



# Oregon

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **“Building Better Communities” conference set for Oct. 18 in Bend**

SALEM – Twelve national, state and local experts on growth, transportation and economics will meet at the Seventh Mountain Resort near Bend on Oct. 18 for a conference entitled “Building Better Communities: Expanding Housing, Economic and Transportation Choices.”

The goals of the conference are to:

- Identify smart growth opportunities – and needed actions – for Central Oregon;
- Learn from smart growth successes achieved in Central Oregon and elsewhere;
- Expand transportation choices in the fast-growing Central Oregon region;
- Examine the links between transportation, land use, and urban design;
- Understand the transportation costs of housing; and
- Examine the economic impacts of smart growth on real estate.

The experts include:

- John Fregonese, Principal, Fregonese Calthorpe Associates (Portland)
- Todd Litman, Founder and Director of the Victoria (B.C.) Transport Policy Institute
- Matthew Garrett, Director, Oregon Department of Transportation
- Walter Kulash, “New Urbanist” Traffic Engineer from Glatting Jackson (Orlando)
- Joe Molinaro, Manager, Smart Growth Programs, National Assn. of Realtors (Washington D.C.)
- Gretchen Palmer, Principal, Palmer Homes (Bend)
- Marilyn Worrrix, Commissioner, Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (McMinnville)
- Mike Hoover, Owner, Windermere/Central Oregon Real Estate (Bend)
- Brian Shetterly, Manager, Long Range Planning Program, City of Bend
- Kirk Schueler, President, Brooks Resources Corporation (Bend)
- Philip Hamilton, Owner, Meridian Financial Group (Bend)
- Joe Cortright, Vice-President, Impresa Consulting (Portland)

Fregonese will present the keynote speech entitled: “Building Better Communities: Lessons from Around the Country.” He has been an urban planner for 30 years and played a key role in regional vision projects in Austin, Salt Lake City, Nashville, Los Angeles and Portland (for Metro).

Litman is the founder and executive director of the Victoria Transport Policy Institute, an independent research organization dedicated to developing innovative solutions to transportation problems. Kulash, a traffic engineer from Orlando, Fla., is the principal author of *Residential Streets*. Molinaro is the manager for Smart Growth Programs for the National Association of Realtors in Washington, D.C.

Cortright will close the conference with a speech on “Livability and Economic Vitality.” He is recognized by many as one of Oregon’s leading economic analysts.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Central Oregon Association of Realtors, the Oregon Association of Realtors, and the Oregon Transportation and Growth Management Program (TGM is a joint partnership between the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Oregon Department of Transportation). Other sponsors include Brooks Resources Corporation and the National Association of Realtors.

**Registration for the conference is closed.**

For more information, please contact either Constance Beaumont, TGM Outreach Coordinator, at 503-705-8561, or Geneese Zinsli, Executive Director, Central Oregon Association of Realtors, at 541-382-3452.

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