



# Oregon

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TO: Land Conservation and Development Commission

FROM: Jennifer Donnelly, Metro Regional Representatives

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 11, January 22-23, 2015, LCDC Meeting**



## **METRO URBAN GROWTH REPORT**

### **BACKGROUND**

In the 1970s, visionary Oregon Gov. Tom McCall, and an army of concerned Oregonians, established a basic rule for new development – cities would only grow as much as they needed to, to preserve both the rural areas outside of cities and the downtowns at the core of them.

The Portland region has one urban growth boundary for the 25 cities and nearby communities, a boundary managed by Metro and reviewed by state regulators. Inside the boundary, urban development can happen. Beyond the boundary, state law limits the kind of development that can happen on farmland and forestland.

Economists, demographers and other experts are studying the region's history, as well as ongoing trends, to give the Metro Council an idea how much growth the region can expect. The council will ultimately decide how much growth to plan for, then look at whether the urban growth boundary needs to be expanded, and if so, how much and where.

Oregon law requires that every five years, the Metro Council evaluate the capacity of the region's urban growth boundary to accommodate a 20-year forecast of housing needs and employment growth. The results of that evaluation are provided in the urban growth report.

While complying with the requirements of state law, the urban growth report serves as more than just an accounting of available acres inside the urban growth boundary. It plays a vital role in the implementation of the region's 50-year plan that calls for the efficient use of land, redevelopment before expansion, and the preservation of the region's resources for future generations.

The population and employment range forecasts in the urban growth report help inform Metro, local jurisdictions, and other public and private sector partners as they consider new policies, investments, and actions to maintain the region's quality of life and promote prosperity.

The urban growth report, once accepted in its final form by the Metro Council in December 2014, will serve as the basis for the council's urban growth management decision, which will be made by the end of 2015.

Metro Urban Growth Report:

<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/growth-management-decision/2014-urban-growth-report>

Urban Growth Report Timeline:

<http://www.oregonmetro.gov/public-projects/growth-management-decision/timeline>