

CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER

PRESS RELEASE

August 19, 2008

The city of Milton-Freewater has received a \$45,000 grant from the State of Oregon to conduct an analysis of economic opportunities. The city will begin work on the project later this month and complete it next June.

The grant, issued by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), will also help the city assess the potential need for an urban growth boundary expansion. In the past few years, the state, city and Umatilla County have had differing views on how development along State Route 11 - from the north edge of Milton-Freewater to the state line - played out. That is now in the past.

"We are excited to begin this important analysis to identify Milton-Freewater's full economic potential and proactively plan for growth and prosperity," said Linda Hall, Milton-Freewater's city manager.

"We look forward to partnering with the state, the county and our citizens to put together a "360-degree" vision of what we have, what we could have and what we want to have in our community."

An Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA) typically includes:

- Community objectives;
- Local, regional and national economic trend analysis;
- Determination of sites suitable for the identified opportunities;
- An inventory of suitable sites available;
- Assessment of economic development potential; and
- Development of implementation policies.

The grant to Milton-Freewater includes an extra step to prepare for a potential coordination agreement with the county.

"Highway 11 and economic development in the Milton-Freewater area have been a county priority for some time now," said Dennis Doherty, Umatilla County Commissioner. "The county welcomes the state's participation and the city's leadership. The county will work closely with state and city representatives. We're looking for an outcome that is positive for everyone - in other words, a win - win - win."

The state, though DLCD, said the State Route 11 corridor has the potential to be an economic boon if it is thoroughly planned out.

"We are very pleased to work with both the city and the county on this important planning effort," said Richard Whitman, Director of DLCD.

"This work likely will be a model for other communities trying to address how to best secure their economic future."

For additional information please call Linda Hall, City Manager at 541-938-8242 or email at linda.hall@milton-freewater-or.gov