



Eugene City Council

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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

February 10, 2021

**12:00 p.m. JOINT WORK SESSION OF THE EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AND THE
LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Due to Governor Kate Brown's Stay Home, Save Lives Executive Order to combat the spread of Covid-19, this meeting will be held remotely using virtual meeting technology. Information about online or other options for access and participation will be available at <https://www.eugene-or.gov/3360/Webcasts-and-Meeting-Materials>

**Meeting of February 10, 2021;
Her Honor Mayor Lucy Vinis Presiding**

Councilors

Jennifer Yeh, President
Mike Clark
Randy Groves
Emily Semple

Claire Syrett, Vice President
Greg Evans
Matt Keating
Alan Zelenka

**12:00 p.m. JOINT WORK SESSION OF THE EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AND THE
LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

1. JOINT WORK SESSION: Homeless Systems Transformation

For the hearing impaired, an interpreter can be provided with 48 hours' notice prior to the meeting. Spanish-language interpretation will also be provided with 48 hours' notice. To arrange for these services, contact the receptionist at 541-682-5010. City Council meetings are telecast live on Metro Television, Comcast channel 21, and rebroadcast later in the week.

El consejo de la Ciudad de Eugene agradece su interés en estos asuntos de la agenda. El lugar de la reunión tiene acceso para sillas de ruedas. Se puede proveer a un intérprete para las personas con discapacidad auditiva si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. También se puede proveer interpretación para español si avisa con 48 horas de anticipación. Para reservar estos servicios llame al 541-682-5010. Las reuniones del consejo de la ciudad se transmiten en vivo por Metro Television, Canal 21 de Comcast y son retransmitidas durante la semana.

For more information, contact the Council Coordinator at 541-682-5010,
or visit us online at ***www.eugene-or.gov***.



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY FOR EUGENE CITY COUNCIL AND LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Work Session: Homeless Systems Transformation

Meeting Date: February 10, 2021
www.lanecountyor.org
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 1
Staff Contact: Sarai Johnson
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6503

ISSUE STATEMENT

The purpose of this work session is to update City of Eugene and Lane County elected officials on the implementation of homelessness systems transformation, including a high level workplan for 2021, budget considerations for the upcoming fiscal year, and an overview of likely policy direction or decisions that will be needed during the course of this year. This work session will support implementation of the recommendations put forth in the [Lane County Shelter Feasibility Study](#) (commonly referred to as the TAC report).

BACKGROUND

Over many years, homelessness in Lane County and particularly Eugene has risen both in the number and visibility of people experiencing a lack of shelter or housing. The Lane County Homeless By Name List (HBNL) shows an unduplicated 9,107 people accessed homelessness services in 2020, with an average of 2,586 people living in Eugene accessing these services per month.^a While this annual number is high, it is worth noting that the previous year (2019) showed a total of 9,679 unduplicated people, representing a 572 person decline. It is not currently known whether this reduction is related to COVID-19, which made some services difficult to access, including a reduction in available shelter beds.

Due to COVID-19 conditions, City of Eugene and Lane County created more non-congregate sheltering options to prevent overreliance on congregate warming programs. In response to this need for more non-congregate shelter, Eugene City Council approved the establishment of 5 new rest stops, adding 75 beds upon opening and as many as 100 beds after 6 months of operation, as well as several new microsites in Eugene. Lane County purchased and placed 120 Pallet Shelters throughout the county to provide non-congregate warming space in the metro area as well as Cottage Grove, Florence, Veneta, and Oakridge. The county also procured hotel rooms for people who are unsheltered who are at highest risk of complications from COVID-19. In the pandemic environment, continuing this expansion of non-congregate shelter access can help prevent an even

^a HBNL is updated monthly and is published in a dashboard located at <https://public.tableau.com/profile/lane.county#!/vizhome/HomelessnessinLaneCountyOregon/IntroductiontoLaneCountysHomelessnessData>

greater public health crisis by creating places where people can shelter in place, practice hygiene and physical distancing, and get access to basic needs to stay healthy and keep their neighbors and community members safe.

As COVID-19 progressed in our community, stressing the already stretched capacity of service providers, government agencies, and other resources that are typically available to people who are experiencing homelessness, a rise in visible camping occurred in the City of Eugene and throughout Lane County. The increase in camps located along right of ways, in parks, and in natural areas has sparked concern among neighbors, service providers and advocates who support people in camps, and has challenged government officials to find new ways to address camps. This has also coincided with a large influx of funding from federal and state resources to support eviction prevention (rent assistance), Rapid Rehousing, and other interventions, which will feed into the Homelessness Systems Transformation work.

Summary of Recent Work

In the spring of 2018, Lane County and the City of Eugene selected the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) to conduct a shelter feasibility study for Lane County. The study included analysis of the homeless service system map, homelessness data, best practices, and local economic conditions, to produce a final report related to homeless services and public shelter options. This report set the stage for policy makers, community providers and the community at large to begin having policy discussions about how to address the recommendations provided by TAC.

On January 22, 2019, following a presentation to the joint elected officials, Eugene City Council approved the final Technical Assistance Collaborative Homelessness Systems Analysis Report (titled "Lane County Shelter Feasibility Study"). Council also passed a motion, directing the County Administrator and City Manager to work together to establish, by May 1, 2019, a framework for implementing the recommendations in the TAC report and supporting establishment of a joint steering committee. Lane County Commissioners verbally supported the direction and deferred formal action to a future board meeting. The City and County determined that the appropriate next step would be for each organization to assign a manager tasked with co-leading the process of developing the implementation framework. The framework was developed in consultation with a steering committee comprised of Mayor Vinis, Councilor Syrett, Lane County Commissioners, and representatives from the Poverty and Homelessness Board. The steering committee developed a framework for implementing the 10 recommendations delivered in the Lane County Shelter Feasibility Study.

On May 13, 2019, City and County staff charged with leading the development of the TAC implementation framework presented to elected officials at a joint work session the Homeless Service System Transformation Framework that was developed by the steering committee (the "Service Framework"). Within that Service Framework, the City and County identified several immediate actions that could be taken to respond to homelessness in the short term as both organizations collaborate to develop a more in-depth strategic approach. Council took action to approve the framework for implementation of steering committee strategies and passed a motion directing the City Manager to move forward with year one implementation plans, and return with a work plan, budget, financial plan, and performance metrics for Council approval.

On July 17, 2019, staff returned to City Council with specific recommendations for allocating \$1.9 million to begin implementing the Service Framework. At that meeting, Council adopted a motion approving the proposed TAC Implementation \$1.9 million Recommendations funding allocation plan.

On June 8, 2020, staff reported to City Council regarding COVID-19 pandemic responses and progress on TAC implementation. At the June meeting, Council expressed interest in updating the forecasting metrics used in the TAC report, discussed creating more housing units, inquired as to the status of the former Veterans Affairs Clinic located at 100 River Avenue, and conveyed a willingness to expand microsites and rest stops to accommodate people in need of shelter.

On July 28, 2020, Eugene City Council and the Board of County Commissioners met together and staff presented the HBNL and proposed projections for adding shelter beds, Permanent Supportive Housing units, and other housing and shelter options.

On September 30, 2020, City Council approved 5 new rest stops, creating the opportunity to place up to 75 shelter beds by winter and as many as 100 after 6 months of operation.

For the past year Lane County and City of Eugene staff have been working to advance the year one implementation strategies set out in the Service Framework, including expanding temporary sheltering, developing potential siting options for the shelter and navigation center, supporting the siting of permanent supportive housing, and hiring a Joint Housing and Shelter Strategist to advance these strategies and champion the system-level work. Work is also underway to implement Coordinated Outreach and Landlord Engagement as well as stand up low-barrier, non-congregate emergency shelter in light of the constraints the pandemic imposes.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

Oct. 14, 2020: Joint Work Session

Staff provided an updated timeline as to progress on recommendations, a snapshot of budget implications and funding obtained vs. funding needed, and a winter strategies update.

Sept. 30, 2020: Council Work Session

City Council moved to proceed with proposed rest stop strategy, engagement plan, and timeline to establish new rest stops to be operational before December 30, 2020. (Motion passed)

July 28, 2020: Joint Work Session

Staff provided an update of the homeless service system including the current number of unduplicated individuals accessing services in Lane County, impacts to emergency shelter due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and implementation plan.

July 21, 2020: Board of Commissioners Morning Meeting

Staff presented a draft Inclement Weather Strategies plan to increase non-congregate shelter options for the 2020/2021 winter under the COVID-19 pandemic.

June 8, 2020: Council Work Session

Staff provided an update of the homeless service system, including the COVID-19 pandemic response, programs and partnerships, implementation plan, funding, new outreach teams, and options.

July 17, 2019: Council Work Session

City Council moved to adopt funding recommendations. (Motion passed)

May 13, 2019: Joint Work Session

City Council supported the homeless services system improvement plan framework, that the City Manager move forward on immediate actions over the next year and directed the City Manager to bring back for Council approval a work plan, budget, and performance measures to identify success as soon as practical. (Motion passed)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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