



## **Regional Solutions Advisory Committee: South Valley/Mid Coast Region Meeting Notes**

Friday, April 29, 2016 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Springfield City Hall, Library Meeting Room  
225 North 5<sup>th</sup> St. Springfield, OR

*Present: Lee Beyer, Kitty Piercy, Jackie Mikalonis, Mary Camarata, Jae Pudewell, Sean Stevens, Melissa Murphy, John McArdle (via phone), Annabelle Jaramillo (via phone), Mary Spilde, Nick Fowler, Nate Stice, Greg Hamman, Faye Stewart, Doug Hunt, Shula Jaron, Jim Coonan, Terry Fasel, Chris Cummings, Alex Cuyler, Matt Sayre, Mark Lieberman, Courtney Griesel, Sarah Means*

**Welcome/Introductions**-Senator Lee Beyer welcomed committee members and guests and individual self-introductions were made.

**Agenda Review** - Jackie Mikalonis reviewed the agenda and reminded the committee that the topics are tied to the committee's current priorities.

**Public Comment** – No public comment was offered during the meeting.

**Infrastructure Finance Authority, Business Oregon** - Chris Cummings, Business Oregon IFA Director, provided an overview of Business Oregon's Infrastructure Finance Authority programs. Chris described the program and how it assists communities to build infrastructure capacity to address public health, safety, and compliance issues as well as support the ability to attract, retain, and expand businesses. Chris provided some local examples and explained how through RST, IFA can work with communities to develop responses to state and local economic or infrastructure priorities and work collaboratively on projects that leverage limited resources and position local communities to be competitive.

**Willamette Valley Intermodal Facility: Feasibility Study** – Chris Cummings, Business Oregon, and Terry Fasel, Department of Agriculture, discussed the issues that led to the need for a feasibility study including the loss of Hanjin, long drop off queues at ports, changes in federal trucking rules, and highway traffic congestion. Working with three Regional Solutions conveners from South Valley/Mid-Coast, Mid-Valley, and North Coast, Business Oregon and RS, ODOT, and ODA, a feasibility study will be undertaken to determine whether or not a facility that can provide transfer from truck to train then to the ports will help with the current problems of getting goods to market – in particular agricultural products.

**State of Developing the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and Innovation Economy** -Jim Coonan, RAIN Executive Director, provided feedback on the goal of developing an entrepreneurial ecosystem. The accelerators are up and running and the innovation network is expanding. The results with less than two

years after embarking on the development are promising. Jim provided the most current metrics and indicated that the businesses in the RAIN program had exceeded \$3.9 million in revenue and attracted more than \$20.9 million in investment.

**Fertilab Thinkubator** - Shula Jaron, Executive Director, provided a description of the collaborative work Fertilab does and how it links and is partnered with RAIN. Fertilab provides skills workshops, networking, a pre-accelerator program and biotech lab and incubation. Shula explained how Fertilab is a critical and growing piece in the innovation network and entrepreneurial ecosystem. She provided several success stories, including the most recent success of Nemamatrix. Fertilab has partnered with both the cities of Eugene and Springfield and has physical locations in the downtowns of each city.

**Technology -Regional Growth** - Matt Sayre, Technology Association of Oregon, provided an overview of the growth of the technology sector, specifically in the southern part of the Willamette Valley. He mentioned that the Lane Workforce Investment Board with RST and several partners chose technology as the first sector to explore for the sector strategy work that is occurring around the state. Matt provided metrics demonstrating growth and prosperity in that sector and highlighted some of the needs identified by the sector strategy work group. He described the pilot broadband work underway in downtown Eugene and how that increased the capacity of several high tech companies. The Technology Association of Oregon's strategic initiatives include: connecting the local tech community to resources around the state and to one another; supporting workforce initiatives and business-driven curriculum development among regional higher-education; galvanizing efforts for high speed, lower cost, Internet access; and promoting Lane County's tech community as a great place to work.

**Project Updates** - Jackie Mikalonis provided updates on several RST projects including the Springfield Manufactured Housing Solutions group that is close to finalizing a toolkit for addressing the impacts of manufactured park closures.

**Senator Beyer adjourned the meeting.**