluded that an industrial district is not a “particular use.” The department provided its explanation of the level of particularity at which the analysis of required site characteristics should focus. The department concluded that “the term ‘particular’ should be interpreted in a way that allows a city a reasonable and practical path to compliance with the rules while addressing its economic development needs. At the same time, it cannot be construed so broadly that it renders the term ‘particular’ moot.” Staff Report at 17. This led to the department recommendation that the commission reject something as general as “manufacturing” or “business district” as a “particular use” for the purposes of establishing site characteristics.

The city’s exception pointed out that the administrative rule permits grouping of uses when the various uses have compatible site needs. The department addressed this exception in the
Supplemental Report, agreeing but stating that combining is permissible only to the extent that it would not result in the exclusion of a site that would be included if the site characteristics of an individual particular use were applied. Otherwise, the grouping of particular uses would undermine the “particular use” provision. See Supplemental Report at 6.

d. Did the city use site characteristics under OAR 660-009-0015(2) to exclude land from further analysis for the UGB when the factors the city used to exclude the property were appropriately considered when addressing the Goal 14 location factors? (Friends Objection 1.A-1.D; Staff Report at 18; Newberg exception at 13, 14; Newberg response at 8)

The department concluded that a site characteristic is not invalid simply because it resembles a Goal 14 boundary location factor. The purpose of using site characteristics is to identify land that is suitable for the intended employment use while the purpose of the location factors is to decide which suitable land best balances a variety of potentially conflicting objectives. For example, land that cannot reasonably be served redundant power may be unsuitable for a particular use, and that land would be excluded from subsequent UGB analysis. The remaining, suitable land that can most efficiently be served with redundant power is an appropriate consideration during application of the location factors.

The department concluded that several of the site characteristics employed by the city were not valid, but not because they should have been considerations during the location factor analysis. Rather, the department recommended that the commission remand the site characteristics with instructions to the city to demonstrate that they are meaningfully connected to target industrial uses. The department noted that the city could choose to instead use that consideration when employing the location factors.

2. Did the city demonstrate that residential compatibility is an operational need for industrial use or should it have included it during consideration of the Goal 14 location factors? (Friends Objection 1.A and 1.C; Staff Report at 23, 28; Newberg exception at 16; Friends Exception 2; Newberg response at 8; Friends rebuttal at 9; Does rebuttal; subsection V.A.2 of this report)

The department concluded that the city had not demonstrated that the residential compatibility site characteristics it employed are meaningfully connected to or typical of target industrial uses, and therefore the city “should have. . .considered compatibility with adjacent residential uses during consideration of the Goal 14 location factors.” Staff Report at 25. (See also the department’s response to question 1.a, above.) The city demonstrated that the industrial areas in the cities it surveyed had particular locational relationships with residential land, but the department does not find that the city has demonstrated that these attributes constitute an operational need for target industrial uses. The recommended remand would not prevent the city, however, from attempting to justify residential compatibility site characteristics on remand.
a. If residential compatibility is an appropriate site characteristic, is the city required to make a distinction between urban and rural residential in its compatibility analysis? (Friends Objection 1.C; Staff Report at 28; Newberg exception at 19; Section V.B.2 of this report)

The department recommends the commission find that the city has not demonstrated that the residential compatibility site characteristics it employed comply with the rule. (See the department’s responses to questions 1.a and 2, above.) The department has not recommended a finding that residential compatibility can never be an appropriate site characteristic, however.

The department recommended that the commission instruct the city, on remand, to analyze whether the land use pattern within a rural residential area leads to incompatibility with industrial use rather than assuming that all areas within a rural residential zone pose such conflicts (if the city chooses to continue with residential compatibility site characteristics).

3. Can the location of a site be a valid site suitability characteristic? (Friends Objection 1.A; Staff Report at 24; Newberg response at 9)

The department found that the location is an attribute of land and it could be a valid site characteristic if the attribute is found to be necessary for the operation of the intended use.

4. Was the city correct in limiting its consideration of “close and suitable access” to arterials, or should it have considered major collectors? (Friends Objection 1.D and 1.E; Staff Report at 31; Friends Exception 4; Newberg response at 9-10; Friends rebuttal at 12-14; subsection V.A.4 of this report)

The department found that limiting consideration to arterials and state highways could be reasonable because a functional classification is not just about the width of a street or other design standards, but the intended function of the street. While a street may be built to a standard that would handle truck traffic, this does not mean the city’s transportation system plan calls for it to function as a truck route.

The submittal contains no explanation or evidence regarding why the city made this determination, however so the department recommends a remand so the city can provide the appropriate evidence.

5. Did the city err in excluding study areas that had slopes predominantly greater than five percent? (Friends Objection 1.F; Staff Report at 31; Newberg exception at 23; Newberg exception at 23-25; Newberg response at 10; Friends rebuttal at 8; subsection V.A.3 of this report (“Sub-objection 1F”))

The department concluded that the city has not demonstrated that this site characteristic is meaningfully connected to targeted industrial uses. See the department’s response to question 1.b for a general explanation of meaningful connection. The department does not contend that grade
is never an appropriate consideration in determining suitability of land for industrial use, but the city’s target industries list includes uses such as wineries that frequently site on greater slopes.

6. **Did the city adequately describe the nature of farm use and the impacts of urban development in its consideration of Goal 14 location factors? (Friends Objection 7; Staff Report at 56; Newberg exception at 39; subsection V.B.6 of this report)**

The department found that the city’s explanation of the relative effects of the various alternative boundary locations did not adequately consider the nature of farm use in the area. The department accepted that, because the alternatives are quite close together, the effects are probably similar for each area as the city concluded. The department found that the analysis, however, was cursory and lacks an adequate factual basis. The full quote of the findings is in the Staff Report at p. 54. This will be an issue for the city if this submittal gets remanded and the city subsequently considers additional areas for expansion.

7. **Did the city adequately consider the impacts of the UGB expansion on farmland in northern Marion County? (Friends Objection 7; Carl objection; Staff Report at 57)**

The city concluded that the transportation routes through Marion County are designed or planned to accommodate expected traffic, or both. The department found that the city considered this issue and that there is substantial evidence in the record that the city appropriately addressed it in its findings.

8. **Did the city correctly implement ORS 197.298? (Multiple objections; Staff Report at 19)**

The department raises this issue because many of the objections cite ORS 197.298 in the list of laws that the submittal allegedly violates. The department found that ORS 197.298 includes a priority of land types that a city is to adhere to when including land in the UGB, and that Newberg adhered to the priorities. The allegations of non-compliance with ORS 197.298 stem from the objectors’ contentions that the city did not include enough land, especially non-farmland, in the analysis. While it may seem like a legal technicality, the department finds that the commission’s record should show that ORS 197.298 does not address which lands are to be considered, but instead provides a framework for how to consider them. The department did not find fault with the city’s analysis under ORS 197.298.

9. **Did the city’s study of comparable industrial areas contain methodological problems? (Friends objection 1.B, 1.E, and 1.F; Friends exception 3; Newberg response at 11; Friends rebuttal at 9-11; subsection V.A.3 of this report)**

This is really more than one issue, as Friends alleged several problems with the way the city completed the study of similar cities’ industrial uses that the department did not address in the Staff Report. The issues concern elements of objections related to the city’s exclusion and grouping of sites in its study of similar cities, how the city measured the distance to a nearby street, and whether site slope is a typical requirement for target industries. The department
concedes that it failed to address these issues in the Staff Report and considered them below. The department did not find that any of these issues resulted in a change to its recommendation.

10. *Is the city required to address possible future road alignments and functional classifications when assessing site suitability? (Friends Objections 1.D and 1.E; Friends exception 5; Newberg response at 12; Friends rebuttal at 11; subsection V.A.5 of this report)*

No. The department found no authority that requires a city to address potential future street networks or functional classification changes in its analysis of site suitability.

11. *Did the city’s analysis of required industrial site sizes include conclusions unsupported by evidence that resulted in required site sizes larger than the record shows is necessary? (Friends Objection 2, Staff Report at 34; Friends exception 6; Newberg response at 12; Friends rebuttal at 14; subsection V.A.6 of this report)*

Yes. The department initially recommended that the commission reject Friends’ objection that the site sizes the city used as the basis for its industrial land needs determination are unsupported. Upon analysis of the exceptions and the other materials submitted since the Staff Report, the department has concluded that the objection was correct and it should be sustained.

The central issue is to what extent assumptions must be explained in the findings. The city relied on expert’s evidence in determining its industrial land need. Forecasts will always be subject to professional judgment, but the department found that record does not explain what that judgment was based on or what the conclusions were (except the final outcome). The department has changed its recommendation to remand with instructions to the city to provide adequate evidence regarding the number of industrial sites needed during the planning period.

12. *Was the city’s inventory of employment land completed in conformity with the requirements of OAR 660-009-0015(3)? (Friends Objection 4, Staff Report at 37; Friends exception 7; Newberg exception at 27; subsection V.A.7 of this report)*

No. The department initially recommended that the commission reject Friends’ objection that the city’s employment land inventory was not supported by evidence in the record. Upon further review, the department has concluded it previously misconstrued the evidence. Upon analysis of the exceptions and the other materials submitted since the Staff Report, the department has concluded that the objection was partially correct and it should be sustained.

The issue is whether the city provided the descriptions of employment land within the existing UGB that is required by OAR 660-009-0015(3) in its employment land inventory. The department’s initial review indicated that the information resided in the record (a 2009 inventory), but further inspection showed that information required to be included in the inventory was not in the record because the 2009 inventory had been updated and only a summary of the required information is in the record. The department recommends that the
commission remand the decision to allow the city to supplement the record with information regarding specific sites from the 2009 BLI, as updated in 2012.

a. Did the city appropriately address the capacity of the UGB to accommodate employment on fully developed land? (Friends Objection 3; Staff Report at 36; Newberg exception at 26; subsection V.B.3 of this report)

This issue relates to how the city accounted for employment growth at existing firms where the site is already fully developed. Friends objected that the city’s employment land need analysis did not assume that any future employment would occur on such sites. The department initially did not find an explanation of how the city addressed this issue and recommended remand for the city to explain its assumptions regarding the capacity of fully developed sites to absorb part of the employment growth.

With information contained in the city’s exception, the department performed additional review of the record and found that the information is in the record. Record at 5723. The city accounted for “intensification” of land in the UGB and reduced the allocation of employment growth to new sites accordingly.

b. Does the city have a surplus of commercial land in the UGB? (Friends Objection 4; Staff Report at 38; Friends exception 7; Newberg response at 15; Friends rebuttal at 15; subsection V.A.7 of this report)

The EOA addressed industrial and commercial land need and shows a deficit of each in the UGB, but the city decided to accommodate only industrial land at this time. Friends objected that the commercial land component of the EOA was not completed in conformity with the requirements of OAR 660-009-0015(3) for employment land inventories. Friends pointed to land it contended was vacant and designated for commercial use but was unaccounted for in the EOA as buildable employment land. The department reviewed the record and concluded that the objector was mistaken and recommended the commission reject the objection.

With the benefit of additional information and argument provided since completion of the Staff Report, the department has found that its initial review was not based on a full understanding Friends’ objection. In its response to Friends’ exception in this report, the department has found that, notwithstanding the city’s reasonable argument that mixed-use zones are not expected to absorb as many jobs as pure commercial zones, the record does not explain how or whether certain vacant commercial lands are included in the employment land inventory. Consequently, the department recommends that the commission remand the submittal with instructions to supplement the record with information regarding whether a portion of the Springbrook District Village Area is designated for non-commercial uses or how the land was accounted for in the employment land inventory.
13. Is the city’s analysis of alternative areas to accommodate needed industrial land adequate? (Friends Objection 5; Cooper objection; Does objection; Schaad objection; Salmonsson objection; Staff Report at 39-49; Friends exception 8; Newberg exception at 27-34; Newberg response at 14; subsection V.A.8 of this report)

Several objectors contend that the city did not adequately consider alternative locations to accommodate industrial land needs that are not high-value farmland. Each of the objections points to specific areas where the objector believes the city could accommodate at least a portion of the industrial land need without moving the UGB onto high-value farmland. The specific objections relate to a host of alleged deficiencies including adequacy of the record, conduct of the analysis of vacant and re-developable land, the site characteristics used to exclude the area, and boundaries of study areas. The Staff Report addressed the specific areas and made recommendations on whether the city satisfied relevant requirements; the department recommended sustaining some of the objections and denying others. Friends and the city submitted exceptions to the staff report, and the department’s response to those exceptions are contained in this report.

The areas specifically cited in one or more objection include:

- Zimri Drive (Site VI, inside the existing UGB on the north side)
- South Springbrook Road (Site XII and Site 12, inside and outside the existing UGB on the southeast side)
- “Surplus commercial lands” (two areas inside the existing UGB zoned for commercial use)
- “Other commercial sites within the UGB” (several individual parcels inside the existing UGB zoned commercial not alleged to be surplus commercial land)
- Newberg-Dundee Corridor (Sites 8 and 9, outside the UGB on the west side)

Friends objected to many of the site characteristics generally. These objections apply those objections to specific sites. If the commission opts to remand the decision based on its use of site characteristics, many of the property-based objections will be decided.

The department is mindful of the commission’s scope of review in this report. The commission’s role is not to make an independent assessment of whether the areas listed above can accommodate Newberg’s industrial land needs; the appropriate inquiry is whether the record contains substantial evidence, the city’s conclusions were reasonable, and the result complies with applicable goals and rules.
Specific components of the major issues are addressed under subsequent questions, below.

a. **Is the analysis of alternative areas based on substantial evidence?** *(Friends Objection 5; Cooper objection; Does objection; Schaad objection; Salmonsson objection; Staff Report at 39-49; Friends exception 8; Newberg exception at 27-34; Newberg response at 14; subsection V.A.8 of this report)*

The objections contain several allegations that the conclusions are unsupported by findings. The department has found one issue with the evidence in the record regarding a specific area and recommends a narrow remand regarding whether the Zimri Road area is adjacent to commercially zoned land (Staff Report at 39-42). The Staff Report recommends remand of the South Springbrook Road and Newberg-Dundee Corridor areas based on application of site characteristics that the department found to be invalid; the city’s findings for why the areas are unsuitable for industrial use are therefore insufficient.

b. **Does the analysis demonstrate how much of the need can reasonably be accommodated inside the existing UGB?** *(Friends Objection 5; Cooper objection; Does objection; Schaad objection; Salmonsson objection; Staff Report at 39-49; Friends exception 8; Newberg exception at 27-34; Newberg response at 14; Does rebuttal; subsection V.A.8 of this report)*

The department responded to several objections regarding the employment land inventory generally, and found some deficiencies. *(See questions 11 and 12, above)*. Issues specifically related to sites inside the existing UGB include whether (a) the city appropriately considered urban areas currently zoned residential and commercial for re-designation to industrial and (b) whether invalid site characteristics were applied. Except for an evidentiary issue with the Zimri Road area, the department recommends rejections of these objections. The submittal does not adequately demonstrate what portion of the industrial land need can reasonably be accommodated inside the existing UGB because of deficiencies in the employment land inventory for this reason and for the reasons explained under questions 11 and 12.

c. **If areas studied for suitability to accommodate industrial need inside and outside the existing UGB are adjacent, must the city consider them as one study area or, alternatively, explain why they are not considered together?** *(Friends Objection 5; Staff Report at 43; Friends Exception 8 at 18; Newberg response at 14-15; Friends rebuttal at 22; subsection VI.A.8 of this report, under “North Valley/Chehalem Road Area”)*

The department found that the legal framework for analyzing potential areas to accommodate industrial land needs is different for areas inside the existing UGB from the alternative expansion area. The standard for areas already in the UGB is whether the land can “reasonably accommodate” the need. OAR 660-024-0050(4). For potential expansion areas, a city addresses site characteristics, ORS 197.298, and the Goal 14 boundary location factors to decide which areas to include.
The department finds it reasonable that a city would address adjacent areas inside and outside the existing UGB together. However, because of the different criteria, the department concludes that requiring such combining could lead to potentially unresolvable complexities in the analysis. Friends contends it should be a case-by-case determination and a city should analyze areas split by the UGB when the area can reasonably be considered as a unit. The city agrees with this proposition generally, but asserts that it doesn’t matter in this case due to specific facts regarding the suitability of the contested areas for industrial use.

This issue matters in this case if the commission decides to remand the submittal. If the reasons the city found an area to be unsuitable for industrial use are found invalid, the city will benefit from this guidance on how to move forward on remand.

14. Did the city include more large sites in the UGB than its own analysis showed is needed? (Friends Objection 6.A; Staff Report at 49; Friends exception 9; Newberg response at 15; Friends rebuttal at 21; subsection V.A.9 of this report)

Friends objection contends that the EOA shows a need for one site in the 10- to 30-acre category and one in the 30- to 50-acre category, but the city included two sites in each category, resulting in an overly large UGB amendment. The department found that the acreage the city included in the UGB matched the demonstrated need and recommended the commission reject the objection. There has been further written argument on this topic and the issues are better explained, but the department’s conclusion is the same: the city calculated a need for a certain number of sites in varying size ranges and also determined an acreage need. That some of the acreage need was accommodated on large sites does not result in a conclusion that the city included more sites than it needs.

a. Is the “Waste Management” site vacant? (Friends Objection 6.A; Staff Report at 50; Newberg exception at 34; Friends rebuttal at 20; subsection V.B.5 of this report)

Yes. The department recommended that the commission remand the submittal with instructions to consider the Waste Management site vacant. The city and the objector each provided reasonable arguments regarding the status of this parcel subsequent to that recommendation. Upon consideration of the additional materials, the department remains unpersuaded that the site is improved, and therefore continues to recommend remand.

15. Did the city inappropriately include extra acreage that is unbuildable and for which no need was demonstrated? (Friends Objection 6.B; Staff Report at 50; Friends Exception 10; Newberg exception at 34; Newberg response at 15; Friends rebuttal at 20; subsection V.A.10 of this report)

This issue relates to land the city included in the UGB that is in excess of the identified need for industrial land. The objection contends that the city has not demonstrated a need for the land, while the city points to where the findings specify a livability need as permitted by Goal 14, need
factor 2. Friends contends that, “If the city had demonstrated a need for additional land for “livability” the regulatory framework requires a showing that the need cannot be accommodated on higher-priority land and application of the locational factors in Goal 14.” Friends rebuttal at 21. While that might be true in circumstances where a city had identified a general “livability” need, whereas here, that need is in conjunction with another need, the department finds that it is reasonable to only consider those lands that can reasonably accommodate the identified need, *i.e.*, lands proximate to the industrial land to which the livability need is related.

The department recommended the commission reject the objection based partly on an administrative rule that encourages boundary locations on existing parcel lines, which mitigated the relatively large size of the “excess” acreage included. Considering the administrative rule and a lack of definition for or bounds on the use of “livability” as a need, the department recommended that the objection be rejected. The commission’s direction on this matter will help define the appropriate application of Goal 14, need factor 2 with regards to livability need in this and future UGB amendments. The commission may conclude that the city has not established a need for this amount of land as a livability need on this record, but afford the city the opportunity to make such a demonstration on remand.

V. RESPONSE TO EXCEPTIONS

The department received exceptions to its Staff Report from the city and Friends. The exceptions raise complex issues that require analysis by the department. Several of the exceptions contend the department misconstrued either what the city adopted or what the objector meant. The exceptions were not explicitly addressed at the commission’s February 13, 2014 hearing.

A. Friends

Friends submitted 10 exceptions on February 3, 2014 (Friends exception). The exceptions were submitted within the time required by OAR 660-025-0160(5).

1. Exception 1: Misapplication of Standards for Site Characteristics

LUBA’s two-pronged test for determining whether a site characteristic is appropriate for use in Goal 9 analyses (*see* Section V.A, Staff Report at 15-17) includes that the attribute is “typical” and “meaningfully connected” to a particular use. Friends objected to several of the site characteristics that the city employed as not satisfying either part of this test. The department agreed with some of the objections and has recommended remand of the decision with instructions to the city to demonstrate that the site characteristics are “necessary” for the operation of the target industrial uses; the department found that in most cases they city had demonstrated that the site characteristics are typical of the target uses, and it is to this conclusion that Friends takes exception.

Friends contends that the department did not explain why the city’s analysis is sufficient to establish what is “typical” for its targeted industries. Friends exception at 4.
Regarding one site characteristic, the Staff Report states:

“The findings rely on evidence from multiple sources that employment uses typically cluster together. The findings address the disputed proximity characteristic along with two others that are not objected to in this sub-objection. The city derived the site characteristics from its study of the industrial districts in similar cities that contain similar industrial uses. The study (‘Typical Characteristics of Industrial Sites,’ Rec. at 5965-95) considers the characteristics of industrial areas in several northern Willamette Valley cities chosen ‘because of their similar size and close location to Newberg.’ Rec. at 5972. Newberg ‘identified all industrial areas within these communities’ and ‘used the zoning and comprehensive plan maps from the communities to identify industrial areas.’ The study ‘examined each of these industrial areas and determined whether they either initially developed or had significant redevelopment since 1970, and whether they contained primarily [Newberg’s targeted] industries.’ Rec. at 5973.

“Although the analysis starts with the attributes of the industrial areas rather than with particular employment uses, the city has made adequate demonstration that the target industries typically locate in proximity to other employment uses because the tie to those uses has been made.” Staff Report at 26-27 (emphasis in original).

This passage was incorporated by reference regarding other site characteristics. See, e.g., Staff Report at 31. The Staff Report also states, “The study looked at industrial areas containing Newberg’s target industries. The department finds that this is evidence that a reasonable person would rely on to establish that the target industries typically locate in proximity to other employment uses.” Staff Report at 27 (internal record references omitted).

Perhaps the department did not explain its reasoning well, so further explanation is provided. The city’s analysis of “typical” site characteristics for its targeted industrial uses is found in its study entitled “Typical Characteristics of Industrial Sites.” Rec. at 5965-5995. The city looked at industrially zoned lands within eight north Willamette Valley communities: Canby, Forest Grove, McMinnville, Newberg, Sherwood, Tualatin, Wilsonville, and Woodburn. The study identified 25 industrial areas within these communities for analysis (see discussion under Friends Exception 3 for discussion of the study’s exclusion of some industrial areas within these communities from the analysis). Contrary to the assertions of the objection, the study looked at many different types and sizes of industrial areas, ranging from single-user sites to very large districts such as North Wilsonville and West Tualatin.

The department found the city’s decision to study similarly sized communities in the north Willamette Valley to be reasonable because it provides a reasonable comparison for Newberg. Within those cities, the study found that almost all of the studied industrial areas consisted of districts, or aggregations of individual industrial users. The study states:
“[M]any existing industries have reused old lumber or agricultural processing sites, rail or water access sites, and small sites tucked in downtown areas largely due to historical happenstance. Where such recycled sites are not available, industries are looking to expand on large level industrial districts with good road access and few neighbor conflicts.” Rec. at 5972.

The results of the study itself, that 23 of the 25 studied sites consist of multiple rather than single industrial users, validate this assertion. It should be noted that it is not only industrial users that seem to want to congregate in industrial districts with certain site attributes – it has also been the policy of most cities since the creation of zoning ordinances and districts in the early 20th Century to isolate industrial districts to protect the city’s residents from the impacts of industrial uses.

Since industrial users are almost always grouped into industrial districts, the city’s study of site characteristics of such districts, as opposed to a more detailed breakdown of industrial users, is appropriate for determining what is “typical” of such industrial uses. It is only when the city gets to its “meaningful connections” analysis that its study of industrial districts rather than more specific industrial users or groups of industrial users lacks the necessary specificity.

Therefore, the department continues to recommend rejection of this objection.

2. Exception 2: Conclusions in Report Not Reflected in Recommendations

This exception contends that two of the city’s site characteristics that the department found were not adequately justified as “typical” were not reflected as such in the department’s final recommendation for remand. Staff Report at 3 and 61. As written in the Staff Report, the recommendation is to remand based only on a failure to demonstrate that the site characteristics are “meaningfully related” to a particular use.

The two site characteristics are:

Exclude sites that abut residential neighborhoods on more than 25% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical buffers are present, such as a stream corridor, arterial street, state highway, rail line, or park.

Exclude sites that, for community [commercial] centers, abut residential neighborhood on more than 50% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical or road buffers are present or planned.

Regarding the first site characteristic – 25 percent of the perimeter – Friends is correct, and the recommendation should be amended.

As to the second site characteristic – 50 percent perimeter for community centers – the department [did] not find that the city used this site characteristic to exclude any potential UGB expansion areas from analysis. Staff Report at 26. Accordingly, the department did not
recommend remand of the decision based on the use of this site characteristic. That finding and conclusion has not changed.

Unless amended for reasons related to other exceptions, the department’s recommendation should say:

The department recommends the commission instruct the city, on remand, to:

Demonstrate that the following “site characteristic” identified by the city pursuant to OAR 660-009-0015(2) and OAR 660-024-0060(5) is typical of and meaningfully connected with the operation of a target industry or a group of target industries with compatible operational requirements or consider the site and area needs during the analysis of alternative expansion areas under the Goal 14 location factors:

- Exclude sites that abut residential neighborhoods on more than 25% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical buffers are present, such as a stream corridor, arterial street, state highway, rail line, or park.

3. **Exception 3: Methodological Problems**

This exception identifies allegations of non-compliance Friends made in three separate objections that the department did not address in the Staff Report. Friends exception at 6. The department notes that its recommendation is to remand the decision on all three of the objections. The department explained its basis for recommending remand, but in fact did not address these other points.

OAR 660-025-0100, relating to review of objections to periodic review tasks, and by extension UGBs reviewing in the manner of a periodic review task, provides:

“(5) If the department receives one or more valid objections, the department must issue a report that addresses the issues raised in valid objections. * * * A valid objection must either be sustained or rejected by the department or commission based on the statewide planning goals and related statutes and administrative rules.”

The department focused too much on the second sentence regarding sustaining or rejecting the objections and neglected to address every issue raised as required in the first sentence of the quoted rule. It is in the city’s and the commission’s interest that these issues be addressed so that the city has clear guidance in the event of a remand as to which issues need to be addressed, and which do not.

**Sub-objection 1B:** Among many other matters, this objection asserted that Newberg’s report entitled “Typical Characteristics of Industrial Sites” (Rec. at 5965-5995), contained significant
factual errors resulting in an inappropriate conclusion that, in order for an area to be suitable for target industrial uses, it must “adjoin an existing industrial or commercial area, or an area with sufficient buildable land [defined as 50 acres] to allow expansion of the industrial district.” Specifically, the objection alleged the city: excluded 12 smaller districts within the eight north Willamette Valley cities studied in the report; reported inaccurate acreage figures for some of the districts; and inappropriate grouped non-contiguous districts together creating the appearance of one larger district. Friends asserts that these analytical errors resulted in an unreliable factual basis for determining a typical industrial area size. Friends objection at 8.

When this issue was raised during the local hearings, the city pointed out that the 12 industrial sites excluded from the study were not created or substantially developed within the last 40 years, so they do not represent expected future uses. Rec. at 3230-3231. Specifically, the city found that industrial uses sited prior to the 1970’s had much different site requirements, with a heavy emphasis on water and then rail access, and less of a need for level sites with good road access. In addition, several of these sites did not contain any of the industrial uses or types of businesses targeted by the city. Therefore, the city did not include the 12 industrial sites in its study. Rec. at 5971-5972. The department finds the city appropriately explained why it excluded the sites, based its decision on evidence in the record, and reached a reasonable conclusion.

Regarding the inaccurate acreage figures, the objection mentioned two specific areas where acreage figures in the city’s study appear to be inaccurate, one in Canby and one in Woodburn. In response to the Canby subareas, Newberg noted that the objectors misread the Canby zoning map and excluded an area zoned for “Heavy Commercial Manufacturing” from its analysis. Inclusion of these lands connects two other industrially zoned areas and creates one large industrial district. Rec. at 231. Regarding the Woodburn situation, Newberg did not specifically address the allegation, but the objection did not provide specificity regarding the acreage discrepancy (whether the Woodburn Commerce Way site was less than 50 acres), and, even if the site is less than 50 acres, this implicates only one of the 25 subareas studied, and thus constitutes minor error.

Regarding the alleged inappropriate grouping of non-contiguous districts together, the objection raised two specific instances – one in Wilsonville and one in Tualatin. The city noted that in both cases the intervening land is designated for industrial use by another jurisdiction – the county in Wilsonville and another city in the Tualatin example. Rec. at 3231. Whether these intervening lands integrate otherwise separate industrial areas is not explained in the city’s findings. The methodology section of the study says that sites were identified using “the zoning and comprehensive plan maps from the communities…” Rec. at 5973. The department finds that this is a pragmatic method for selecting areas for analysis, that the city explained its process and followed it, and that the city reached reasonable conclusions that the areas were of the reported size. Whether this method led to a couple of anomalous results does not undermine the whole study.
The department recommends the commission reject the allegations contained in this exception. The department again notes that the department recommends remand of the challenged site characteristic based on other grounds contained in sub-objection 1B. Staff Report at 27-28.

**Sub-objection 1E:** Among many other matters, the objection asserted that the city’s study of industrial districts erroneously found that such districts needed to be at least one-quarter mile from a state highway or arterial street because it measured the distance of the arterial to the edge of the industrial district, not the distance to individual sites within that district. As a result, many of the individual sites within the district are more than one-quarter mile from the major roadway, thus showing error in the city’s assertion that the one-quarter mile maximum distance from a major roadway is “typical.” Friends objection at 22-23.

The city maintained that it established the site characteristics based on what is typical of business districts, not the lots or sites within those districts. Rec. at 5972. There seems to be no argument about the facts. The department recommended that the commission find the city adequately established that target industries typically locate in business districts that exhibit the challenged transportation characteristics, but to remand the characteristics because the city did not demonstrate that the site characteristics are meaningfully connected to the operation of the target industries. Staff Report at 29-31. The Staff Report did not explicitly address the component of the sub-objection raised in this exception, but the conclusions are the same. The department recommends that the commission find that applicable administrative rules require that a valid site characteristic relate to the needs of a particular use, and that an industrial district is not a particular use.

**Sub-objection 1F:** Among other matters, the objection asserted that the city’s report entitled “Typical Characteristics of Industrial Sites,” which found that “typical” industrial land has a slope less than five percent, is skewed. In the Staff Report, the department concurred with much of Objection 1F as it relates to “meaningful connections” between slope and the needs of industrial users, but the exception is correct that the department did not make a conclusion regarding whether this slope characteristic is typical of targeted industrial uses. Staff Report at 31-33.

The city’s study looked at nearby northern Willamette Valley cities and their industrial areas. The industrial districts studied all had slopes less than five percent. This factual information satisfies the assertion made by the city that slopes of less than five percent are “typical” of the industrial districts, and the industrial uses within them. See also subsection V.A.1 of this report. Therefore, the department continues to find that the study of nearby cities adequately establishes “typical” attributes and recommends the commission reject this portion of the objection.

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5 The objection states:

“However, the reason the Site Study found that “typical” industrial land is less than 5% slope is that all areas it included were, like most of the Willamette Valley floor, fairly flat. In areas that do not have any sloped land, all industrial districts will be flat by default, whether or not the resident businesses needed that characteristic to operate successfully. The results of the Site Survey therefore cannot establish the slope needs of particular industries.” Friends objection at 25.
The city also took exception to the conclusion in the Staff Report that the city erred in applying the slope characteristic to entire study areas rather than examining potentially suitable portions of the larger area. Because this exception is topically related, the department addresses it here. Specifically, the city’s exception to the Staff Report states that the objector and department confuse “suitable” and “buildable.” The city’s exception also states, “[I]f the only thing lacking for a site to meet all the suitability characteristics was drawing different boundaries, then that is what would be done. In the two examples cited, both sites are far from meeting the suitability characteristics, so defining different boundaries is not necessary.” Newberg exception at 25. The city found one study area (Area 15) could be bifurcated and part of the study area considered separately from the rest (this study area was found unsuitable for other reasons). This provides credibility to the city’s assertion.

The department has reassessed its analysis of the slope site characteristic based on the city’s exception. The department formerly found error with how the city applied the site characteristic, concluding that the city had not demonstrated that it is meaningfully connected to particular uses. The department admits that the city did evaluate partial study areas for consideration of different slopes within the area.

This leaves the question of whether the city demonstrated a meaningful connection between the slope characteristic and targeted industrial uses. For reasons stated in the staff report, the department continues to conclude that the answer is no. The department found the evidence in the record to be anecdotal. The city provided an excerpt from the record that is not anecdotal evidence, but it addresses industry generally and does not provide information regarding any particular uses. Accordingly, the department continues to recommend that the commission find the city has not demonstrated that the slope site characteristic is meaningfully connected to targeted industrial uses.

4. Exception 4: Major Collectors vs. Arterials

This exception deals with the city’s site characteristics related to transportation access and how the department treated the objections. The specific issue relates to two site characteristics that assert a site is only suitable for target uses if it is within a prescribed distance of a state highway.

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6 The city’s exception states:

“Rules are clear that ‘buildable’ and ‘suitable’ are separate considerations. The definition of ‘suitable’ under OAR 660-009-0005 (12) is:

“(12) ‘Suitable’ means serviceable land designated for industrial or other employment use that provides, or can be expected to provide the appropriate site characteristics for the proposed use.

“The fact that a site may be ‘buildable’ does not make that site ‘suitable.’ The fact that part of a site might be buildable with a 5-10 percent slope doesn’t automatically mean that the whole site is ‘suitable’ even if it lacks areas with under 5 percent slope. This is the ‘strict indispensability’ test in another form that the Courts already have rejected.” Newberg exception at 23.
or an arterial street. Newberg uses a familiar street classification system that identifies the function of each street, including arterials and collectors, and the city has established design standards for each class of street. Rec. at 6767.

Friends’ objections state that the city did not explain why proximity to an arterial makes an area suitable for industrial use while proximity to a major collector does not, when the design standards for the two are similar. Friends objection at 20; Friends exception at 7. The department again notes that its recommendation includes sustaining these objections, just not for these reasons. The department did not locate any findings in the record explaining the city’s reliance on arterials and state highways, but nevertheless found the city’s reliance on proximity to an arterial street reasonable. To explain this further, a functional classification is not just about the width of a street or other design standards, but the intended function of the street. The objection was based primarily on the physical design of a minor arterial versus a major collector.7 As the city points out, while a street may be built to a standard that would handle truck traffic, this does not mean the city’s transportation system plan calls for it to function as a truck route. Newberg response at 10. Thus, the department did not find this part of Friends’ objection convincing and it did find the city’s explanation persuasive.

The department conceded (and continues to concede) that the record does not explain why it is necessary that the streets be either arterials or state highways. Staff Report at 31. Rather, the city relied on general findings regarding the importance of available transportation in industrial siting and a survey of sample business district characteristics which found they are always within one-quarter mile of an arterial or state highway. Thus, as with other site characteristics, the department found the survey to demonstrate that a site characteristic is “typical” but not “meaningfully connected” to a particular use.

The city addressed this objection in its exception, but did not choose to elaborate on why proximity to a major collector is unsuitable for target uses. Newberg exception at 21. The city addressed the need for access to arterials at the February 13, 2014 hearing, providing reasoning why its choice was correct, but did not identify where this was addressed in the record. While the department is persuaded that the city’s use of arterial streets and state highways in in its analysis of site suitability was reasonable, there is insufficient evidence in the record to demonstrate why, so the department must recommend remand.

5. Exception 5: Existing vs. Potential Road Network

This exception contends that the department did not address an issue raised in Objections 1D and 1E – that the city excluded potential sites based upon the existing road network without consideration of the potential road network when an area develops. Friends exception at 8. The exception is correct; the Staff Report did not address these objections. Staff Report at 29-31.

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7 Friends’ objection states: “Both arterials and major collectors traverse residential areas. Major collectors are nearly as wide as arterials, and like arterials, do not provide any parking and have bikeways on both sides.” Friends objection at 20.
OAR chapter 660, division 24 provides no specific guidance on whether a city must consider changes to its Transportation System Plan (TSP) road classifications during the UGB analysis process. The objection asserts, “The city must instead consider the access that could be provided once a new industrial area is developed” and “The absence of an urban road system cannot be a reason to exclude rural properties, or underdeveloped parts of the existing city or UGB, from consideration as future urban industrial land.” (Emphasis in original) Friends objection at 20 and 21, respectively. The objection does not cite what provision in a statute or rule requires this.

The city most recently stated:

“In applying this characteristic, Newberg looked both at the existing transportation network and potential future transportation network. In at least one case (Wilsonville Road), Newberg concluded that an arterial reasonably could be provided in the area to provide access, and thus found that area suitable for industrial uses. See Record 5761. In other cases, such as Zimri Drive, Newberg concluded that an arterial could not reasonably be provided to serve the area. See Record 5730. Thus Friends’ blanket assertion that Newberg did not consider future road networks is false. The department’s question about whether Newberg is required to consider future road networks is an intriguing one, but in fact is moot because Newberg did consider both existing and future road networks.” Newberg response at 12.

Friends contradicts these assertions. Friends rebuttal at 12. The department’s review of the record indicates that the city’s conclusion that Wilsonville Road would need to be upgraded to arterial status was made during consideration of the Goal 14 location factors, not when applying the site characteristics at the beginning of the analysis. The department found multiple examples of the city addressing the possibility of upgrading streets in the context of re-designating lands already in the UGB (including Zimri Drive). Rec. at 5729-5732. Such analysis for potential expansion areas was not found, so the department does not find Friends’ objection moot.

Friends contends that the city should consider upgrading the southernmost one-quarter mile of Zimri Drive, presumably to an arterial. The city contends:

“The real issue is that Friends believe that creating an arterial is a much more casual process than the facts show. As explained in the hearing, creating a state highway or arterial is not a simple process. State highways and arterials primarily serve through traffic. Thus creating one requires through destinations, in addition to a myriad of other analysis.” City response at 12.

The department agrees that arterial streets are, by definition, through routes. A city would not designate a quarter-mile segment at the end of a street differently than the remainder of the route, especially as an arterial; to suggest otherwise is unreasonable. The city made an unrebutted finding that Zimri Drive is not suitable as an arterial based on the grade along the full length of the street, and the department finds this conclusion is reasonable and based on evidence in the record. Rec. at 5730.
The larger question of to what extent a city must consider future changes to the transportation system plan (TSP) in determining whether land is suitable for a particular use is not answered by these specific examples. The city rightly points out that the definition of “site characteristic” uses “proximity to a particular transportation or freight facility such as... major transportation routes” as an example of what the term includes.

Such an analysis could come into question at several points during a UGB expansion process: when considering the ability of lands within an existing UGB to accommodate the need, when considering suitable site characteristics used to exclude lands outside of the existing UGB from further analysis, or when considering boundary location factors to choose among candidate lands for inclusion in a UGB. Some analysis of potential TSP amendments in concert with a UGB analysis may be appropriate, as the boundary is intended to accommodate long-term needs so future changes to the transportation can be planned.

Because the department finds no explicit requirement that a city address potential changes to the TSP when analyzing a UGB amendment, the department does not find that the city’s failure to do so requires a remand. However, if the commission remands this submittal, the department recommends that the city consider this issue on remand.

6. **Exception 6: Site Sizes**

This objection contends that the site sizes the city used as the basis for its industrial land needs are unsupported. Friends exception at 9.

The city expresses its industrial land need in number of sites and number of acres. The city calculated its industrial land need by forecasting the number of sites it needs in a variety of size ranges and translated this to acres by multiplying the number of sites by the midpoint of the range, with an adjustment for right-of-way needs. The site-size ranges were correlated with the sizes of the firms expected to expand or locate in Newberg. The results of the analysis are displayed in Table 12-20. Rec. at 5863.

The city advanced the number of sites and acres shown to be needed in Table 12-20 to the final need determination in Table 12-25. Rec. at 5892. The objection contends these site sizes are unexplained and lead to an inflated need determination. Friends objection at 26-30. The department recommended the commission reject this objection because it concluded the city’s distribution of the employment forecast among the site-size ranges was based on substantial evidence. Staff Report at 34-36.

Friends’ exception states that the department’s analysis was flawed because it relied on evidence that does not pertain to Table 12-20 but instead pertains to a different set of data in a different table. The exception reiterates the objection that the record does not support the assumptions the city used in assigning the site-size ranges to the firm sizes.
Table 12-20: Site Size Distribution by Firm Employment Through 2032

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emps. per Firm</th>
<th>Percent of Emp.</th>
<th>Number of New Emps.</th>
<th>Number of Firms</th>
<th>Sites Needed</th>
<th>Size Range (Acres)</th>
<th>Ave. Site Size (Acres)</th>
<th>Ave. ROW Need (Acres)</th>
<th>Gross Buildable Acres Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-9</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>&lt;2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.15</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 74</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>2 - 10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.75</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>820</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10 - 30</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>30 - 50</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,822</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>71</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


The city states that it relied on expert opinion in assigning the firm- and site-size ranges in Table 12-20 and cites a case to support its contention that this is enough. Newberg response at 12. Friends states that even if expert testimony is relied on, the record must contain an explanation of what the assumptions and findings are that led to the conclusions. Friends rebuttal at 14.

The department stated:

As LUBA recognized, determining site characteristics is a somewhat subjective process. Rec. at 2006. Regarding industrial site size requirements, there is no standard parcel size or configuration that applies uniformly. Operational needs vary within any particular industrial category, and from firm to firm. The best a city can provide is an estimate that captures a reasonably significant portion of the target industries, an explanation of its assumptions, and reasonable conclusions. Staff Report at 36.

During its initial review the department found that the city had adequately justified its conclusions in Table 12-20. With the further explanation provided in Friends’ exception and subsequent materials provided by the city and Friends, the department has concluded its original analysis was based on a misunderstanding of the record as detailed in Friends’ exception. The department relied on evidence that the target industries utilized sites in the specified ranges that did not address contents of Table 12-20. Upon further review, the department does not find an explanation of how the city derived the data in Table 12-20.

The EOA contains considerable analysis of the local and regional economy, trends affecting the city’s economy, the city’s comparative advantages and disadvantages, and prospects for future industrial growth. This is valuable and useful information, but the department has not found where the city translated it into the data contained in Table 12-20. There is no formula that realistically translates opportunities into needs, and a component of professional judgment will
always be required. But the assumptions and findings of that professional judgment must be articulated in the record. OAR 660-009-0010(5) provides:

“The effort necessary to comply with OAR 660-009-0015 through 660-009-0030 will vary depending upon the size of the jurisdiction, the detail of previous economic development planning efforts, and the extent of new information on national, state, regional, county, and local economic trends. A jurisdiction's planning effort is adequate if it uses the best available or readily collectable information to respond to the requirements of this division.”

The department finds that the city has not explained what information is available or what data or assumptions it used. Consequently, the department amends its recommendation regarding Friends’ Objection 2 and it recommends the commission sustain the objection and remand the submittal with instructions to the city to provide adequate evidence regarding the number of industrial sites needed during the planning period.

7. Exception 7: Inventory of Employment Land

The exception asserts several matters related to its Objection 4. The department recommended that the commission reject Objection 4. Staff Report at 37-38.

Employment Land Inventory. The exception asserts that the department erroneously relied on an unacknowledged buildable lands inventory (BLI), remanded by LUBA in 2010,8 to determine that the city had included a legally compliant employment land inventory in the record. The exception contends the city did not include this unacknowledged BLI in the record and that the only reason it is in the record is that the objectors themselves inserted it as an attachment to written comments during the local proceedings. Friends exception at 12.

The referenced BLI was remanded by LUBA in 2010. However, the city, in its exception, notes that the remand of the BLI was based entirely on its residential land, and did not involve employment land. Newberg exception at 17. The city also asserts that the inventory summary tables contain enough information to constitute a commercial and industrial buildable land inventory without further elaboration. Rec. at 5890-91, 5900, 5902.

Upon further review, the department does not agree with all of the city’s contention. While the employment land inventory was not subject to the cited LUBA remand, specific information regarding specific sites is nevertheless required by OAR 660-009-0015(3),9 and the department

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9 OAR 660-009-0015(3) provides in relevant part: “Comprehensive plans for all areas within urban growth boundaries must include an inventory of vacant and developed lands within the planning area designated for industrial or other employment use.

“(a) For sites inventoried under this section, plans must provide the following information:

“(A) The description, including site characteristics, of vacant or developed sites within each plan or zoning district;

“(B) A description of any development constraints or infrastructure needs that affect the buildable area of sites in the inventory ***”
could not find this information in the record. It is plausible that the city could refute these particular objections by citing to detailed information regarding specific sites from the 2009 BLI, which the city states was updated in 2012. However, absent some identification of where this material is in the record, the department agrees with this exception.

The department recommends that the commission sustain Friends’ Objection 4 on these grounds and remand the decision to allow the city to supplement the record with detailed information regarding specific sites from the 2009 BLI, as updated in 2012.

**Failure to Account for All Land.** The exception asserts that the department did not address an issue brought up as its objection: that a vacant site in the Springbrook Industrial Park was omitted from the EOA inventory of vacant industrial land, but was included on a map of buildable industrial land elsewhere in the record. The department agrees that the Staff Report did not address this portion of the objection. The city indicated that the disputed four-acre site, while vacant, is part of the A-dec dental equipment industrial site, and is not available and thus not included in the BLI. Newberg response at 13. The submittal includes evidence on which the city relied to conclude the land is unavailable. The department does not find this to be substantial evidence. The statements are speculative and conclusory and there is no attribution to a source.

The department recommends that the commission sustain Friends’ Objection 4 on these grounds and a remand of the decision to allow the city to supplement the record with information regarding why the vacant A-dec site was not included in the buildable lands inventory.

**Commercial Land Missing from Summary Tables and Maps.** The objection asserted that Newberg’s EOA did not include vacant commercial land located along Springbrook Road in the vicinity of Mountain View Drive. The exception contends that the department mistakenly rejected this objection based upon reliance on an employment land inventory that had been remanded by LUBA. If the land were to be included in the commercial land inventory, the objection asserted, the city would have a surplus of commercial land, and thus could redesignate some of it for industrial use.

The city has indicated that it did not include areas of the Springbrook District Village Area, which is the location of the missing commercially designated lands, that were designated in the mixed-use village plan for residential uses. Newberg response at 13. The city states it is a “mixed-use area planned part for residential uses and part for commercial uses.” While the city’s explanation is plausible, the department has not found a map or other explanation in the record

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10 The full content of the first piece of evidence is in planning commission minutes and states: “One example is the land we all presume A-DEC will expand into, which is already available and zoned for industry. This vacant land will be used by one of Newberg’s existing industrial users, which is part of one of our targeted clusters.” Rec. at 854.

The second citation is from a 2010 staff report to the Newberg Planning Commission, and it states: “Notably, neither of Newberg’s current largest campuses are likely to have much if any infill. . . . The A-dec campus has infilled numerous times over the past decade, and has little additional potential for further infill. Further expansion is more likely to occur on adjoining buildable land being held by the business owner.” Rec. at 1024.
that demonstrates this assertion. The record contains a map of the Springbrook Master Plan (Rec. at 496), but the area in question is all designated “Village,” with no distinction between residential and commercial areas. Cities do not typically specify which areas within mixed-use designations will contain which uses because they are expected to be mixed. The record should, however, explain the assumptions the city used in determining the amount of commercial use that would be accommodated in mixed-use areas.

Friends’ provides evidence that all of the land is in fact zoned for commercial use but only a portion of the land is included in the employment land inventory. Friends rebuttal at 15. Without necessarily accepting this as factual, the evidence presented is credible and casts doubt on the city’s explanation. The department is unable to ascertain from the information in the record whether or why the city discounted the employment capacity of the Springbrook District Village Area.

The department recommends sustaining this exception, and remand the decision to allow the city to supplement the record with information regarding whether a portion of the Springbrook District Village area is designated for non-commercial uses and how the land it was accounted for in the employment land inventory.

Other Employment Zones Missing from EOA. The objection asserted that the city ignored certain classifications of employment land when adopting its EOA, particularly land zoned for residential-professional and institutional uses. The exception asserts that the department did not address this issue in its report. Friends exception at 15.

The department agrees that this portion of the objection was not addressed in the Staff Report. Newberg asserts that it did in fact consider institutional and residential professional land in its employment land inventory when it determined that inclusion was appropriate. Newberg response at 13. As an example, the city notes that it included, as Site VIII, land adjacent to Providence Hospital that is currently zoned as Institutional and Residential-Professional. Rec. at 5730. This fact refutes the claim in the objection and exception, that the city ignored such lands in its EOA. The allocation of the employment forecast to various sectors in Tables 12-15 and 12-19 includes an “other” category, which includes “includes schools, churches, government water and waste water plants, on-site construction, and home occupations.” Rec. at 5845. This analysis was carried forward into the commercial land needs analysis in Table 12-26.

The department recommends that the commission reject this portion of the objection because the city considered non-commercial lands in its “other employment land” need determination.

8. Exception 8: Accommodation of Land Needs

This exception asserts several matters, which will each be discussed separately, below.

Zimri Drive (Site VI). This site is located within the UGB. The exception asserts that the department correctly recommended remand of the city’s analysis of this subarea, but cited the wrong site characteristic as the reason for remand. Instead of citing the site characteristic based
upon a minimum of 20 buildable acres, the department should have cited the site characteristic based upon adjacency to an existing industrial or commercial area or a site size of at least 50 buildable acres. Friends exception at 16. The department recommended remand of both site characteristics based upon the city’s inadequate explanation of the “meaningful connections” prong of the “necessary site characteristics” test set forth by LUBA.

The city’s exception addressed this site, reiterating why its findings and application of site characteristics complied with applicable rules. Newberg exception at 28. The Staff Report recommended remand of the city’s findings regarding this specific area on narrow grounds regarding adequacy of the record, but noting also that several of the site characteristics the city used to find the area unsuitable for industrial use were invalid. The department finds nothing in the city’s exception that changes its conclusions in the Staff Report.

The department agrees with the Friends’ exception, and alters the staff recommendation to reflect the correct site characteristic (adjacency to existing commercial or industrial areas).

**Surplus Commercial Lands.** Friends’ Objection 5 identified several vacant commercial parcels within Newberg’s UGB and asserted that these parcels could accommodate industrial use. Friends objection at 45-47. The department recommended rejection of the objection because the city did not have a demonstrated surplus of commercial land in the UGB. Staff Report at 45-46. The exception reasserts a contention that the city does have a surplus of commercial land (see also exception 7, above), noting that the department’s original recommendation was based upon reliance on the unacknowledged and remanded BLI. The exception also asserts that, even if the city does not have a surplus of commercial land, it is obliged to determine if the commercial designations can be relocated onto different parcels within the city, and replaced by industrial designations on these properties.

The department recognizes that the Newberg employment land inventory cannot be relied upon to find whether there is a surplus of commercial lands within the city, and also recognizes that the city should provide additional evidence regarding commercial designation of an existing parcel near the intersection of Springbrook Road and Mountain View Drive (see discussion under exception 7, above).

The department recommends that the commission find this part of Friends’ objection moot because, just as the city cannot rely on the employment land inventory to find that there is no surplus of commercial lands, the objector cannot rely on the same inventory to find that there is a surplus. The evidence as to whether such a surplus exists is inconclusive – thus the record contains no definitive information that a surplus exists such that industrial uses can be “reasonably accommodated.”

**North Valley/Chehalem Road Area Adjacent Sites Inside and Outside of UGB.** Friends’ Objection 5 identified two subareas outside of the UGB (Sites 1 and 3) that are adjacent to a site inside the UGB (Site 1), and asserts that these sites should be combined and, as combined, would meet additional identified site characteristics for industrial land. Friends objection at 54-55. The
exception disagrees with the department’s recommended rejection of this argument, stating that the department’s apparent position is that a city is never required to study lands within a UGB in combination with lands outside of a UGB because of the different legal standards of review, and the department’s apparent position that lands within a UGB can always be assumed to be indispensable in meeting a city’s identified long-term land needs. Friends exception at 17-19.

The department believes that combining study of lands within a UGB and lands outside a UGB in a single study area for purposes of meeting identified land needs, in order to optimize the use of land to meet those needs, is a good practice and should be encouraged. However, the department does not agree with an assertion that cities are required to combine study of lands within a UGB and lands outside a UGB in a single study area. Such a requirement would expose an already complex analysis of a UGB expansion to the additional, perhaps unresolvable, complexities of having a single subarea with individual components of land subject to different legal standards regarding meeting identified land needs.

The department continues to recommend that the commission reject of this portion of the objection.

### 9. Exception 9: Additional Large Sites

Friends Objection 6A contended that the city had included too many large sites in its proposed UGB expansion, adding two 10- to 30-acre sites and two 30- to 50-acre sites when its projected need was for only one of each of these sized sites. The department recommended rejection of the objection on the grounds that the city identified a need for 131 acres, and the expansion provides 129 acres, and that therefore the city included as much land as was needed, not more. Staff Report at 49-50. The exception asserts that the city’s need is based upon the number of sites needed, not total acres. Friends exception at 19.

The city states that the plan anticipates some of the currently large parcels could be subdivided to meet identified needs for smaller parcels in an industrial park-type development, Newberg exception at 34. The city also points out that the EOA determined a need for both a number of appropriately sized sites and a specific number of buildable acres for industrial land. Newberg response at 15. The EOA identifies the city’s need as one 30- to 50-acre site, one 10- to 30-acre site, and “industrial park sites totaling approximately 71 buildable acres.” Rec. at 5892. The latter is a summation of the acreage of smaller sites that the city found cannot be accommodated inside the existing UGB.

The number of acres is relevant. The 131 acres of industrial land the city found it needed was based on one site in each of the two larger site-size categories. Although the number of larger parcels the city included in the UGB exceeds the need for large sites, the second large parcel included in each size category was not included to accommodate a site need, it was included to provide an adequate number of acres.
The department finds the EOA has not included excess lands for the reasons stated in Friends’ Objection 6A and continues to recommend that the commission reject this basis for the objection.

10. Exception 10: Extra Acreage

The objection contended that the proposed inclusion of 128 “unbuildable” acres with the 132 buildable industrial acres, doubling the size of the expansion, was unacceptable because the city had not demonstrated a need for 128 acres of additional land on the fringe of the UGB expansion area. The exception disputes the department’s recommended rejection of the objection on the grounds that the department did not state the demonstrated need it believes will be satisfied by the inclusion of the additional land. Friends exception at 20-23.

The department recognizes that the reasons the department cited for its recommendation to reject the objection do not relate directly to need, but rather relate to practical aspects of the city’s decision: the preference for clearly demarcated boundary lines for the UGB; the city’s projected use of the lands for parks; and the city’s floodplain regulations, which greatly restrict development in floodplains and riparian areas. In addition, the department concedes that the public facility need for three acres is minimal justification for the 128 additional acres. Staff Report at 50-51.

The exception states that the city did not establish a need for the additional land. The city did assert a need: that the additional acres are included to promote livability, as allowed by the second Goal 14 need factor. The land, according to the city, will provide amenities for the employees within the industrial area. Rec. at 5791-5792.

The department wishes to expound on a statement the Staff Report, which says, “if buffering were the only reason to include the land in the UGB, the riparian area can serve that function equally well outside the UGB.” Staff Report at 51. The issue is that “buffering” as defined by the city is more than just a passive vegetated area dividing the industrial lands from other uses. It is also intended to help “create a quality, attractive, and balanced working environment for workers in that area.” Providing amenities to fulfill this intention may require uses and structures that are not allowed on lands outside a UGB and on lands designated for agricultural use.

The exception points out that the Staff Report does not explain whether the department finds the city’s inclusion of nearly twice as much land as it needs for industrial use to be de minimis. Friends exception at 22. To be clear, the department does not find 128 acres of a total 230-acre expansion to be de minimis, but neither does the department concede that all of the acreage is not needed, because to make that finding would require that the department ignore the city’s findings of need related to livability. Livability as a need factor is not defined in Goal 14, so the commission will need to determine whether the city has established that the inclusion of the 128-acres was done to meet an identified livability need that is consistent with the intent of the goal. Friends contends that the city is required to analyze whether the livability need can be accommodated on higher-priority lands. The department notes that the city made a location-
specific determination for this need, as it will enhance the livability for those who are employed in the adjacent industrial area.

The department’s recommendation for rejection of the objection was based partly on an administrative rule provision, provided in footnote 10 of the Staff Report:

OAR 660-024-0020(2) provides: “The UGB and amendments to the UGB must be shown on the city and county plan and zone maps at a scale sufficient to determine which particular lots or parcels are included in the UGB. Where a UGB does not follow lot or parcel lines, the map must provide sufficient information to determine the precise UGB location.”

Because the city found a need for land to enhance livability and the rule encourages a jurisdiction to use existing parcel lines, the department found that following existing property boundaries and natural features to be consistent with relevant goals and rules and recommended the objection be rejected. The commission may find that the city’s action is either not an acceptable application of Goal 14 need factor 2 and come to a different conclusion or that the city had not adequately demonstrated the livability need for inclusion of this particular amount of land.

Incidentally, the Staff Report states: “If buffering were the only reason to include the land in the UGB, the riparian area can serve that function equally well outside the UGB.” The city takes exception to this and states its stream buffering standards only go into effect if the land is brought into the UGB. To explain the department’s position more fully, the land will not be subject to development pressure if left out of the UGB because it will continue to be subject to Yamhill County’s acknowledged Goal 5 program, and the existing EFU zoning is fairly restrictive. The department does not agree that the city has established that the resource will be better protected if included in the UGB.

B. City of Newberg

The city submitted 12 exceptions, which include a response to some of Friends’ objections, on February 3, 2014 (Newberg exception). The exceptions were submitted within the time required by OAR 660-025-0160(5). The exception letter begins with an explanation of the city’s view of what constitutes a valid site characteristic and why the record before the commission provides substantial evidence to justify the city’s submittal as consistent with applicable goals and rules. Newberg exception at 6-14. Most of the city’s exceptions refer to this discussion and assert the department erred in recommending remand, primarily in relation to interpretations of whether a site characteristic is “meaningfully connected” to a “particular use.”

The department has explained its understanding of site characteristics. Staff Report at 15-17; Supplemental Report at 4-6; chapter III of this report. The department continues to find that the reasons for its recommendation to remand the submittal are correct, and the city’s individual exceptions are not addressed with specificity unless they raise a unique or specific issue not already discussed.
Several of the city’s exceptions concern issues addressed in section A of this chapter, as the issues were initially raised by objectors. The department considered these exceptions while responding to Friends exceptions, so those are not repeated here.

Remaining exceptions from Newberg are considered below.

1. **Group of Parcels as a “Particular Use”**

The city contends the department was wrong when it recommended the commission find that a business district is not a “particular use” and therefore site characteristics based of business districts are not a valid reason to exclude land from the UGB analysis. The city’s exception contains its view of how a group of parcels (an “industrial district” or “industrial park”) is properly considered a “particular use.” Newberg exception at 11-13. The department addressed the city’s exception in a general way in the Supplemental Report.

The city states:

“This is very much analogous to identifying site characteristics for a shopping center. A local plan may identify a need for a shopping center, and one would expect it to identify site characteristics based on typical characteristics of the comparable shopping centers, such as a minimum site size of 10, 20, or 30 acres and access to a major road. One would not expect to look solely at the characteristics of each business individually within that shopping center. A shopping center may have a combination of large and small businesses that individually occupy from over 10-acres to as little as a X acre each. In theory a city could parse those individual stores out to separate scattered lots all over the city, dispense with the need to find a single 10, 20, or 30 acre site, and still meet its total commercial acreage need. But there are reasons (‘meaningful connections’) that many some stores locate in shopping centers as opposed scattered individual sites, such as attracting regional customers.” Newberg exception at 13. (Emphasis in original.)

The department responded:

“If the city is attempting to exclude a site based on site characteristics, the city may combine two or more ‘particular uses.’ The department believes such combining might be permissible, but only to the extent that it would not result in the exclusion of a site that would be included if the site characteristics of any individual particular use were applied. Otherwise, the grouping of particular uses would undermine the “particular use” requirement.” Supplemental Report at 6.

The city’s further argument contends: “If targeted industrial uses need to locate in industrial parks rather than on isolated parcels, but Newberg’s industrial land supply consists only of isolated parcels, and then Newberg won’t have the opportunity to locate targeted industrial uses
in the community.” Newberg response at 8. The department found that the city has not demonstrated that its target industrial uses need to locate in industrial parks.

The city’s findings provide general statements about industry practices and the results of its survey of similar cities. While this evidence is compelling, and likely applies to industry generally, the city has not demonstrated that its target industries all have this need. For example, the city determined that most agricultural business cluster firms will locate in new industrial districts. See Table 12-24, Rec. at 5882. While Table 12-24 identifies wineries and several other agricultural businesses that are located in business districts in the study, but the record does not in any way establish that they need to be in a group, only that they are.

The department continues to recommend that the commission find that the city has not demonstrated that a business district is a “particular use” for the purposes of applying site characteristics to exclude land from a UGB analysis.

2. **Residential Proximity**

Most of this exception is rebuttal to the department’s conclusions that the city’s residential compatibility site characteristics are not meaningfully connected to the operation of target industrial uses. Newberg exception at 16-19. The city also takes exception to the department’s recommendation that rural residential development should be treated differently than urban residential areas. Staff Report at 28-29. The exception contends the city only applied this site characteristic when the area was adjacent to small-lot “semi-urban” zoning, which it defines as a zone with a minimum lot size smaller than 2.5 acres. The department’s review of the record indicates that Areas 3-8, 12, 19, and 20 were found to be unsuitable for industrial use do to proximity to residential use. Rec. at 5747-5752. Only Areas 3, 4, 6, and 8 are adjacent to “semi-urban” residential zoning. (Yamhill County zoning map, Rec. at 6176.)

The city also takes issue with the department’s conclusion that an assessment of the land use pattern, rather than the current zoning designation, is appropriate. The city states that conflicts are with residential use, not just residential buildings and that land use patterns can change if allowed by the zoning. The department concurs with this assessment, but continues to contend that the threat of conflicts with rural residential use is different from that for urban density housing and warrants more analysis than the broad exclusion of land the city employed.

3. **Built Space Capacity**

The department recommended remand of the submittal based on its review of the method the city used to account for future employment in existing buildings. Staff Report at 36. The department found that all of the employment forecast had been allocated to vacant or re-developable land, and none to land that was already fully developed. The objector provided evidence that existing firms had considerable capacity to absorb additional employment. The city addressed this in its exception and provided additional information. Newberg exception at 26.

Upon further review, the department finds that the city included adjustments when it distributed its employment forecast among new current and expected future firms that account for
employment on developed land. See Table 12-20, reproduced on page 27 of this report. The table indicates only “infill & redevelopment” as locations for employment, but the narrative in the EOA states that the city included infill, redevelopment and intensification of existing employment land in this calculation. Rec. at 5723. Intensification means adding employees in existing firms. While the city did not establish how much of this employment would go to infill and redevelopment as opposed to intensification, the city did account for up to 44 percent of its expected employment growth to be accommodated inside the existing UGB.

The department previously stated:

The department recognizes that cities have options regarding the method employed to estimate the capacity of the existing UGB to accommodate job growth, and that no method should be held to an unreasonably high standard for accuracy. The department does not find that the city’s lack of assigning employment growth to fully developed land is necessarily an error, but rather that the EOA at least needs to discuss how this aspect of accommodating growth has been accounted for in the analysis. Staff Report at 37.

The department has now found that discussion and recommends that the commission reject this objection.

4. **Alternative Sites**

The city’s exception generally disputes the department’s recommended remand on specific issues related to several of the subareas analyzed and excluded by Newberg due to site characteristics. For two of these subareas, both located in the Newberg-Dundee corridor (Subareas 8 and 9), the exception alleges that the department’s reasons were based upon errors of fact.

The city points out that the staff report erroneously states that these two subareas are already within the UGB. Newberg exception at 32. The exception is correct. Additionally, the department notes a formatting error in the Staff Report on p. 47. The part of the page below Table 3 should read as follows:

Subarea 8 is also found by the city to not meet the following criterion:

1. Exclude sites that abut residential neighborhoods on more than 25% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical buffers are present, such as a stream corridor, arterial street, state highway, rail line, or park.

Subarea 9 is also found by the city to not meet the following criteria:

1. Exclude [study areas] that are not predominantly less than 5 percent slope within buildable areas.
2. Exclude sites that require truck traffic to travel through or adjacent to a residential neighborhood to reach an arterial street or state highway.

Each of these site characteristics is considered below.

The department believes that the formatting error in the staff report, corrected above, resolves the second alleged error in the staff report, that the department recommended remand of Subarea 8 based on a city finding that the site lacked proximity to an arterial roadway.

The department’s analysis was not predicated upon these parcels already being within the UGB; the reasons for remand remain valid for these two subareas although they are not within the UGB. The department’s recommendation for remand is based on the fact that the city did not generally prove a “meaningful connection” for any of the site characteristics used by the city to exclude these subareas. 11

Therefore, the department continues to recommend the commission sustain Friends’ Objection 5 as explained in the Staff Report, with the corrections noted above.

5. **Lands Included in the UGB**

In response to Friends’ Objection 6, the department recommended the commission remand the submittal with instructions to consider a particular parcel, the “Waste Management site,” vacant. Staff Report at 50. The city’s exception provides additional information regarding the use of the site that the department did not consider for the Staff Report. Newberg exception at 35-38. The city calculated that the site contains only 3.32 acres of buildable land. Rec. at 5767. The remainder is classified as built or unbuildable (due to areas within a stream corridor). The site is adjacent to a neighboring lot under the same ownership that contains structures. Rec. at 5807.

The department considers these to be significant pieces of information. A finding that a relatively small area of buildable land currently in use is unlikely to redevelop is more credible than the same finding for a 13-acre parking lot, which was the assumption behind the department’s recommendation.

The city continues to rely in part on the lack of substantial evidence that the site will redevelop during the planning period. Newberg exception at 38. The department said:

> The city relies partially on the statement, “There is nothing in the record to suggest that Waste Management will abandon this site or develop it into something else.” Rec. at 6003. There is nothing apparent in the record that suggests it will not be developed, and the department finds that without evidence either way, the city is required to consider the land vacant and available for development. To conclude otherwise would render moot the entire inventory

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11 Of note regarding the Newberg-Dundee corridor subarea, the record does not contain any explanation as to why the city created these two subareas without including adjacent rural lands. This is relevant because it appears that including those lands could have created of a larger, potentially viable industrial district adjacent to the UGB.
requirement in OAR 660-009-0015(3) or, alternatively, require a city to complete an onerous exercise of documenting the development plans of every owner of vacant employment land in the city. (Emphasis in original.) Staff Report at 50.

The department finds that this conclusion is still valid. The department is recommending the commission remand the employment land inventory to document the status of the “A-dec site” on similar grounds (See subsection V.A.7 of this report.) The primary difference here is that the land is in use by an existing operation.

The city provided analysis why this site contains “permanent structures.” Newberg exception at 36-37. The department remains unconvinced that fencing and landscaping constitutes “an addition or change that makes something better or more valuable” that is “continuing or enduring without fundamental or marked change.” (See Newberg exception at 36.) The structural improvements on the west side of the site (albeit on a separate tax lot) are certainly permanent structures.

On balance, the department is unpersuaded that the site is improved. The department continues to recommend that the commission remand with instructions to consider the Waste Management site vacant in the employment land inventory.

The city indicated that the department erroneously stated the Waste Management site is in the existing UGB, while it is actually in the expansion area. Newberg exception at 35. The findings should be amended to reflect this correction.

6. **Goal 14 Location Factors**

Newberg takes exception to the department’s recommended remand based on a finding that the record “do(es) not describe the nature of the farm use in the vicinity or the effects of the urban use proposed, so no meaningful comparison of the effects of alternative boundary locations can result.” The exception contends the city completed the proper analysis. Newberg exception at 39.

The department found that “at least some specific consideration of the nature of the farm use in the area and potential impacts from industrial use is needed” but wasn’t apparent in the record. The department conceded, however, that, “Since all of the alternative areas are in close proximity, even overlapping, the expected level of findings and analysis may be different in this case than would be expected for more widely distributed alternatives.” The department’s recommendation attempts to balance the practical aspects of what level of specificity is required for any Goal 14 analysis versus the varying level of effort needed in a specific case. The department believes that, since the alternative expansion areas present in this case are fairly homogeneous, the level of findings required may not be as extensive as would be expected when the alternative areas are more diffuse. But the department found that an analysis of effects on “nearby agricultural activities” cannot be complete without an explanation of what those activities are. None was present in the record.
The department also recognized that the recommendation included proposed remands on several items that could result in the city considering additional alternative expansion areas. If that transpires, the city would almost certainly need to provide a more robust analysis for the Goal 14 location factors than is present in the current submittal, and the report points that out.

The department continues to recommend that the commission remand the submittal with instructions that the city supplement the analysis of alternative expansion areas with an adequate factual base to demonstrate the Goal 14 location factors have been considered and balanced.

VI. DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION AND DRAFT MOTIONS

A. Recommendation

The analysis, findings, conclusions, and recommendations contained in this report agree in some cases with those in the Staff Report and in other cases modify or amend the earlier report. Based on review of the record, objections, exceptions, and other submitted materials, the department recommends the commission remand the Newberg UGB amendment submittal for further development of the record and analysis. The specific recommendations are provided below, with changes to the recommendation in the Staff Report indicated by underscore for additions and overstrike for deletions.

The department recommends the commission instruct the city, on remand, to:

1. Demonstrate that the following “site characteristics” identified by the city pursuant to OAR 660-009-0015(2) and OAR 660-024-0060(5) are meaningfully connected with the operation of a target industry or a group of target industries with compatible operational requirements, or consider the site and area needs during the analysis of alternative expansion areas under the Goal 14 location factors:

   Exclude sites that abut residential neighborhoods on more than 25% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical buffers are present, such as a stream corridor, arterial street, state highway, rail line, or park.

   Exclude sites that require truck traffic to travel through or adjacent to a residential neighborhood to reach an arterial street or state highway.

   Exclude sites that, for community centers, abut residential neighborhood on more than 50 percent of the site perimeter unless effective topographical or road buffers are present or planned.

   Include parcels or contiguous group of parcels [that] adjoin an existing industrial or commercial area or an area with sufficient buildable land to allow expansion of the industrial district.
Include parcels or contiguous group of parcels [that] adjoin an existing industrial or commercial area, or an area with sufficient buildable land to allow expansion of the industrial district.

Include parcels or contiguous group of parcels [that] have suitable truck access to a state highway or arterial street within one-quarter mile.

Exclude [study areas] that are not predominantly less than 5 percent slope within buildable areas.

2. Demonstrate that the following “site characteristic” identified by the city pursuant to OAR 660-009-0015(2) and OAR 660-024-0060(5) is typical of and meaningfully connected with the operation of a target industry or a group of target industries with compatible operational requirements or consider the site and area needs during the analysis of alternative expansion areas under the Goal 14 location factors:

   Exclude sites that abut residential neighborhoods on more than 25% of the site perimeter unless effective topographical buffers are present, such as a stream corridor, arterial street, state highway, rail line, or park.

3. Explain why target industrial uses must be in close proximity to an arterial street or state highway and not a collector.

4. Provide adequate evidence regarding the number of industrial sites needed during the planning period.

5. Include the content required in OAR 660-009-0015(3) in the employment land inventory.

6. Provide information regarding why the vacant A-dec site was not included in the buildable lands inventory.

7. Provide information regarding whether a portion of the Springbrook District Village area is designated for non-commercial uses and how the land it was accounted for in the employment land inventory.

8. Explain how the determination of the capacity of the existing UGB to accommodate employment growth considered employment growth on fully developed land.

8. Clarify that the Zimri Road area (Site VI) is not adjacent to commercially zoned land, and provide adequate justification as to why this site cannot reasonably accommodate industrial uses, or consider it in the Goal 14 analysis of alternative locations to accommodate industrial land needs under OAR 660-024-0050(4).
9. Adequately justify why the portion of South Springbrook Road outside the existing UGB (Subarea 12) is unsuitable for industrial use or consider the area in the Goal 14 analysis of alternative locations to accommodate industrial land needs.

10. Adequately justify why Sites 8 and 9 (Newberg-Dundee corridor) are unsuitable for industrial use or consider them in the Goal 14 analysis of alternative locations to accommodate industrial land needs.

11. Consider the Waste Management site vacant in the employment land inventory.

12. Supplement the analysis of alternative expansion areas with an adequate factual base to demonstrate the Goal 14 location factors have been considered and balanced.

The department also notes there are recommended corrections to the proposed findings and conclusions contained this report that do not change the final recommendation.

B. Proposed Motion

Recommended Motion: I move the commission remand Newberg’s urban growth boundary amendment submittal based on the findings and conclusions in the January 23, 2014, staff report, the February 10, 2014, supplemental report, and the March 7, 2014, supplemental report, with specific instructions as defined in Section VI.A of the March 7 report.

C. Optional Motions

Remand on other bases: I move the commission remand Newberg’s urban growth boundary amendment submittal based on the findings and conclusions in the January 23, 2014, staff report, the February 10, 2014, supplemental report, and the March 7, 2014, supplemental report, with the following changes: ____.

For approval: I move that the commission approve Newberg’s urban growth boundary amendment submittal based on the commission’s findings that: ____.