

LAND USE  
BOARD OF APPEALS

BEFORE THE LAND USE BOARD OF APPEALS

OF THE STATE OF OREGON

APR 11 4 48 PM '86

1000 FRIENDS OF OREGON, an )  
Oregon non-profit corporation, )

Petitioner, )

vs. )

WASHINGTON COUNTY, )

Respondent, )

and )

JIM ALLISON, )

Respondent- )  
Participant. )

LUBA No. 85-100

FINAL OPINION  
AND ORDER

Appeal from Washington County.

Robert E. Stacey, Jr., Portland, filed the petition for review and argued on behalf of petitioner.

Dan R. Olsen, Hillsboro, filed a response brief and argued on behalf of Respondent County.

Jim Allison, Sherwood, filed a response brief and argued on his own behalf.

DuBAY, Referee; KRESSEL, Chief Referee, participated in the decision.

BAGG, Referee, Concurring

REMANDED

04/11/86

You are entitled to judicial review of this Order.  
Judicial review is governed by the provisions of ORS 197.850.

1 Opinion by DuBay.

2 NATURE OF DECISION

3 Petitioner appeals a decision changing the county's  
4 comprehensive plan and zoning map from Agricultural (AF-20) to  
5 Rural Residential (AF-5) for approximately 26 acres. The  
6 change requires an exception to statewide planning goals.

7 FACTS

8 Eighteen of the 26 acres are used for raising grain. Soils  
9 are Class II on 14 acres, Class III on 10 acres, and Class IV  
10 on 2 acres. The property is outside the regional urban growth  
11 boundary. However, the land on three sides is zoned AF-5, the  
12 result of a previous exception to statewide planning goals.  
13 Across the road on the fourth side is a 72 acre tract zoned  
14 AF-20, the same designation as the subject property. The 72  
15 acre tract is vacant, although it is platted into six lots.

16 The county first approved this map amendment in December,  
17 1984. The decision was appealed and resulted in a remand. See  
18 1000 Friends of Oregon v. Washington Co., 13 Or LUBA 65  
19 (1985). Thereafter, the governing body remanded the  
20 application to the planning commission. The planning  
21 commission approved the map amendment. Petitioner appealed the  
22 planning commission decision to the county commission, which  
23 affirmed the planning commission.

24 Before discussing the merits, we take up a preliminary  
25 procedural question.

1 MOTION TO DISMISS PARTICIPANT ALLISON AS A PARTY

2 Petitioner moves for an order dismissing Participant James  
3 Allison for lack of standing to appear in the appeal. Mr.  
4 Allison filed a Statement of Intent to Participate in  
5 accordance with OAR 661-10-020(1) and filed a brief in  
6 opposition to the petition for review.

7 Allison contends he has standing to participate as an  
8 intervenor according to ORS 197.830(5). This provision states:

9 "(5) Within a reasonable time after a petition for  
10 review has been filed with the Board, any person  
11 may intervene and be made a party to the review  
proceeding upon a showing of compliance with  
subsection (2) or (3) of this section."

12 Subsections (2) and (3) of ORS 197.830 set forth the  
13 statutory requirements for standing to appeal to LUBA.

14 ORS 197.835(3) provides in relevant part:

15 "...a person may petition the Board for review of a  
16 quasi-judicial land use decision if the person:

17 \* \* \*

18 "(b) Appeared before the local government,  
special district or state agency orally or  
in writing; and

19 "(c) Meets one of the following criteria:

20 "(A) Was entitled as of right to notice and  
21 hearing prior to the decision to be  
reviewed; or

22 "(B) Is aggrieved or has interests adversely  
23 affected by the decision."

24 Allison does not allege he was adversely affected or  
25 aggrieved by the decision. His allegations are framed to show  
26 compliance with ORS 197.830(3)(c)(A). That is, he claims he

1 was entitled as of right to notice and hearing prior to the  
2 decision.

3 The county ordinance requires notice of hearings on small  
4 tract map amendments must be given to the following:

5 "A. The applicant or representative;

6 "B. All property owners of record...(within 250 feet  
7 or 500 feet, depending on whether the property is  
in the urban or rural areas).

8 "C. The Community Planning Organization within which  
9 the subject property is located." Washington  
County Community Development Code, Section 204-4.2

10 Mr. Allison does not say which of these categories apply to  
11 him. He alleges only that he was a "party of record" in the  
12 county proceedings and that the county provided him with notice  
13 of the hearing and a copy of the final decision. These  
14 allegations do not show compliance with the standing  
15 requirements in ORS 197.830(3)(c)(A).

16 The record shows Mr. Allison appeared at the planning  
17 commission hearing to give testimony as the applicant's land  
18 use consultant. The record also includes a document signed by  
19 Mr. Allison which makes statements about conditions on and near  
20 the property and an opinion about the practicability of farming  
21 it. These facts show Mr. Allison was entitled to notice, if at  
22 all, as a representative of the applicant. However, he  
23 represents only himself in this appeal. His entitlement to  
24 notice as a representative of the applicant does not bring him  
25 within the coverage of ORS 197.835(3)(c)(A).<sup>1</sup>

26 The record does not show Mr. Allison was entitled to notice

1 of hearing prior to the decision under the county ordinances.  
2 We therefore sustain petitioner's motion to dismiss Mr. Allison  
3 as a party to the appeal.

4 FIRST ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

5 Petitioner says the county's findings do not demonstrate  
6 the decision complies with criteria for an exception based on  
7 irrevocable commitment in ORS 197.732, Statewide Goal 2, and  
8 the goal's implementing rules.

9 ORS 197.732 authorizes a local government to adopt an  
10 exception to a statewide goal when:

11 "(b) The land subject to the exception is irrevocably  
12 committed as described by commission rule to uses  
13 not allowed by the applicable goal because  
14 existing adjacent uses and other relevant factors  
15 makes uses allowed by the applicable goal  
16 impracticable;"

17 A conclusion that land is irrevocably committed to uses not  
18 allowed by the goal must be based on one or more of seven  
19 factors listed in Goal 2's implementing rules. The factors are:

- 20 (a) Existing adjacent uses;
- 21 (b) Public facilities and services (water and sewer  
22 lines, etc.);
- 23 (c) Parcel size and ownership patterns of the  
24 exception area and the adjacent lands;
- 25 (d) Neighborhood and regional characteristics;
- 26 (e) Natural boundaries and other buffers separating  
the exception area from adjacent resource land;
- (f) Fiscal development; and
- (g) Other relevant factors.

Even though the order includes findings about four of these  
seven factors, the county concluded that the property cannot be  
profitably farmed because the parcel size is too small and  
ownership patterns prevent use of the property as part of a

1 larger operation. The county found this factor alone justifies  
2 a finding of irrevocable commitment to non-farm uses.  
3 Petitioner nevertheless challenges findings regarding the  
4 factors which were not relied on by the county. Nothing is  
5 served by our review of non-essential findings. Bonner v. City  
6 of Portland, 11 Or LUBA 40, 50-52 (1984).

7 The county's order identifies two key issues which form the  
8 basis for the county's conclusion that parcel size and  
9 ownership patterns commit the property to nonresource use. The  
10 issues are:

11 "(a) Whether the parcel alone can be profitably be  
12 used for agriculture;

13 "(b) Whether it can be reasonably combined with other  
14 parcels and managed with them equitably." Record  
15 at 53.

16 The county answered these two questions by finding the property  
17 cannot be profitably farmed, either alone or in conjunction  
18 with other lands. The county's reasons may be summarized as  
19 follows:

- 20 1. Because part of the property is in the flood  
21 plain and the soil is poorly drained, only 18  
22 acres are practicable for farming.
- 23 2. Poor drainage on the 18 acres limits crops to  
24 those requiring large acreages to be profitable,  
25 e.g., pasture, small grain, grass and legume seed  
26 production and hay.
- 27 3. No contiguous properties are in farm use.
- 28 4. To get farm equipment to the property requires  
29 travel over Evergreen Road, a heavy traveled  
30 urban road.
- 31 5. Local farmers facing the expenses of operating

1 separate fields and the risks imposed by heavy  
2 traffic will not use property this size.

3 This rationale fails to give sufficient weight to the  
4 existing use of the property for raising grain. The findings  
5 do not show, as they must, that the land is unprofitable or  
6 impracticable for farming. Where, as here, the land is being  
7 used for farm purposes, statements that other farmers would  
8 choose not to farm it because of operating difficulties do not  
9 show irrevocable commitment to nonfarm use.

10 The county found the present operator is farming the parcel  
11 at the request of the owner, his brother. Further, the county  
12 noted access to the parcel for farm equipment is not over  
13 Evergreen Road, but over a private way. The county described  
14 the situation as "unique," and not available to other farmers.  
15 However, the findings do not explain why the access is not  
16 available to others.<sup>2</sup> The significant fact is that the  
17 parcel is currently in farm use by an operator who also farms  
18 nearby property. Findings that some operators would not risk  
19 taking equipment over Evergreen Road do not demonstrate the  
20 impracticability of farm use in these circumstances.

21 We sustain this assignment of error.

## 22 SECOND ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

23 Petitioner alleges the county's findings are not supported  
24 by substantial evidence in the record in 10 instances.

- 25 1. "...[T]he code recognizes that there will be  
26 impact on surrounding property because of the six  
subdivision lots to the west and recognizes that  
there will be effort to minimize the impact, not

1 eliminate it." Record at 45.

- 2 2. "... (New parcel) is in close proximity to  
3 industrially designated areas that are currently  
4 experiencing development. It is also in the  
vicinity of the area now proposed for UGB  
expansion." Record at 45.

5 These findings are included in the section concerning  
6 adjacent uses. However, the findings do not address the  
7 criteria in ORS 197.732 and Goal 2 regarding existing adjacent  
8 uses. Future development proposals are not relevant in  
9 determinations whether existing adjacent uses irrevocably  
10 commit lands to nonresource uses. Because the finding is  
11 legally inadequate petitioner's challenge to its evidentiary  
12 basis requires no decision. See Allen v. Columbia Co., 8 Or  
13 LUBA 78 (1983).

- 14 3. "The average parcel size of a farming site in  
15 Washington County ranges from 56 acres for  
horticultural specialities to 273 acres for  
general farms." Record at 47.

16 Petitioner points out that the sole source for this  
17 finding, Exhibit C to the decision, shows entire farm sizes in  
18 the county, as distinguished from sizes of parcels making up  
19 farms. Petitioner is correct. The finding is not supported by  
20 substantial evidence.

- 21 4. "According to SCS, approximately 8 acres of the  
22 16 acres parcel is in flood plain and would be  
23 very impracticable to farm, except as pasture."  
Record at 48.

24 Petitioner says the parcel is 26, not 16, acres. Although  
25 petitioner is correct, we see no error. The figure 16 is  
26 obviously a typographical error as other findings on the same

1 page state 18 acres are available for farming.

2 5. "The opponents counter these opinions (about the  
3 utility of the subject parcel as part of a  
4 commercial farm) with no expert opinion (and) no  
5 testimony from anyone with experience in  
6 farming." Record at 49.

7 This finding expresses the county's views about the  
8 evidence, or lack of evidence, submitted by the opponent. Even  
9 if the finding is not supported by substantial evidence, the  
10 decision still rests on other findings about the practicality  
11 of farming the 18 acres as part of a larger farm. Only  
12 evidence relied upon to support necessary findings need be  
13 reviewed for substantial evidence. Comments about conflicting  
14 evidence are not in this category. Petitioner's objection may  
15 not be sustained for this reason alone. However, we believe  
16 the challenged finding is supported in the record.

17 Petitioner contends expert testimony was submitted in the  
18 form of Oregon State University Extension Service Report No.  
19 697. The report, which includes no background information  
20 about the experience or training of its preparers, shows it is  
21 prepared by the Extension Service and the Department of  
22 Geography of Oregon State University. Record 313-314. The  
23 report consists of statistical information about farms,  
24 including the size, value, income, expenses, the size and  
25 distance of fields making up the farms, and market  
26 information. Data for each type of crop are tabulated in the  
27 report.

28 We deny petitioner's charge. We construe the finding to

1 say that no opponent testified at the hearing as an  
2 agricultural expert about the practicality of using the 26  
3 acres as part of a commercial farm. The statistical report  
4 does not refute the challenged finding.

5 6. "...[T]he only reason that the parcel is in farm  
6 use is that the brother of the applicant is doing  
7 it as a favor because the land is owned by his  
8 brother." Record at 49.

9 Petitioner argues this finding makes a statement about the  
10 reasons the property is currently in farm use that is not  
11 supported in the record. We agree.

12 In context, the finding attempts to discount the importance  
13 of evidence that the property is currently being farmed. The  
14 idea, as we read the finding, is that the property is not  
15 suited to farm use and that it is in farm use now only because  
16 the present operator wishes to help his brother. The finding  
17 is not borne out by the record. The owner's brother stated:

18 "First, why do I farm my brother Jerry Vanderzanden's  
19 26 acre parcel. [sic] It is because it is my  
20 brother's land, and he wants someone to care for it.  
21 He lives in Idaho." Record at 138.

22 This statement shows that the only reason this operator is  
23 farming the property is his brother's request. Other operators  
24 may have valid reasons for farming the property that are not  
25 excluded by the present operator's statement.

26 We sustain this challenge.

7. "The statistics offered by opponents are not  
reliable in this situation. First, they derive  
from Clackamas County, that no evidence has been  
introduced to establish they apply to a  
comparable situation.... No contention has been

1           made that these responses were randomly selected  
2           or that they are statistically significant....  
3           There is no indication that typical field size is  
4           the same as minimum field size necessary to  
5           support a profitable farm operation." Record at  
6           50.

7           8.    "This evidence comes from the survey of Clackamas  
8           County agriculture and the opponents have done  
9           nothing to establish similar circumstances  
10           between the present situation and those  
11           prevailing among the respondents in the study  
12           they relied upon." Record at 50.

13           Petitioner challenges the evidentiary support for the  
14           county's statements about the Oregon State University Extension  
15           Service Report No. 697 submitted by petitioner. The challenged  
16           findings explain the county's reasons for not relying on the  
17           report to reach a final decision. However, even if these  
18           findings are not supported by substantial evidence, the  
19           decision still rests on other findings about the practicability  
20           of farming the 18 acres as part of a larger farm. Only  
21           evidence relied upon to support necessary findings need be  
22           reviewed for substantial evidence. Bonner v. City of Portland,  
23           11 Or LUBA 40 (1984). Statements of reasons for rejecting  
24           conflicting evidence are not required. Petitioner's  
25           evidentiary challenge to the findings may be rejected for this  
26           reason alone. In any event, however, we believe the challenged  
27           findings are supported by substantial evidence.

28           As we understand the finding, the county refuses to accept  
29           the report as an accurate portrayal of Washington County  
30           agriculture in general or the farmability of this parcel in  
31           particular. Primarily, the commissioners did not believe the

1 report showed how the survey applies to Washington County. The  
2 reports' only comment on this issue is in the following  
3 explanatory note:

4 "This survey was administered by Oregon State  
5 University, Department of Geography, for the purpose  
6 of supplementing census data on characteristics of  
7 commercial agricultural. The data for Clackamas  
8 County are intended to represent baseline data for  
9 Agricultural District 1 which includes Columbia,  
10 Washington, Yamhill, Clackamas and Multnomah  
11 Counties." Record at 314.

12 While this explanatory note avows an intention to provide  
13 baseline data for Agricultural District 1, nothing in the  
14 report shows the relationship between these five counties. The  
15 significance of Agricultural District 1 is not explained. If  
16 farms in Clackamas County are similar to farms in Washington  
17 County, the report does not say so. In fact, the record shows  
18 dissimilarities in each of the two counties. For example, the  
19 county found the average size of grain farms in Washington  
20 County is 261 acres. Record at 36.<sup>3</sup> Yet the report shows  
21 the mean size of grain farms in Clackamas County is 129 acres.  
22 Record at 317. In these circumstances, substantial evidence  
23 supports the finding that the report fails to establish the  
24 similarity between Washington County farms and farms surveyed  
25 in Clackamas County.

26 Since the county rejected the report for lack of relevance  
to Washington County, the statistical reliability of the report  
for farms surveyed in Clackamas County is not an issue. We see  
no point in further analysis of petitioner's allegations about

1 the statistical reliability of the report.

2 9. "Evergreen Road is one of 'only three major  
3 arterials' designated in the Hillsboro area (page  
4 18), and 'this is a major arterial and carries  
5 traffic serving major industrial areas within the  
6 Hillsboro area.'" Record at 51.

7 Petitioner alleges that no evidence in the record shows  
8 Evergreen Road is a designated arterial, and no evidence shows  
9 that Evergreen Road in the vicinity of 273rd Street carries  
10 heavy traffic to industrial areas. In reviewing this  
11 evidentiary support challenge, we must rely on respondents to  
12 show us where the supporting evidence is found in the record.  
13 1000 Friends of Oregon v. Washington Co., 13 Or LUBA 65, 67-68  
14 (1985). See also City of Salem v. Families for Responsible  
15 Govt, 64 Or App 238, 249, 668 P2d 395 (1983), rev on other  
16 grounds, City of Salem v. Families for Responsible Govt, 298 Or  
17 574, 684 P2d 965 (1985). Respondents have not done so. Even  
18 if we may take notice of the county's official road  
19 designations in its comprehensive plan, the county has not  
20 supplied any information about where the designations in the  
21 plan may be found. We will not undertake an independent search  
22 of the county's planning documents to discover evidence  
23 supporting the findings. Petitioner's challenge is sustained.

24 10. "It is not practicable to safely move farm  
25 machinery on the major arterial, Evergreen  
26 Street."

27 This conclusion is based on findings that summarize the  
28 evidence about roads near the property. Mr. Allison, a land  
29 use consultant and farmer in the area, submitted a statement

1 that the property is served by an inefficient road network, and  
2 that the only way to get farm equipment to the property is via  
3 Evergreen Road

4 "which is a heavily traveled road in a fast developing  
5 area. This would mean holding up urban traffic which  
6 can be hazardous." Record 75.

7 The county also quoted from the statement of Valentine Schaaf,  
8 a farmer with experience farming noncontiguous fields as part  
9 of a large farm operation. Mr. Schaaf said:

10 "Another limiting factor is the cost of moving our  
11 farm machinery and the traffic problems caused by our  
12 slow moving equipment over urban roads or other roads  
13 where there is heavy traffic.

14 \* \* \*

15 "If the field is near or in an urbanized area where  
16 the traffic is heavier than in rural areas, then I  
17 believe that such isolated fields probably should be  
18 larger than 20 acres. Otherwise, given the problems  
19 of adjacent homesites coupled with the traffic hazards  
20 of moving the equipment over urban roads, it is not  
21 practicable in most cases for a farmer to rent or  
22 lease the land." Record at 71.

23 The county found Mr. Schaaf's opinion applicable to the  
24 property in question.

25 Petitioner points to no evidence detracting from the  
26 evidence relied upon by the county except the statement by  
27 petitioner's representative that Evergreen Road is not "an  
28 insurmountable obstacle to farm equipment."

29 The county's findings about the impracticability of moving  
30 farm equipment on Evergreen Road is supported by substantial  
31 evidence.

1 In summary, we uphold petitioner's evidentiary challenges  
2 to the three findings, numbered 3, 6 and 9 above. Petitioner's  
3 remaining challenges are denied.

4 THIRD ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

5 Petitioner says the decision is flawed for failure to  
6 submit a map or aerial photo of the exception area and  
7 adjoining lands as required by ORS 660-04-028(7). The rule  
8 states:

9 "(7) The evidence submitted to support a committed  
10 exception shall, at a minimum, include a current  
11 map, or aerial photograph which shows the  
12 exception area and adjoining lands, and any other  
13 means needed to convey information about the  
14 factors set forth in this rule."

15 We note that OAR 660-04-028(7) was not in effect when the  
16 county made its decision. The county decision on October 8,  
17 1985, predates the effective date of the rule which was filed  
18 with the Secretary of State on November 15, 1985. The amended  
19 rule provides that the requirement in Section 7 for a map or  
20 aerial photograph applies only to committed exceptions adopted  
21 after the effective date of the amendment. OAR  
22 660-04-028(8).<sup>4</sup>

23 For these reasons, we deny this assignment of error.

24 FOURTH ASSIGNMENT OF ERROR

25 The county's procedures for plan map amendments are  
26 challenged in this last assignment of error. By county  
ordinance, decisions to amend the map are made in the first  
instance by the planning commission. This decision is final

1 unless appealed to the county commissioners. Petitioner claims  
2 this violates state law requiring hearings by county governing  
3 bodies before action regarding a comprehensive plan is  
4 effective. Petitioner relies on the following two statutory  
5 provisions.

6 "The county governing body shall adopt and may from  
7 time to time revise a comprehensive plan and zoning,  
8 subdivision and other ordinances applicable to all of  
9 the land in the county. The plan and related  
ordinances may be adopted and revised part by part or  
by geographic area." ORS 215.050(1).

10 "Action by the governing body of a county regarding  
11 the plan shall have no legal effect unless the  
12 governing body first conducts one or more public  
13 hearings on the plan and unless 10 days' advance  
14 public notice of each of the hearing is published in a  
15 newspaper of general circulation in the county or, in  
16 case the plan as it is to be heard concerns only part  
17 of the county, is so published in the territory so  
18 concerned and unless a majority of the members of the  
19 governing body approves the action. The notice  
20 provisions of this section shall not restrict the  
21 giving of notice by other means, including mail, radio  
22 and television." ORS 215.060

23 After this Board's decision in 1000 Friends of Oregon v.  
24 Washington County, 13 Or LUBA 65 (1985), the county  
25 commissioners remanded the application to the planning  
26 commission for further proceedings. The planning commission  
approved the application. Petitioner appealed to the county  
commissioners, alleging in part that the planning commission is  
prevented from making final amendments by the above-quoted  
statutes. Petitioners contend here, as they did below, that  
the county commissioners must hold hearings on the plan change  
according to ORS 215.060. According to petitioner, the

1 county's requirement that petitioner file an appeal and pay an  
2 appeal fee to obtain a hearing the statute requires is a  
3 violation of the statute.

4 Petitioner does not allege the commissioners' final order  
5 violated ORS 215.050 and 215.060. However, petitioner contends  
6 the county's plan amendment procedures violate state law and  
7 has prejudiced a substantial right of petitioners, viz, the  
8 right to present testimony at a hearing required by statute  
9 without paying a fee.

10 The county presents several defenses to this challenge.  
11 First, the county asserts these procedures were in effect for  
12 approximately 12 years and were approved by the Oregon Supreme  
13 Court in Fifth Avenue Corp. v. Washington County, 282 Or 591,  
14 581 P2d 50 (1978). According to the county, the court approved  
15 the county's small tract zoning amendment procedures for small  
16 tract comprehensive plan amendments. We disagree.

17 In Fifth Avenue Corp., supra, the court considered both the  
18 validity of the county's plan adoption procedures and the  
19 plaintiff's challenge to its validity as applied under the  
20 doctrine of exhaustion of remedies. The court first held ORS  
21 215.050, requiring the county governing body to adopt  
22 comprehensive plans, does not require observance of the same  
23 formalities required to adopt an ordinance.<sup>5</sup> The court also  
24 held the plan adoption procedures were the functional  
25 equivalent of the county's procedures to adopt ordinances. We  
26 think it significant that the court suggested in a footnote

1 that strict compliance with ordinance adoption procedures would  
2 subject the procedure to attack for violation of the notice  
3 requirements in ORS 215.060. See Fifth Avenue Corp. v.  
4 Washington County, supra, at 603.<sup>6</sup>

5 In its discussion of the exhaustion of remedies doctrine,  
6 the issue before the court was whether the county's ordinances  
7 provided a means to obtain changes in comprehensive plan  
8 designations for small tracts. The court found that the zoning  
9 ordinance expressed the sole method to make administrative  
10 quasi-judicial changes, including small tract comprehensive map  
11 amendments. Accordingly, the court found the applicant had an  
12 available remedy.

13 Although the court found the procedure available, the court  
14 did not review the procedure for compliance with the  
15 requirements of ORS 215.060. Consequently, we do not consider  
16 Fifth Avenue Corp., supra, as approval of the county's  
17 procedures making small tract comprehensive plan changes  
18 without compliance with ORS 215.060.

19 The county also claims the comprehensive plan map change is  
20 a contested case as defined in ORS 215.402(1).<sup>7</sup> Governing  
21 bodies are authorized by statute to designate planning and  
22 zoning hearings officers to hear and decide contested cases.  
23 ORS 215.406. Respondent claims this statutory framework  
24 empowers Washington County to designate small tract  
25 comprehensive plan amendments as contested cases to be heard  
26 and decided by the planning commission.

1           This construction of ORS 215.402 and 215.406, however,  
2 fails to take account of other sections in the same legislation  
3 enacted in 1973. As part of the same bill which adopted ORS  
4 215.402 and 215.406, the provisions of ORS 215.050 and 215.060  
5 were amended. See 1973 Or Laws, Chapter 552. The substance of  
6 the amendments was to substitute "governing body" for "planning  
7 commission" in both ORS 215.050 and 215.060. One of the  
8 evident purposes of the amendment was to designate local  
9 governing bodies as the unit of government responsible for  
10 adoption and revision of comprehensive plans. This legislative  
11 assignment of responsibility to governing bodies is  
12 inconsistent with respondent's interpretation.

13           We, therefore, do not accept the county's characterization  
14 of comprehensive plan map amendments as contested cases which  
15 may be decided by planning commissions.

16           Respondent also finds support for its position in the  
17 revised definition of "land use decision" in ORS 197.015(10).  
18 According to respondent, before 1981, the definition referred  
19 to decisions of the "city, county or special district." See  
20 1979 Or Laws, Ch. 772, Sec. 3. The 1981 amendment changed the  
21 reference to decisions of the "local government." See 1981 Or  
22 Laws, Ch. 748, Sec. 1.

23           According to respondent, this indicates that comprehensive plan  
24 map revisions may be decided by other governmental agencies  
25 besides governing bodies.

26           We do not accept this view of the amended definition.

1 Hearings officers and planning commissions are empowered to  
2 make a variety of decisions regarding permits and other land  
3 use matters under various county ordinances and regulations.  
4 The inclusion of these decisions by hearings officers and  
5 planning commissions as land use decisions does not mean that  
6 hearings officers and planning commissions are authorized to  
7 make all land use decisions. The requirements of ORS 215.060  
8 indicate otherwise.

9 Respondent next contends that petitioner's arguments, if  
10 carried to their logical conclusion, would prohibit small tract  
11 zone change decisions by hearings officers and planning  
12 commissions. Respondent says such changes are generally  
13 recognized as within the power of hearings officers and  
14 planning commissioners.

15 Assuming counties may authorize small tract zoning changes  
16 by hearings officers and planning commissions, respondent's  
17 argument fails to meet petitioner's claim that ORS 215.060  
18 applies expressly to actions regarding the comprehensive plan.  
19 This case involves a plan change. We reject respondents'  
20 claim.

21 Respondent also points to ORS 215.432(1)(a) to buttress its  
22 argument. Respondent says this statute allows the county to  
23 establish procedures to control local appeals process, citing  
24 Colwell v. Washington County, \_\_\_ Or LUBA \_\_\_ (1986) (LUBA No.  
25 85-063, dated January 12, 1986). There, the county  
26 commissioners dismissed an appeal of a planning commission

1 decision granting a small tract plan amendment. The appeal was  
2 dismissed because filing fees required by county ordinance were  
3 not paid. We held the petitioner had not exhausted local  
4 remedies as required by ORS 197.825(a). We also held that  
5 imposition of an appeal fee is authorized by ORS  
6 215.422(1)(a). The merits of petitioner's claims were not  
7 addressed because petitioner's failure to exhaust all local  
8 remedies required affirmance of the county's decision. The  
9 decision in Colwell, supra, does not control our review of  
10 petitioner's claim here.

11 Last, respondent claims the county's home rule powers  
12 authorize it to establish procedures for quasi-judicial  
13 decisionmaking, including small tract amendments to its  
14 comprehensive plan. According to respondent's argument, the  
15 controlling statutes do not clearly displace or impinge upon  
16 the county's right to establish its own quasi-judicial  
17 procedures. We disagree. As stated above, we believe ORS  
18 215.050 and 215.060 grant exclusive responsibility for  
19 comprehensive plan adoption and amendments to county governing  
20 bodies.

21 If respondent's argument is more far reaching and includes  
22 a claim that ORS 215.050 and 215.060 may not control the  
23 procedural aspects of county government, our jurisdiction to  
24 decide this issue is doubtful. To sustain this position  
25 requires a determination that the statutes violate the home  
26 rule powers authorized by Article VI, Section 10 of the Oregon

1 Constitution. While ORS 197.835(8)(a)(E) allows the Board to  
2 reverse a land use decision determined to be unconstitutional,  
3 no authority is granted to declare a state legislative act  
4 unconstitutional.

5 This assignment of error is sustained.

6 Remanded.

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1           Bagg, Referee, Concurring.

2           I concur in the result in this case but I would require the  
3 county to consider an additional matter on remand.

4           In the second assignment of error, petitioner challenges a  
5 finding that it is not practicable to safely move farm  
6 machinery on Evergreen Road. Evidence supporting this finding  
7 includes testimony that the road is "heavily traveled." I do  
8 not believe this conclusion is a sufficient basis, even when  
9 combined with other testimony about practical difficulties in  
10 moving farm equipment, to support the finding. "Heavy traffic"  
11 is not defined. Is it heavy at rush hour? Is "heavy traffic"  
12 10 cars per hour, 20, 50? How much traffic does it take to  
13 disrupt farm equipment travel?

14           As this case is being remanded, I would require the county  
15 to review this issue further.

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FOOTNOTES

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4 Mr. Allison's testimony qualified him as a party according to  
5 county ordinances. However, his status as a party in the  
6 county proceedings does not entitle him to notice and hearing  
7 under the applicable code section, Section 204-4.2, quoted in  
8 the text.

9 2  
10 Petitioner contends the private right of access is a right  
11 that runs with land the current operator is farming under a  
12 lease. Petitioner argues the right is available to any one  
13 leasing the other property. The findings neither reflect these  
14 allegations nor provide another explanation about ownership of  
15 the right of way or under what conditions it may be used.

16 3  
17 The data for average size of farms in Washington County is  
18 also supplied by Oregon State University Extension Service.

19 4  
20 OAR 660-04-028 states:

21 "(8) The requirement for a map or aerial photograph in  
22 section (7) of this rule only applies to the following  
23 committed exceptions:

24 "(a) Those adopted or amended as required by a Continuance  
25 Order dated after the effective date of OAR  
26 660-04-028(7); and

27 "(b) Those adopted or amended after the effective date of  
28 OAR 660-04-028(7) by a jurisdiction with an  
29 acknowledged comprehensive plan and land use  
30 regulations."

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32 The court also held adoption of a comprehensive plan is a  
33 legislative responsibility. The court interpreted the county  
34 charter to authorize the county commissioners to exercise this  
35 responsibility through procedures provided by ordinance or  
36 resolution. Since procedures established by an ordinance were  
37 followed, the court held the plan was lawfully adopted.

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The court noted that the county's ordinance adoption procedures do not require publication of notice of the hearing at least 10 days prior to the hearing as required by ORS 215.060.

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ORS 215.402 provides in part:

"(1) 'Contested case' means a proceeding in which the legal rights, duties or procedures of specific parties under general rules or policies provided under ORS 215.010 to 215.213, 215.215 to 215.263, 215.283 to 215.337 and 215.402 to 215.438, or any ordinance, rule or regulation adopted pursuant thereto, are required to be determined only after a hearing at which specific parties are entitled to appear and be heard."

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

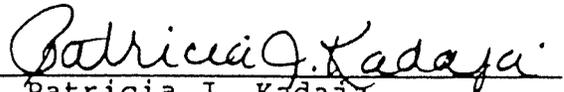
I hereby certify that I served the foregoing Final Opinion and Order for LUBA No. 85-100, on April 11, 1986 by mailing to said parties or their attorney a true copy thereof contained in a sealed envelope with postage prepaid addressed to said parties or their attorney as follows:

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Dated this 11th day of April, 1986.

  
Patricia J. Kadaja  
Administrative Assistant