



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Work Session Summary Minutes

Economic Development Program Update

May 8, 2025. 9:30 AM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Kevin Cameron, Colm Willis, and Danielle Bethell.

Board's Office: Chad Ball, Chris Eppley, Toni Whitler, Heather Inyama, Trevor Lane, Matt Lawyer, and Alvin Klausen.

Legal Counsel: Steve Elzinga.

Community Services: Ashley Jasckson, Sarah Couley, and Kelli Weese.

SEDCOR: Eric Andersson, and Kip Morris.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Program Updates & Discussion

- Tourism Marketing:
 - Developed new three-year funding strategy:
 - Travel Salem: \$100,000 annually.
 - North Marion Tourism Collaborative: \$50,000 annually.
 - New grant program: \$50,000 annually for emerging tourism initiatives.
 - Key accountability measures implemented:
 - Biannual written performance reports.
 - Annual in-person presentation to the Board.
 - Detailed work plan submissions required.
 - Emphasis on measurable economic impact.
 - Create more transparent, flexible funding approach.
 - Opened funding to non-traditional tourism organizations.
 - Removed quarterly reporting requirements.
- SEDCOR Agreement:
 - Requested comprehensive documentation of:
 - Entrepreneurial ecosystem development.
 - Business startup metrics.
 - Investment attraction efforts.
 - Specific community impact measurements.
 - Requested clear five-year strategic plan.
 - Emphasized need for tangible return on investment.
 - Requested annual summary of economic development activities.
- Community Prosperity Initiative:
 - Funding updates for 20 county cities.

- Key changes:
 - Increased annual allocation from \$15,000 to \$20,000.
 - Option for cities to request three-year funding in advance.
 - Standardized reporting requirements.
- Four cities approved for one-time distribution:
 - Hubbard.
 - Kaiser.
 - Scott Mills.
 - Saint Paul.
- 14 cities approved for annual distribution.
- Two cities (Gates and Gervais) funding postponed.
- Helping Youth Build (HYB) Food Truck – Economic Opportunity Program (EEOP):
 - Proposal introduced for youth entrepreneurship program.
 - Program goals:
 - Reduce youth crime.
 - Provide job skills training.
 - Create economic opportunities.
 - Recommended formal grant application process.
 - Potential funding range: \$30,000-\$50,000.
- Capital Futbol Club – EEOP:
 - Turn lane project grant application reviewed.
 - Proposed funding: \$708,000.
 - Detailed review of project costs requested.
 - Key considerations:
 - Verify engineering and permitting costs.
 - Explore cost-reduction opportunities.
 - Consult Public Works Department.
 - Recommended phased funding approach.
- FY 25-26 Budget Items:
 - Proposed transfer of \$158,229 from lottery funds to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME programs.
 - Administrative cost increase analysis.
 - Planned comprehensive budget work session.
 - Concerns about:
 - Rising administrative expenses.
 - General fund subsidies.
 - Long-term program sustainability.

Discussion

- Accountability in community investments.
- Proactive approach to economic development.
- Measurable outcomes for funded programs.
- Transparent funding mechanisms.
- Strategic community partnership development.
- Potential transient occupancy tax research.
- Natural gas line project funding exploration.
- Youth crime reduction strategies.

Next Steps

- Obtain detailed project cost breakdowns.

- Follow up on SEDCOR and tourism marketing agreements.
- Prepare comprehensive budget work session materials.
- Review Emerging Opportunity Grant applications.
- Develop systematic approach to tracking community investments.

Adjourned – time: 11:26 a.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White