Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals & Guidelines

GOAL 14: URBANIZATION

OAR 660-015-0000(14)

(Effective April 28, 2006)

To provide for an orderly and efficient transition from rural to urban land use, to accommodate urban population and urban employment inside urban growth boundaries, to ensure efficient use of land, and to provide for livable communities.

Urban Growth Boundaries

Urban growth boundaries shall be established and maintained by cities, counties and regional governments to provide land for urban development needs and to identify and separate urban and urbanizable land from rural land. Establishment and change of urban growth boundaries shall be a cooperative process among cities, counties and, where applicable, regional governments. An urban growth boundary and amendments to the boundary shall be adopted by all cities within the boundary and by the county or counties within which the boundary is located, consistent with intergovernmental agreements, except for the Metro regional urban growth boundary established pursuant to ORS chapter 268, which shall be adopted or amended by the Metropolitan Service District.

Land Need

Establishment and change of urban growth boundaries shall be based on the following:

(1) Demonstrated need to accommodate long range urban population, consistent with a 20-year population forecast coordinated with affected local governments; and

(2) Demonstrated need for housing, employment opportunities, livability or uses such as public facilities, streets and roads, schools, parks or open space, or any combination of the need categories in this subsection (2).

In determining need, local government may specify characteristics, such as parcel size, topography or proximity, necessary for land to be suitable for an identified need.

Prior to expanding an urban growth boundary, local governments shall demonstrate that needs cannot reasonably be accommodated on land already inside the urban growth boundary.

Boundary Location

The location of the urban growth boundary and changes to the boundary shall be determined by evaluating alternative boundary locations consistent with ORS 197.298 and with consideration of the following factors:

(1) Efficient accommodation of identified land needs;

(2) Orderly and economic provision of public facilities and services;

(3) Comparative environmental, energy, economic and social consequences; and

(4) Compatibility of the proposed urban uses with nearby agricultural and forest activities occurring on farm and forest land outside the UGB.

Urbanizable Land

Land within urban growth boundaries shall be considered available for urban development consistent with plans for the provision of urban facilities and services. Comprehensive plans and implementing measures shall manage the use and division of urbanizable land to maintain its potential for planned urban development until appropriate public facilities and services are available or planned.

Unincorporated Communities

In unincorporated communities outside urban growth boundaries counties may approve uses, public facilities and services more intensive than allowed on rural lands by Goal 11 and 14, either by exception to those goals, or as provided by commission rules which ensure such uses do not adversely affect agricultural and forest operations and interfere with the efficient functioning of urban growth boundaries.

Single-Family Dwellings in Exception Areas

Notwithstanding the other provisions of this goal, the commission may by rule provide that this goal does not prohibit the development and use of one single-family dwelling on a lot or parcel that:

(a) Was lawfully created;

(b) Lies outside any acknowledged urban growth boundary or unincorporated community boundary;

(c) Is within an area for which an exception to Statewide Planning Goal 3 or 4 has been acknowledged; and

(d) Is planned and zoned primarily for residential use.

Rural Industrial Development

Notwithstanding other provisions of this goal restricting urban uses on rural land, a county may authorize industrial development, and accessory uses subordinate to the industrial development, in buildings of any size and type, on certain lands outside urban growth boundaries specified in ORS 197.713 and 197.714, consistent with the requirements of those statutes and any applicable administrative rules adopted by the Commission.

GUIDELINES

A. PLANNING

1. Plans should designate sufficient amounts of urbanizable land to accommodate the need for further urban expansion, taking into account (1) the growth policy of the area; (2) the needs of the forecast population; (3) the carrying capacity of the planning area; and (4) open space and recreational needs.

2. The size of the parcels of urbanizable land that are converted to urban land should be of adequate dimension so as to maximize the utility of the land resource and enable the logical and efficient extension of services to such parcels.

3. Plans providing for the transition from rural to urban land use should take into consideration as to a major determinant the carrying capacity of the air, land and water resources of the planning area. The land conservation and development actions provided for by such plans should not exceed the carrying capacity of such resources.

4. Comprehensive plans and implementing measures for land inside urban growth boundaries should encourage the efficient use of land and the development of livable communities.

B. IMPLEMENTATION

1. The type, location and phasing of public facilities and services are factors

which should be utilized to direct urban expansion.

2. The type, design, phasing and location of major public transportation facilities (i.e., all modes: air, marine, rail, mass transit, highways, bicycle and pedestrian) and improvements thereto are factors which should be utilized to support urban expansion into urbanizable areas and restrict it from rural areas.

3. Financial incentives should be provided to assist in maintaining the use and character of lands adjacent to urbanizable areas.

4. Local land use controls and ordinances should be mutually supporting, adopted and enforced to integrate the type, timing and location of public facilities and services in a manner to accommodate increased public demands as urbanizable lands become more urbanized.

5. Additional methods and devices for guiding urban land use should include but not be limited to the following: (1) tax incentives and disincentives; (2) multiple use and joint development practices; (3) fee and less-than-fee acquisition techniques; and (4) capital improvement programming.

6. Plans should provide for a detailed management program to assign respective implementation roles and responsibilities to those governmental bodies operating in the planning area and having interests in carrying out the goal.