



American Planning Association  
Oregon Chapter

*Creating Great Communities for All*

February 12, 2023

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources  
Senator Michael Dembrow, Co-Chair  
Representative Khanh Pham, Co-Chair

RE: Testimony from the Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) regarding the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD) 2023-25 Budget (HB 5027)

Dear Co-Chairs Dembrow and K. Pham, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is a nonprofit professional membership organization of over 800 planners and those who work with planning in formulating and implementing development and conservation policies at the state and local level. OAPA works to create sustainable and vibrant Oregon communities through professional development, advocacy for sound planning, providing resources to meet the challenges of growth and change, and embracing and promoting diversity, inclusion and equity.

OAPA's membership collaborates with DLCD as cities and counties comprehensively plan for today and future generations. OAPA knows first-hand the critical need for the agency to have the staffing and resources to provide technical and financial assistance to cities and counties to support good planning and foster great thriving communities and to meet the state's expectations with regard to climate change, housing, and equity.

OAPA is supportive of Governor Kotek's recommended budget (GRB) that funds the agency's Planning Program at 5% more than in the 2021-23 legislative approved budget. As described in the GRB the agency's planning program "helps communities and citizens plan for, protect, and improve built and natural systems, which provide a high quality of life, in partnership with citizens and local governments".

However, as the Legislative process proceeds to create the agency's final budget we offer some comments for budget consideration at this point. These comments focus on three top OAPA legislative priorities: confronting climate change; addressing the housing crisis; and advancing racial equity.

#### Confronting climate change.

OAPA asks the legislature to provide the funding needed to continue implementation of the Climate Friendly and Equitable Communities (CFEC) rules adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) in July, 2022. The purpose of the CFEC rules are to take steps that will help meet the legislative goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from light vehicles in Oregon's eight metropolitan areas and to address equity in

participation and outcomes when implementing these rules.

We ask that funding be along the lines of the Policy Option Package (POP) 203 that was recommended to the Governor by LCDC. That POP request was for \$11,973,517 of which \$10,000,000 would be direct grants to local governments. The remainder of the budget would enable DLCD to implement and monitor the rules; directly assist in equitable outreach and grant management, and to maintain the systems needed to provide financial assistance.

The rules were developed over a 20-month period with the assistance of a diverse and inclusive Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) of over 40 community members. An OAPA representative served on the RAC. Implementation of the rules by local governments has begun. Throughout the process there was little concern over the objective of reducing GHG emissions or of the means by which this objective was to be achieved. The principal concern was the cost of implementing these rules locally. Approving this POP will substantially alleviate these concerns, and will support local planning that is already focusing resources on planning for needed housing.

It is critical that taking the actions required by the rules continues if the Oregon is to achieve measurable outcomes in reducing GHG emissions in Oregon's metropolitan areas and as well to keep faith with the diverse community members who participated in the rulemaking. The rulemaking comes with a high expectation of addressing equity in participation and outcomes when developing climate friendly areas and updating transportation system plans.

Implementing the rules has multiple benefits including:

- Reduced greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through integrated land use and transportation planning;
- Increased equitable access to and investment in transit and active pedestrian and bicycle and micro-mobility transportation projects;
- Promoting housing in connected, complete communities – close to quality schools, jobs, services, food and household necessities, cultural centers, places of worship, recreation, open space – with convenient access to transit and other transportation options.
- Promoting equitable participation and outcomes.

Providing the resources needed by the agency and by local governments is critical to achieving these benefits and furthering the work done to date.

#### Addressing the Housing Crisis

OAPA asks the legislature to include POP 91 (Oregon Housing Needs Analysis and Housing Production and Accountability Office) that was included in the GRB.

An OAPA top priority is to address the housing crisis, including homelessness, and it is critical that efforts continue to increase housing availability, affordability, and choices across the state. OAPA's members, at the local level, are engaged in State requirements to implement a housing capacity analysis

and a housing production strategy. Continuation of work and building on the work already done is critical to addressing Oregon's housing crisis.

OAPA supports the goals of the work as described in POP 91 to:

- Advance fair housing and center housing outcomes for low-income households;
- Implement a consistent system of measuring housing need, including the needs of underrepresented groups and those experiencing homelessness;
- Ensure local governments have access to the data that is needed to forecast and plan for all types of needed housing;
- Develop organizational capacity at the state to implement technical aspects of the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis; and
- Create systems of shared responsibility and accountability for state, regional, and local governments.

Providing the funding (as describe in POP 91) for agency staffing to support implementation of the Oregon Housing Needs Analysis (OHNA) and to create a Housing and Production and Accountability Office; to provide \$3.5 million related to OHNA-related grants to local governments; and the resources to do OHNA-related rulemaking are critical needs for addressing the housing crisis.

#### Advancing racial equity

OAPA asks the legislature to consider providing the budget for DLCD to accomplish two projects that LCDC recommended be included in the GRB: *Equitable Community Engagement* and *Rural Transportation Equity*.

OAPA is committed to advancing racial equity. *The Equitable Community Engagement* request was to fund staffing and supplies needed support the program; to support local government equitable community engagement efforts; and, OAPA believes is most critical, to update/rulemaking of Goal 1 - Citizen Participation by the end of the 2023-24 biennium.

Goal 1 guides land use planning and decision-making public engagement. Goal 1, adopted in 1975, has never been updated nor subject to rulemaking. It does not address diversity, equity or inclusion, and it does not require targeted outreach to traditionally underrepresented communities, or use of modern communication techniques in engagement or noticing.

Traditional community planning engagement in Oregon have failed to provide meaningful opportunities for inclusive participation or to incorporate the voices and perspectives of people of underrepresented communities. This has resulted in inequitable outcomes.

Updating Goal 1, which could build on the equitable participation rules developed in CFEC rulemaking, would empower and help community partners and underrepresented communities to engage in inclusive participation in shaping land use planning and decision-making.

The *Rural Transportation Equity* funding request was to continue work included

in 2021-23 budget recommended by the Racial Justice Council. Funding would allow the agency to assist local governments outside of metropolitan areas with planning for more equitable choice in transportation modes. The funding request was for \$810,887 of which \$525,000 would be for local grants.

OAPA believes that it is important to increase support of rural parts of Oregon as they make decisions about local transportation modes.

In summary OAPA asks that the legislature provide DLCD with budget needed to provide technical and financial assistance to cities and counties to support good planning and foster great thriving communities, and to meet the state's expectations with regard to climate change, housing, and equity.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on DLCD's 2023-25 Budget (HB 5027).

*Kevin C. Cook*

Sincerely,

Kevin Cook (he/him)

Chair, Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee

Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association

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