



"Making Benton County a better place to live."

**Benton County Commissioner's Community
Planning**

May-June 2014

Benton, County
2014 Community Involvement in Our Future

In May and June of 2014 the Benton County Commissioners convened three community meetings to include residents in a process to give input to strategic planning for the County in the next 2-4 years.

Objectives of the Sessions:

- Include the general public, county advisory committees and county staff in creating Strategic Goals to meet community needs.
- Identify trends and external forces that we may have missed and need to pay attention to.
- Utilize the existing mission and values of Benton County government.
- Utilize our existing Goals and extending them by community action steps.
- Focus on the next 2-4 years.

Agenda for each session

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review of Benton County Mission, Values and Strategic Goals
- Exploration of Trends and Forces impacting Benton County residents
- Community Discussion of Future for Benton County
- Identify objectives and action for next 2-4 years
- Prioritize objectives and action for next 2 years
- Commissioners identify next steps of process

Benton County Mission

Making Benton County a better place to live—promote safe and nurturing environment where families and individuals can thrive and survive.

Benton County Values

People are the source of our strength and our vitality

Treating each other with **Respect**, care and integrity

Openness is necessary to be true to the mission, open to challenge, debate and change

Our county **Community** is a special place with unique assets and relationships among people

Self-government where elected and appointed representatives are entrusted with democratic powers and responsibilities to our home rule charter.


Strategic Focus 1995-2013

- Benton County is a leader, convener and collaborator for a safe, healthy and engaged community.
- Benton County is an effective, proactive and innovative community utilizing available talent.
- Benton County anticipates and responds to the changing needs of the community.

Trends and Forces Impacting Benton County

Trends-gradual changes over time that requires focus

Forces-Major change that demands action/reaction

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Increased availability of intoxicants, Illegal drugs • Mental health resources not adequate for increased needs • Aging population • Promoting health environment • Health care • Mental health-teen suicide • Oregon Health Plan—funding for self-sufficiency • Changing health delivery services • Development • Proliferation of cell towers • Changing population, more retirees, city expansion • Preserve land resources and their use • Water availability-increased population • Housing tracks replacing forest/natural areas • Water quality, quantity and cost • More walkable, bikeable city and county • Access for seniors and persons with disabilities in rural Benton County • Growth/No growth debates • Climate refugees—landslides, forest fires and water demand • Loss of rural/ag vision • Impacts of Bailey Branch not considered for ag and Monroe • Pressure on Natural resource industries • Climate change • Train/path development and increased theft • Sustainability trends need long term view • Transportation • Increased need for public transportation—regional • Dial a bus in North Albany • Increased traffic in/out of Corvallis and Albany on HWY 20 • Hazardous waste moving via rail • Road funding—fuel tax revenue decrease—electrical vehicles etc • Impact of bike/hike trails on Bailey Branch on farming operations • Road maintenance • Economic • Trending toward urban culture with less understanding of farming and ranching needs for 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Demand and expectations of responding and need for medical needs • Mental Hospital (Junction City) requiring increased housing and services for 1,000+ people • Health care • Food insecurity • Teen suicide • Economic • Lack of support for new and existing businesses • Poverty in rural areas-children and families • Revenue decreasing by 3%, expenses increasing by 6% • Governmental • Responsible use of County funds • Social media requires quicker response times • Increased regionalization without consideration of consequences • Lack of representation in South County • County is proceeding without consultation with residents impacted • Hidden agendas, lobbying by special interests • Coordination between county, city and OSU • Emergency planning for Cascadia event/other emergencies • Infrastructure • Build bike path on Bellfountain Rd. funded by selling RR to landowners • Power event-extended outages • Telecommunication failures • Development of County land without public transit • Encourage housing within City discourage housing away from city services • Environmental • Local food agriculture and fossil fuel use • Population growth at OSU • Epidemic watershed destruction • Climate change •
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">production• Traditional revenue resources drying up—need new resources• Lack of skilled technical workers• E-commerce-local retail vs. online shopping• Economic-natural resources, industries (farming, forest, ports development.)• Tax base too small(going to Polk/Linn counties)• Poverty in rural areas with children and families• State budget structure changes• Economic diversity• State has been encouraging grouping of counties and funding by regions• Large farms becoming larger and very small niche• Maintain a stable financial climate • Public Safety• Computer crime• Jail-Early release for work crews• Train/path development and increased theft• Earthquake retrofit of Courthouse• Aging and inadequate County facilities-jail and courthouse • Demographics• Education disparities• Increased diversity• Homeless and transient population in Corvallis, Philomath and Albany• Services for low income population• Winter shelter for homeless-permanent• Increased population• Population changes• Focus on urban v rural • Agriculture• Outside forces on farming-environmentalists watching over our shoulder• Young people want to farm• Wasted food (on trees)• Climate change• Disregard for rural and farming operations • Public Participation• Poor communications from Commissioners and residents of County• Apathetic public• Lack of informed public• Increase cynicism by citizens about government• Increased use of technology		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation • Connected open spaces and parks • Safe areas for people to bike and hike 		
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Benton County Strategic Goals and Community Priorities

Benton County is a leader, convener and collaborator for a safe healthy and engaged community	Benton County is an effective, proactive and innovative community utilizing available talent	Benton County anticipates and responds to the changing needs of the community
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate Change ▪ Support alternative energy/weatherization, solar/wind coops ▪ Prepare for climate change ▪ Collaborate with OSU on climate change mitigation and adaptation ▪ Collaboration ▪ Coordination of services within and across counties and organizations ▪ Increase collaboration with other local governments to provide services ▪ Community Development ▪ Reduce traffic in creative ways. Smart growth, shopping, housing, etc. ▪ Focus on business development in small towns ▪ Rail road right of way(Bailey Branch) back to land owners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education To Employment ▪ Enhance the dialogue between County and OSU for employment of graduating students in Benton County ▪ Reinststitute the trade school concept to provide trained employees for employers ▪ Local vocational training-focus on Forestry, Agriculture and Construction ▪ Business Development ▪ Improve/change direction to make exciting place to live and start business-focus on agriculture ▪ Support the success of small farms and woodlands ▪ Identify issues and areas where we have needs and promote private business and non-profit start ups to address these needs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Transportation ▪ Develop sustainable funding mechanism for roads, streets and bridges ▪ Increase advocacy for Federal funds to improve Highway 20 ▪ Develop a comprehensive “transportation corridor” plan that is region wide with all vested partners(Philomath-Corvallis-Albany) ▪ Community interconnectivity of trains w/sharing of resources of county and state ▪ Change entrance to Muddy Creek School ▪ Public Facilities ▪ Build a new jail ▪ New facility for County Health Dept. ▪ Change ORS 1.185 allow

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support growth of agriculture for the future ▪ Sell Bailey Branch back to land owners ▪ Quality of Life ▪ Awareness of concern for invasive(people on our land) ▪ Define metrics of quality of life for Benton County ▪ Promote healthy living and wellness programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare for local food storage and food processing ▪ Addressing Climate Change ▪ Promote mass transit & biking to lower GHG standards ▪ Address climate change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Robust emergency response ○ Encourage conservation of resources ○ Support citizens to be self-reliant during emergencies ▪ Meeting Community Needs ▪ Outreach workers providing mental health support to homeless community ▪ Zero tolerance for food insecurity ▪ Misc. ▪ Promote recreation and tourism together ▪ Organize our regional partners to lobby for funding priorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State funding to make jail a justice center ▪ Public Agency Interactions ▪ More information sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify best ways to communicate with public ▪ Focus on supporting agriculture in Benton County ▪ Cost/scope to building bike/trail on Bailey line ▪ Create an understanding of farming practices and safety for people and livestock ▪ Prioritize emergency preparedness and resilience planning ▪ Affordable Housing ▪ Address housing, transportation and health services for growing aging population ▪ Affordable housing to keep young families in County ▪ Misc. ▪ Control invasive species ▪ Campgrounds & cabins-hut to hut trails ▪ Remove obstructions to development ▪
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Next Steps

The next steps will be to bring the County community input into the internal planning and budgeting process.

1. Work with Commissioners and Department Heads and identify the Trends and Forces impacting Benton County and within the program/service jurisdiction of the County.
2. Leadership (Commissioners and Department Heads) identify key objectives from existing programs and Community objectives and prioritize them within the next 2-4 years.
3. Each department will prioritize and budget for their plan over the next 2-4 years and present to Dennis.
4. Operationalize action, measurements and accountabilities for 2015.