

**METRO**

MEETING: FUTURE VISION COMMISSION
(Joint meeting with Metro Council begins at 5:30 p.m.)

DATE: January 30, 1995

DAY: Monday

TIME: **3:00 p.m.** (note earlier starting time)

PLACE: Metro Regional Center
Room 370

3:00 Roll Call/Call to Order

1. Develop Final Comments on Future Vision Map 60 min..

4:00 **2. Develop Final Comments on Future Vision Commission Report** 90 min.
(January 25, 1995 draft)

5:30 **3. Joint Meeting with Metro Council and Executive Officer to** 90 min.
Review Future Commission Report

7:00 Adjourn

Portland State University

P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751

January 24, 1995

To: Members of the Future Vision Commission
From: Ethan Seltzer
Re: The Tasks Ahead

1) January 30 Agenda:

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 3 pm - 4 pm | Develop final comments on map |
| 4 pm - 5:30 pm | Develop final comments on words (see attached January 25, 1995, draft) |
| 5:30 pm - 7 pm | Meet with Metro Council and Executive |

2) Outreach Tasks - after our January 30 meetings the map and draft will be turned over to Metro's graphic designer and editor. They will develop the tabloid and return it to you for review on either February 13 or 27 (John will confirm date). In addition, at the meeting on either February 13 or 27, Metro staff will provide you with details regarding the listening posts, contact with communities outside the Metro boundary, and other outreach tasks and schedules.

3) Meeting with the Metro Council and Executive on January 30 - the purpose of that meeting will be to discuss the path to adoption with the Council and Executive. The Council will develop items for discussion at its meeting later today. The Future Vision Commission has agreed to raise the following issues during the discussion:

- Council commitment to the adoption process and roles for Council and Future Vision Commission (Peggy)
- Monitoring and evaluation as critical components of implementing the Future Vision, acting on the Commission's findings regarding carrying capacity, and demonstrating Metro's commitment to achieving the objectives outlined in the 2040 concept and upcoming Regional Framework Plan (Mike)
- Building relationships outside Metro's boundaries/need for an effective "foreign policy" in order to avoid what happened to Metro Toronto (Peter)

If there are other issues that you'd like to raise, please contact Susan McLain at Metro to coordinate.

4) Path to Adoption - the next six months looks something like this:

Feb 13 or 27...meet with Metro staff to review tabloid and outreach plans
mid-March to April 1...tabloid out, contacts with neighboring communities and MPAC
mid-April to May 1...listening posts

Memo to FVC - page 2

mid-May to June 1...review and revise draft
mid-June...Council hearings and adoption

This timeline is subject to change depending on the date by which the Council and the Executive want to act. Alice Schlenker, as the MPAC representative on the Commission, will work with Metro Staff to ensure that MPAC participates in the adoption of the Future Vision and will involve Commission members as needed in work with MPAC.

Please feel free to contact me or Ken Gervais should you have any comments or questions. Note that our next meeting after January 30 will be on either the 13th or 27th of February. We'll work with John to specify the date as soon as possible.

Thanks!

FUTURE VISION

**Report of Metro's Future Vision Commission
Values, Vision Statements, and Action Steps**

January 24, 1995 - DRAFT

CONTENTS

1		
2		
3	PREAMBLE	3
4	VALUES	5
5	MAP	7
6	VISION STATEMENTS AND ACTION STEPS	
7	• Introduction	7
8	• Each Individual	13
9	• Our Society	16
10	• Our Place	20
11	IMPLEMENTATION	26
12	APPENDICES:	32
13	• SETTLEMENT PATTERN REPORT	
14	• CARRYING CAPACITY REPORT	
15	• WORKSTYLES REPORT	
16	• EDUCATION REPORT	
17	• 2040 TESTIMONY	
18	• COMMISSION ROSTER	
19	• RECORD OF MEETINGS	
20	• BIBLIOGRAPHY	

PREAMBLE

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In 1805, Lewis and Clark came to this region, sent by President Jefferson on a journey of peace and friendship, scientific exploration, conquest, and discovery. Beginning in the 1840's, thousands of pioneers made an arduous 2,000 mile, eight month trek along the Oregon trail to river valleys with rich farmlands and mountains with vast forests. Today, people are still attracted to this region for its jobs, natural beauty, and culture of livability. Simply put, this is a great place to live. We want to keep it that way.

However, today we are on an equally arduous journey into the future, one that challenges our expectation that this will continue to be a place where people choose to invest their talents and energy to keep what is good and fulfill our hopes for this land and all of its peoples. We must act now and together. We offer this vision of the nine-county region in 2045 as a first step in developing policies, plans, and actions that serve our bi-state region and all its people.

The bi-state metropolitan area has effects on, and is affected by, a much bigger region than the land inside Metro's current boundaries. Our ecologic and economic region stretches from the crest of the Cascades to the crest of the Coast Range, and from Longview on the north to Salem on the south. Any vision for a territory as large and diverse as this must be regarded as both ambitious and a work-in-progress. We offer this document in that spirit.

This vision has been developed with the expectation that individual dreams and effort will matter. Our region is a place that rewards those who commit themselves to keeping and making it a great place to live. Our region is a place where people act to meet the future, rather than waiting to cope with its eccentricities. History teaches the often cruel lesson that a community that does not possess a clear vision of the kind of future it wants is not likely to be satisfied with the one it gets.

47 Making the effort to identify what we want, and then acting purposefully and collectively to
48 achieve it, is critical.

49
50 Your Future Vision Commission has attempted to reflect the hopes and conscience of the people
51 who live here - we are neither oracles nor social engineers. Rather, we affirm differences in
52 thought and ways of life. We celebrate the individual as well as the community. We encourage
53 self-reliance and self-fulfillment as well as civic participation and civic pride.

VALUES

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56 Our way of life in this region embodies a number of interconnected values that are essential to
57 facing the future wisely:

58

59 • We value taking purposeful action to advance our aspirations for this region, shaped by
60 the realization that we should not act to meet our needs today in a manner that limits or
61 eliminates the ability of future generations to meet their needs and enjoy this landscape
62 we're privileged to inhabit.

63

64 • We value natural systems for their intrinsic value, and recognize our responsibility to be
65 stewards of the region's natural resources.

66

67 • We value the greatest possible individual liberty in politics, economics, lifestyle, belief,
68 and conscience, with the full understanding that this liberty cannot be fully realized or long
69 endure unless accompanied by shared commitments for community, civic involvement, and
70 the health of our environment as a whole.

71

72 • We believe in the conservation and preservation of natural and historic landscape
73 resources. Widespread land restoration and redevelopment must precede any future
74 conversion of land to urban uses to meet our present and future needs.

75

76 • We value economic development because of the opportunities it affords us all, but
77 recognize that there can be true economic development only with unimpaired and
78 sustainable natural ecosystems, and suitable social mechanisms to insure dignity and equity
79 for all, and compassion for those in need

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• We value our regional identity, sense of place, and unique reputation among metropolitan areas, and celebrate the identity and accomplishments of our urban neighborhoods and suburban and rural communities as well.

• We value participatory decisionmaking which harnesses the creativity inherent in a wide range of views, dissenting and consenting, about the past, present, and future.

• We value a life close to the beauty and inspiration of nature, incorporated into urban development in a manner that remains a model for metropolitan areas into the next century.

• We value vibrant cities that are both an inspiration and a crucial resource for commerce, cultural activities, politics, and community building.

• We value meeting the needs of our communities through grass-roots initiatives that are always aware of and in harmony with the collective interest of our overall metropolitan community.

• We value a cultural atmosphere and public policy that will insure that every child in every community enjoys the greatest possible opportunities to fulfill his or her potential in life. It is, after all, primarily for them, and for their children, that we propose this vision.

101 VISION STATEMENTS AND ACTION STEPS

102 Introduction...

103 The Metro Charter, approved by voters in 1992, calls for the creation of two new planning
104 products: the Future Vision and the Regional Framework Plan. The Future Vision is described in
105 the Charter as follows:

106 “(1) Future Vision. (a) Adoption. The council shall adopt a Future Vision
107 for the region between January 15, 1995 and July 1, 1995. The Future Vision
108 is a conceptual statement that indicates population levels and settlement patterns
109 that the region can accommodate within the carrying capacity of the land, water,
110 and air resources of the region, and its educational and economic resources, and
111 that achieves a desired quality of life. The Future Vision is a long-term,
112 visionary outlook for at least a 50-year period. As used in this section, “region”
113 means the Metro area and adjacent areas.

114 (b) Matters Addressed. The matters addressed by the
115 Future Vision include but are not limited to: (1) use, restoration, and
116 preservation of regional land and natural resources for the benefit of present and
117 future generations, (2) how and where to accommodate the population growth
118 for the region while maintaining a desired quality of life for its residents, and
119 (3) how to develop new communities and additions to the existing urban areas
120 in well-planned ways.

121 ...

122 (e) Effect. The Future Vision is not a regulatory
123 document. It is the intent of this charter that the Future Vision have no effect
124 that would allow court or agency review of it.”

125
126 Metro is also directed to develop a “Regional Framework Plan” consisting of a number of

127 individual plans for issues of regional significance--the transportation system, urban growth
128 boundary, water resources, air quality, and housing densities, among others. The relationship
129 between the Future Vision and the Regional Framework Plan is explained in the Charter as
130 follows:

131 "The Regional Framework Plan shall: (1) describe its relationship to the Future Vision,
132 (2) comply with applicable statewide planning goals, (3) be subject to compliance
133 acknowledgement by the Land Conservation and Development Commission or its
134 successor, and (4) be the basis for coordination of local comprehensive plans and
135 implementing regulations."

136
137 Your Future Vision Commission has developed this document in response to both the requirements
138 and the spirit of the Charter. The following vision statements, in concert with the Future Vision
139 Map, provides the "conceptual statement" sought by the framers of the Charter and directly
140 addresses Charter requirements in the following ways:

- 141 • The Region - our area of interest is not the "3-county" or "4-county" area, but nine
142 counties (Clackamas, Clark, Columbia, Cowlitz, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Washington,
143 and Yamhill) which interact now and will interact more completely in the future. We can
144 no longer afford to view ourselves apart from this larger metropolitan context, itself a part
145 of Cascadia, North America, the Pacific Rim, and a truly international economy.
- 146 • Population Levels and Settlement Patterns - our work has depended on population
147 projections and scenarios for its allocation developed through existing planning processes
148 in Oregon and Washington. The Future Vision Map depicts the relationship between this
149 written document and the landscape of the 9-county, bi-state region.
- 150 • Carrying Capacity - this metropolitan area, like all others, exceeded its physical
151 carrying capacity long ago. Our style of life depends on the importation of energy,
152 materials, capital, and "brain power" from all over the world. We've also found that

153 traditional biological models of carrying capacity are simply too narrowly drawn to be of
154 much use in a metropolitan setting. Though some will seek a number that ought to
155 represent the maximum population that this region can sustain, our discussions and study
156 of this issue lead us to the conclusion that settling on a number is artificial and
157 unproductive.

158
159 In fact, the question is not so much whether we have or have not exceeded carrying
160 capacity in some absolute sense, but whether our continuing inhabitation of this landscape
161 is occurring in a manner that will allow us to meet established criteria for protecting human
162 health and the environment, and serves our values associated with livability and
163 sustainability. Quite simply, carrying capacity must be viewed and discussed in a cultural
164 and social as well as physical context.

165
166 For that reason, and based on our review of the carrying capacity concept, we have chosen
167 to approach carrying capacity as an issue requiring ongoing discussion and monitoring.
168 We believe that the relevant question is not “when” carrying capacity will be exceeded, but
169 “how” we will collectively restore, maintain, and enhance the qualities of the region central
170 to sustaining our health, the quality of the natural environment, and the ability of future
171 generations to take action to meet the issues of their time.

172
173 Sustainable communities will come about through the skillful blending of factual data, our
174 values, and new ideas in a public discussion occupying a place of honor in this region, not
175 through blind adherence to numerical thresholds that cannot be specified, much less met.
176 Hence, carrying capacity is not a one-time issue, a single number, a simple answer, but an
177 ongoing question for us all.

178

179 • New Communities - this vision does not call specifically for the creation of new
180 communities. We choose, instead, to focus on the restoration and redevelopment of what
181 has already been committed to non-resource use. However, the values, vision statements,
182 and map, taken together, describe the nature of our region in 2045, and as such can be used
183 as a template for what any community, new or old, ought to embody.

- 184
- 185 • Other Issues - there are a number of issues that will require us, in the future, to
186 rethink some of our assumptions:
- 187 • telecommunications and information technologies are upon us but precise effects
188 on quality of life and urban form are not yet known;
 - 189 • some aspects of our quality of life are likely to deteriorate with growth, some will
190 be enhanced;
 - 191 • there will almost certainly be a change in the ways we use fossil fuels in the next
192 50 years;
 - 193 • our sense of region will likely change as technology and the economy change.

194 After long discussion, we recognize that these issues and more will have profound and
195 largely unknown implications for our vision and this region. Nonetheless, we must move
196 forward with the belief that our region will rise to the challenges as they become apparent.

197

198 The vision statements fall logically into three groups, based on our belief that as inhabitants of this
199 bi-state region, we are committed to:

- 200
- 201 1) Each Individual - the development of each individual as a productive, effective
202 member of this region. We believe that this region must make clear and unambiguous
203 commitments to each individual in order that we all may have a vibrant, healthy place to
204 live. This doesn't mean that our region must be all things to all people. It can't. Rather,

205 our challenge is to speak clearly about what we can and will do to support the ability of
206 individuals to participate fully in the prospering and stewardship of this region, balanced
207 by the responsibility of individuals to their community and region. Three vision statements
208 are presented for our aspirations for individuals:

- 209 I-1 Children
- 210 I-2 Education
- 211 I-3 Participation

212 2) Our Society - the ability to state and act on the collective interest of our communities
213 through civic involvement, a strong economy, and vital societal institutions. The ability to
214 work together, in the truest sense, is the hallmark of great communities and flourishing
215 societies. Engaging people with each other and with our economy, to solve problems and
216 act on dreams, is the cornerstone for how we go forward into the future. Six vision
217 statements are presented for our aspirations for our society:

- 218 S-1 Safety
- 219 S-2 Economy
- 220 S-3 Diversity
- 221 S-4 Civic Life
- 222 S-5 Vital Communities
- 223 S-6 Roots

224 3) Our Place - the physical landscape of the nine-county, bi-state region, the settlement
225 patterns that have evolved within it, and the economy that continues to evolve. We live in a
226 landscape of great variety and beauty, a stage for an enviable range of possibilities.
227 Preserving that vast sense of diversity must be the core of our legacy of inhabitation. Eight
228 vision statements are presented for our aspirations for our place:

- 229 P-1 Rural Land
- 230 P-2 Choice

- 231 P-3 A Life in Nature
- 232 P-4 Walking
- 233 P-5 Linkages
- 234 P-6 Downtowns
- 235 P-7 Equity
- 236 P-8 Growth Management

237 The vision statements have been developed with the elements of the Regional Framework Plan in
238 mind. Clearly, Metro has a critical role to play as planner, convener, monitor, and leader.
239 However, as in the past, the success we achieve in the future will be a collaborative
240 accomplishment. Keep in mind that the “strength” of this or any Future Vision for advising and
241 guiding policy and regulation is entirely dependent on its scope and persuasiveness. It is an
242 unparalleled opportunity to create an environment of consensus and predictability in the region for
243 what Metro’s planning and policymaking ought to accomplish.

EACH INDIVIDUAL (I)

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245

246 • I-1 CHILDREN - In 2045, the welfare of children is of critical importance to our present and
247 future wellbeing. Creating and sustaining public and private initiatives that support family life are
248 among our highest priorities.

249 •To Achieve this vision:

250 --Recognize the needs of children as a critical metropolitan issue, and ensure that
251 responsibility is assigned and assumed for meeting those needs.

252 --Regularly review surveys of children and families and incorporate the results in
253 all facets of planning and policymaking in the nine-county region.

254 --Incorporate the needs of children for healthy, safe, and accessible living
255 environments in Regional Framework Plan elements dealing with the
256 transportation system, housing, urban design and settlement patterns, and parks
257 and open space.

258 --Develop new partnerships involving business, government, citizen, cultural, and
259 educational organizations to incorporate the needs and act on opportunities for
260 children and their families as part of planning, budgeting, and administrative
261 processes.

262

263 • I-2 EDUCATION - In 2045, education, in its broadest definition, stands as the core of our
264 commitment to each other. Life-long learning is the critical ingredient that enables the residents of
265 this region to adapt to new ideas, new technologies, and changing economic conditions. Our
266 commitment to education is a commitment to equipping all people with the means to not only
267 survive but to prosper in this landscape.

268 • To achieve this vision:

269 --Work with other government entities and with educational and cultural

270 organizations to ensure that:

271 - parents are aware that the foundation of a child's language is developed in
272 the first six months of life, and that infants should be read to from birth;

273 - public library policies, staffing, and resources are strong enough to reach
274 out and effectively serve all citizens;

275 - children receive an education that brings them to the entry level
276 competency of post-secondary education;

277 - our educational system includes an emphasis on both English literacy and
278 foreign languages, an understanding of evolving information technology,
279 and the ability to engage national and international opportunities at home, in
280 the community, and on the job.

281 --Provide adequate public and private support for a variety of institutions of higher
282 education to meet needs for life-long learning, including obtaining college degrees,
283 improving job skills, and simply enjoying the excitement of learning.

284 --Create and enhance cooperative ventures linking public and private enterprises to
285 ensure that:

286 - community arts and performance centers, community libraries and
287 schools, colleges and universities, concert halls, galleries, museums,
288 nature centers, and theaters are each vital links in an integrated educational
289 system for all residents;

290 - opportunities exist for all children and community residents, regardless of
291 income, to engage in the visual, literary, and performing arts in community
292 centers close to their homes.

293 --higher education in the metropolitan area draws its identity and mission
294 from its interaction with the people, communities, economy, and landscape
295 of our nine-county region. Here, higher education is truly a reflection of

296 the needs of our people, the role of the region in an international economy,
297 and the unique opportunities afforded by our landscape and history.

298
299 • I-3 PARTICIPATION - In 2045, all residents, old and young, rich and poor, men and
300 women, minority and majority, are supported and encouraged to be well-informed and active
301 participants in the civic life of their communities and the bi-state region. Ours is a region that
302 thrives on interaction and engagement of its people to achieve community objectives.

- 303 • To achieve this vision:
 - 304 --Include citizen involvement and education programs as a core function for all
 - 305 government institutions, including schools.
 - 306 --Promote an atmosphere of inclusiveness and tolerance of social, political, racial,
 - 307 and economic differences.
 - 308 --Provide adequate funding to enable broad-based participation by all economic
 - 309 groups.
 - 310 --Establish objectives for accessibility for all citizens to all civic programs and
 - 311 events, and actively seek their achievement.
 - 312 --Initiate and facilitate ongoing discussion of this Future Vision in neighborhood
 - 313 and community forums.
 - 314 --Coordinate a region-wide web for disseminating and collecting information
 - 315 involving public libraries, schools, business and civic organizations, and
 - 316 neighborhood and community groups.
 - 317 --Strengthen neighborhood, community, and regional public library resources to
 - 318 continue to offer free reader, reference, and information services to all.

319

OUR SOCIETY (S)

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322 • S-1 SAFETY - In 2045, personal safety within communities and throughout the region is
323 commonly expected as well as a shared responsibility involving citizens and all government
324 agencies. Our definition of personal safety extends from the elimination of prejudice, to the
325 physical protection of life and property from criminal harm. Our hope and expectation is for a
326 society whose residents do not expect safety or protection to rely on guns or physical violence.

327

- To achieve this vision:

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- Recognize that true community safety results from a collaborative effort involving
329 citizens, their government, and business. Support local initiatives to address public
330 safety issues in this manner through targeted public investment.

331

- Identify and address public and personal safety issues in the Regional
332 Framework Plan elements dealing with transportation, urban design, and bi-state
333 coordination.

334

- Identify public safety as a metropolitan area issue, rather than simply the concern
335 of a single jurisdiction or agency.

335

336

- Train community members in alternative means for dispute resolution.

337

- Co-sponsor with community groups activities that are designed to increase
338 community cohesion and the interaction of community members with each other.

338

339

340 • S-2 ECONOMY - In 2045, our bi-state, regional economy is diverse, with urban and rural
341 economies linked in a common frame. Planning and governmental action have created conditions
342 that support the development of family wage jobs in centers in the region.

343

- To achieve this vision:

344

- Direct all regional planning efforts to incorporate equitable economic progress for
345 communities throughout the region as a critical component for modelling and

346 evaluation.
347 --Address the further diversification of our economy, the creation of family wage
348 jobs, and the development of accessible employment centers throughout the nine-
349 county region in the Regional Framework Plan elements for transportation, rural
350 lands, urban design, housing, and water resources.
351 --Actively foster and engage enterprises that are attracted to our landscape and to the
352 human resources already here...those firms that need what we have, not what
353 we're willing to give away.

354
355 • S-3 DIVERSITY - In 2045, our communities are known for their openness and acceptance.
356 This region is distinguished by its ability to honor diversity in a manner that leads to civic cohesion
357 rather than a narrow separateness.

358 • To achieve this vision:
359 --Focus public policy and investment on the creation of mixed-use communities
360 which include dedicated public space and a broad range of housing types.
361 --Reinforcing cross cultural understanding and tolerance through positive
362 celebration of our region's diverse heritages and support for cultural expressions.
363 --Publicly recognize efforts, both public and private, that encourage all citizens to
364 be full participants in the civic and economic life of the region.
365 --Address the creation of community cohesion and a true civic culture in Regional
366 Framework Plan elements concerned with urban design, housing, and bi-state
367 governance.

368
369 • S-4 CIVIC LIFE - In 2045, citizens embrace responsibility for sustaining a rich, inclusive civic
370 life. Political leadership is valued and recognized to be in service to community life.

371 • To achieve this vision:

372 --Enact campaign finance and other reforms which make the pursuit of elective
373 office and the expression of minority views without fear of retribution a realistic
374 goal for all citizens.

375 --Strongly support public involvement in government initiatives, and provide
376 resources needed to develop innovative ways for expanding opportunities for
377 participation and making it more useful and effective for citizens and communities.

378
379 • S-5 VITAL COMMUNITIES - In 2045, communities throughout the bi-state region are
380 socially healthy and responsive to the needs of their residents. Government initiatives and services
381 have been developed to empower individual communities to actively meet the needs of their
382 residents. The economic life of the community is inseparable from its social and civic life.
383 Coordinated initiatives for health care and support for meeting basic needs are extended to those in
384 need, where they live.

385 • To achieve this vision:

386 --Identify needs and solutions to community problems from the neighborhood
387 level, and actively work to enlist all units of government in supporting and acting
388 on these grassroots agendas rather than allowing governmental entities to insulate
389 themselves from participating.

390 --Incorporate specific expectations for a basic standard of living for all citizens in
391 Regional Framework Plan elements concerned with urban design, housing,
392 transportation, and parks and open space.

393 --Recognize the presence of chronic poverty as a metropolitan issue. Support local
394 initiatives to address chronic poverty through targeted public investments, revisions
395 in tax codes, and metropolitan tax-base sharing.

396
397 • S-6 ROOTS - In 2045, our history serves us well, with the lessons of the past remembered and

398 incorporated in our strategies for the future. Our fellow citizens know our cultural history well,
399 and this knowledge helps them ground social and public policy in the natural heritage we depend
400 on and value so dearly.

401 • To achieve this vision:

402 --Preserve designated historical sites/structures, and use public incentives and
403 investments as necessary to preserve our history.

404 --Incorporate historical sites and events in the region in public events, school
405 curricula, and planning.

406 --Specifically incorporate historic preservation and landscape ecology in Regional
407 Framework Plan elements concerned with transportation, housing, urban design,
408 rural lands and the urban growth boundary, parks and open space, and bi-state
409 governance.

410

OUR PLACE (P)

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• P-1 RURAL LAND - In 2045, rural land shapes our sense of place by keeping our cities separate from one another, supporting viable farm and forest resource enterprises, and keeping our citizens close to nature, farms, forests, and other resource lands and activities.

• To achieve this vision:

--Develop and implement local plans and the urban growth boundary and rural lands elements of the Regional Framework Plan to:

- actively reinforce the protection of lands currently reserved for farm and forest uses for those purposes. No conversion of such lands to urban, suburban, or rural residential use will be allowed; and
- allow rural residential development only within existing exception areas or their equivalent. Rural residential development shall retain the rural character of the area, and be consistent with nearby farm and forest practices, the ability of natural systems to absorb new development, and the capacity of currently available public services.

--Work with the Departments of Agriculture and Forestry, in both states, to develop a broad program of public education about and contact with this region's agricultural and forest products producers.

• P-2 CHOICE - In 2045, our region is composed of numerous, distinct communities, open to all, which together provide a wide variety of healthy, appealing, and affordable housing and neighborhood choices. They are physically compact and have distinct identities and boundaries. Truly public space exists in every community, and serves as the stage for a rich and productive civic dialogue.

• To achieve this vision:

437 --Target greenspaces, transportation, and other funds to communities which act to
438 provide a range of housing types within their boundaries.
439 --Link the provision of building permits for single family detached structures to the
440 creation of mixed use neighborhood centers.
441 --Develop and implement community plans to clarify and strengthen distinct
442 identities. To the extent possible, develop boundaries between communities using
443 parks, rivers, streams, floodplains, and other landscape features.
444 --Make the development of complete, mixed affordable communities the central
445 focus for Regional Framework Plan elements dealing with housing, urban design,
446 and parks and open space.

447
448 • P-3 A LIFE IN NATURE - Our place sits at the confluence of great rivers, the Columbia,
449 Lewis, Sandy, and the Willamette and its tributaries, which dominate the landscape. This is a
450 region of water, volcanic buttes, and forest-clad mountains and hills. The metropolitan region is a
451 unique ecosystem, one which encompasses urban, rural, and wild within a common landscape. In
452 2045, our region is known for the intelligent integration of urban and rural development into this
453 common ecosystem as evidenced by:

454 -- improved air and water quality, and increasing biodiversity;
455 -- views of Mt. Hood, Mt. St. Helens, Mt. Rainier, Mt. Adams, Mt. Jefferson, and other
456 Cascade and coastal peaks, unobstructed by either development or air pollution;
457 -- ribbons of green bringing greenspaces and parks within walking distance of every
458 household;
459 -- a close and supportive relationship between natural resources, landscape, the built
460 environment, and the economy of the region; and
461 -- restored ecosystems, complemented by planning and development initiatives that
462 preserve the fruits of those labors.

- 463 • To achieve this vision:
- 464 --Ensure that Regional Framework Plan elements for transportation, the urban
- 465 growth boundary, rural lands, urban design and settlement patterns, parks and
- 466 open space, and bi-state governance positively affect the indicators listed above.
- 467 --Work with partners in the region to develop comprehensive interpretive programs
- 468 for the metropolitan ecosystem.
- 469 --Manage watersheds to protect, restore, and manage the integrity of streams,
- 470 wetlands, and floodplains and their multiple biological, physical, and social values.
- 471 --Create an interconnected mosaic of urban forest that provides multiple benefits to
- 472 neighborhoods, including shading and reduction of temperature extremes,
- 473 aesthetics, and habitat for local wildlife.
- 474 --Value the quality of natural resources and the landscape alongside other variables
- 475 when assessing the costs and benefits of new development and/or attracting new
- 476 enterprises to the region.

477

478 • P-4 WALKING - In 2045, residents of this region can shop, play, and socialize by walking or

479 biking within their neighborhoods. Walking, biking, or using transit are attractive alternatives for

480 a wide range of trips within neighborhoods, between important regional centers, and outside of the

481 urban area. This region is known for the utility of its non-auto transportation alternatives.

- 482 • To achieve this vision:
- 483 --Focus the urban design, settlement pattern, housing, transportation, and parks
- 484 and open space elements of the Regional Framework Plan on the design of new
- 485 neighborhoods and retrofitting old ones to better support walking, biking, and
- 486 transit use.
- 487 --Review and continually revise, as necessary, local land use plans and
- 488 transportation policies to dramatically increase the mode split for walking, and to

489 ensure the close interconnection of land use and transportation planning initiatives.
490 --Develop new commitments to funding arterial streets and bicycle and pedestrian
491 facilities.
492 --Focus the transportation element of the Regional Framework Plan on two central
493 issues: the creation of walkable neighborhoods and employment centers, and goods
494 movement.

495

496 • P-5 LINKAGES - In 2045, goods, materials, and information move easily throughout the bi-
497 state region. Manufacturing, distribution, and office employment centers are linked to the
498 transportation and communication systems in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

499 • To achieve this vision:

500 --Incorporate goods movement and telecommunications technologies in Regional
501 Framework Plan elements concerned with transportation, urban design and
502 settlement patterns, and bi-state governance.

503 --Utilize new technologies and targeted public investment to move the work to
504 workers, rather than workers to the work.

505

506 • P-6 DOWNTOWNS - In 2045, downtown Portland continues to serve an important, defining
507 role for the entire metropolitan region. In addition, reinvestment, both public and private, has been
508 focused in historic urban centers such as Ridgefield, Camas, Vancouver, Gresham, St. Helens,
509 Beaverton, Hillsboro, Molalla, Woodburn, and others throughout our bi-state region. This pattern
510 of reinvestment and renewal continues to be the centerpiece of our strategy for building and
511 maintaining healthy communities.

512 • To achieve this vision:

513 --Target public and encourage private investment in infrastructure, workforce
514 development, and for other public purposes to existing neighborhoods, town

515 centers and downtown Portland.

516 --Address reinvestment in urban center in the Regional Framework Plan elements

517 concerned with the urban growth boundary, transportation, urban design and

518 settlement patterns, and bi-state governance.

519

520 • P-7 EQUITY - In 2045, the tradeoffs associated with growth and change have been fairly

521 distributed throughout the region. Our commitment to managing growth with an eye on the future

522 is matched by an equal commitment to social equity for the communities of today and tomorrow.

523 The true environmental and social cost of new growth has been paid by those, both new to the

524 region and already present, receiving the benefits of that new growth.

525 • To achieve this vision:

526 --Identify the presence of pockets of poverty as a metropolitan problem. Address

527 the issues associated with chronic poverty in locations throughout the nine-county

528 region through such mechanisms as tax base sharing, pursuing changes in tax

529 codes, overcoming physical and economic barriers to access, providing affordable

530 housing throughout the area, and targeted public investments.

531 --Ensure that the costs of growth and change are borne by those who receive the

532 benefits.

533 --Develop fair and equitable funding mechanisms for all public infrastructure

534 needed to support growth and to keep infrastructure and service levels from

535 declining as growth occurs.

536 --Address issues associated with chronic poverty in locations throughout the region

537 in Regional Framework Plan elements concerned with transportation, housing, the

538 urban growth boundary, and bi-state governance.

539

540 • P-8 GROWTH MANAGEMENT - In 2045, growth in the region has been managed. Our

541 objective has been and still is to live in great cities, not merely big ones. Performance indicators
542 and standards have been established for the Future Vision and all other growth management
543 efforts, and citizens of the bi-state region annually have an opportunity to review and comment on
544 our progress. The results of that review process are used to frame appropriate actions needed to
545 maintain and enhance our regional quality of life.

546 • To achieve this vision:

547 --Annually produce a "state of the region" report which concisely points out the
548 trends, strengths, and weaknesses in performance towards the vision statements
549 listed above, followed by a survey to determine whether the public is satisfied with
550 our progress. Short and long-term actions will be shaped by this review, and the
551 results will be reported to the people of the region.

552 --Use the values and vision statements in this document as the starting point for
553 developing evaluative criteria associated with the development of each element of
554 the Regional Framework Plan.

555 --Broaden the elements of the Regional Framework Plan to include environmental
556 quality, sustainability, public safety, the welfare of children, and education.

557 --Create an accountable bi-state, nine-county institutional framework for discussing
558 and addressing issues which extend beyond Metro's jurisdictional boundaries, and
559 incorporating such an institution in the Regional Framework Plan element
560 concerned with bi-state coordination.

561

IMPLEMENTATION

562

563

564 We recommend that the Metro Council, upon the adoption of the Future Vision, identify and act on
565 measures to implement the vision conscientiously, affirmatively, and proactively. The Metro
566 Charter calls for the Metro Council to adopt a Future Vision, and to “describe the relationship” of
567 the Regional Framework Plan to that Future Vision. Further, the Charter specifically prevents the
568 Future Vision from having any “effect that would allow court or agency review of it”.

569

570 Clearly, the ambition for implementation of the Future Vision, as expressed in the Charter, is quite
571 modest. However, we live in a landscape which is home to communities of substantially greater
572 ambition. In fact, our participation in this project has impressed on us that our nine-county, bi-
573 state region deserves the attention, affection, and stewardship to which we are singly and
574 collectively called.

575

576 We believe that implementing actions could include, but not be limited to, the following:

577

578 1) Regional Framework Plan - We have attempted to identify actions to implement
579 individual vision statements in conjunction with Regional Framework Plan elements. The
580 Council should use those proposed actions at the beginning of the process for creating
581 Framework Plan elements in order to ensure that there is a relationship between the Future
582 Vision and the Regional Framework Plan to “describe”.

583

584 2) Vision Index - The Metro Council can use the vision statements to create a Vision
585 Index for use as a diagnostic or evaluative tool in planning, policymaking and budgeting.
586 The Council could direct that the vision statements be used at the outset of new or ongoing
587 initiatives to guide the formulation of decision criteria. As examples, the following kinds of

588 questions might get asked:

- 589 • Will the action or plan assist in improving the welfare of children?
- 590 • Will the action or plan help to extend educational resources to the people of the
- 591 region more effectively or comprehensively?
- 592 • How, if at all, will the action or plan enable improve the ability of people
- 593 throughout the region to compete for jobs or other opportunities?
- 594 • Will the action or plan, through its development and implementation, serve as a
- 595 vehicle for enabling wider participation in policy formation and planning?
- 596 • Does the action or plan support and encourage efforts to engage citizens and
- 597 business to join with government to improve public safety?
- 598 • Will the action or plan add to efforts to diversify our economy and encourage the
- 599 creation of new enterprises best able to further other regional objectives?
- 600 ...and so on.

601

602 3) Annual State of the Region Review - of critical importance will be efforts to

603 promote, lead, and engage the citizens and communities of the region in an ongoing

604 discussion of our future. The Metro Council and Metro Executive should commit

605 themselves to a program of monitoring that is designed to provide the data needed to

606 evaluate whether the region is achieving the goals that it has set for itself. The best plans,

607 left unattended and unexamined, will not secure the future for this region that it deserves.

608 In fact, the investment being made in plans must be complemented by a relatively small

609 commitment to monitoring and evaluation, as proposed here, if the value of that planning is

610 to be realized.

611

612 Metro should begin by recruiting a technical advisory team to provide advice and review

613 during the development of a short list of indicators or benchmarks for assessing progress

614 towards implementing the Future Vision and the Regional Framework Plan. Such a list is
615 not meant to be exhaustive. Rather, it should include key indicators that, when discussed
616 in a public forum, would direct attention to issues requiring urgent attention. It is a list of
617 the “canaries” that alert us to hazards ahead. Based on our work, we believe that the initial
618 list of indicators for this task should be:

- 619 • I-1 CHILDREN - Readiness to learn (already collected by the Oregon Progress
620 Board)
- 621 • I-2 EDUCATION - Adult literacy; student skill achievement; time to rehire and/or
622 to attainment of previous income
- 623 • I-3 PARTICIPATION - Voter turnout in local and metro races; number of
624 candidates in local and metro races (available from counties)
- 625 • S-1 SAFETY - Crime rates by crime; perception of crime surveys; % of schools
626 with no reported crimes
- 627 • S-2 ECONOMY - Household income; Percapita income; business formation;
628 business failures; business license activity by economic sector (much is already in
629 RLIS)
- 630 • S-3 DIVERSITY - Bias crime rate; standardized segregation index (census)
- 631 • S-4 CIVIC LIFE - Number of active neighborhood associations, CPO's, etc.;;
632 number and types of voluntary associations by community
- 633 • S-5 VITAL COMMUNITIES - Number of newspapers, radio stations, cable
634 access studios, etc. by community; proximity of public/civic space to households;
635 number of self-nominations for recognition of neighborhood “breakthroughs”
636 (check benchmarks)
- 637 • S-6 ROOTS - Number of designated structures saved/demolished; number of
638 annual celebrations of place and history by community
- 639 • P-1 RURAL LAND - Number of acres in farms with gross sales of at least

640 \$40,000.00 outside UGB's; number lots less than or equal to five acres in size
641 outside of UGB's; number of acres of land zoned for exclusive farm or forest use
642 converted to other classifications

- 643 • P-2 CHOICE - number of dwelling units within a quartermile of parks,
644 shopping, transit, and public buildings; percentage of households able to afford the
645 median sale price for housing by community
- 646 • P-3 A LIFE IN NATURE - number of rivers and streams that meet instream
647 flow needs during the summer months; number of waterbodies that meet state and
648 federal instream water quality standards; number of rivers and streams in a
649 degraded condition which have active restoration efforts underway; net loss or gain
650 of wetlands compared to 1994 survey; number of species of plants and animals and
651 their distribution compared with 1994 survey; percentage of population living
652 within one quarter mile of both a neighborhood park and a natural
653 area/"greenspace"; number of watersheds managed for multiple values; number of
654 days that region is in compliance with state and federal air quality and visibility
655 standards
- 656 • P-4 WALKING - Pedestrian Environment Factor by community/jurisdiction;
657 number of miles of bike lanes by community; mode split for walking by community
- 658 • P-5 LINKAGES - commodity flow indicators from 1994 study; intermodal
659 shipping activity at Port
- 660 • P-6 DOWNTOWNS - vacancy rates in downtowns by type of use and by
661 downtown; percentage of business in downtowns, by downtown
- 662 • P-7 EQUITY - children in poverty by community; percentage of households
663 paying no more than 30% of their monthly gross income for housing by
664 community; new jobs by jurisdiction
- 665 • P-8 GROWTH MANAGEMENT - population density regionwide and by

666 community; percentage of urbanized area

667 Note that in some cases Metro already collects the data required. In addition, a number of
668 these indicators are drawn from the Oregon Benchmarks and are monitored by the state. In
669 some instances Metro will need to initiate new data collection and surveying activities.
670 However, in all cases, the information collected will be of value to to Metro's other
671 planning efforts, and to those of other jurisdictions as well.

672
673 The Metro Executive and Metro Council can use these indicators in a public process to
674 discuss the state of the region, and whether we are moving further from or closer to our
675 goals as described by the Future Vision. The outcome of the monitoring effort and
676 discussion, on an annual basis, should be used by Metro to establish priorities for planning
677 and implementing activities in the coming year. In addition to advising the Metro Council
678 and Executive on the development of the list of indications and data collection methods, the
679 technical advisory team could also assist with interpreting the results. It is our belief that the
680 list of indicators should be kept short as a means for focusing attention on the region as a
681 whole, rather than on the status of its individual parts.

682
683 4) Regional Study Fellowships - The region needs a consistent and ongoing research
684 program to better inform its planning efforts. One component of that program could be the
685 creation of Regional Study Fellowships, developed in collaboration with academic
686 institutions and funded through corporate donations and foundation grants. Fellows
687 would develop projects linked to the implementation of the Future Vision and the Regional
688 Framework Plan. The fellows would be chosen through a competitive process and the
689 results of their work would be presented in a public forum. The fellowships would give
690 Metro and the region access to the experience and talents of area professionals, would give
691 the fellows the opportunity to "recharge" and explore an issue or set of issues in depth and

692 with few distractions, and would give area communities access to cutting-edge thinking
693 about the challenges of the future.

694
695 Whatever the course that is chosen, the fundamental objectives must always be to ensure that no
696 issue gets dealt with in isolation, and that a broad cross-section of our region's people are involved
697 in discussing, debating, and shaping our path to the future. Undoubtedly there are many more
698 ways to use the Future Vision to achieve these objectives. We offer the three outlined above as
699 proof that it can be done and in an efficient manner. As a region, our aspiration should be to match
700 the spectacular nature of our landscape with an equally spectacular and regular civic celebration of
701 our sense of the region, truly our sense of place. For it is only through the creation of a shared
702 and far-reaching culture of this place that we will be able to gracefully and magnificently rise to our
703 responsibilities for stewardship, and adapt to the dynamism of the world we live in, now and in
704 the future.

705



METRO

DATE: January 24, 1995
TO: Metro Council
FROM: Casey Short,^{CS} Council Analyst
RE: Future Vision Process Issues

The Council is scheduled to meet with the Future Vision Commission next Monday, January 30. One of the points of discussion should be a determination of the process the Council will follow to prepare for adoption of the Future Vision by June 30. I have identified three issues for the council to consider in preparation for this discussion.

1. When does the Council want to receive the Commission draft of a Future Vision document?

The Metro Charter (Section 5(1)(c)) says, "The Council shall appoint a commission to develop and recommend a proposed Future Vision by a date the Council sets." (Emphasis added.) At some point between now the end of June, the Council needs to "take possession" of the draft in order to consider whether to amend it and if so, how.

2. What are the respective roles of the Council and the Future Vision Commission in the review and adoption process?

The Commission has spent the better part of two years developing the draft Future Vision document. It is the Council, however, that is mandated to adopt the Future Vision, so it must be a vision that the Council supports. How shall the Council go about making the Future Vision that of the Council, and what will be the Commission's role in this final step in the process?

3. What process shall the Council follow to prepare the Future Vision for adoption?

The Planning Department plans to issue a newsletter in March that is largely focused on the Future Vision. The newsletter will be distributed to 50,000 - 60,000 people. The commission expects this to be the first major public release of its draft Future Vision.

I expect the Council will embark on a series of public hearings or "listening posts" following the March publication of the Future Vision. How will those hearings be structured, including dates, attendance, sites, and number? What opportunities will be provided for public comment? How shall the Council move from hearings to adoption?

PEGGY LYNCH

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3840 SW 102nd Avenue
Beaverton, OR 97005-3244

January 30, 1995

Remarks to Metro Council and Future Vision Commission regarding the role of FVC and requested role of Metro Council - on behalf of the Future Vision Commission

The Future Vision Commission has been working on behalf of the Metro Council since May of 1993 to fulfill the requirements of the Metro Charter which calls for a Future Vision for the region. The briefing given you by Councilor Susan McLain last Tuesday covered the breadth of our work--from review of local government Visions and public opinion surveys to a broader review of other Vision documents; from receiving testimony from local "experts" in special areas of interest to researching information and receiving reports on targeted areas as called for by the Charter.

We have addressed those issues listed in the Charter, including carrying capacity (See lines 159-171 of Jan. 24th draft). We have listed a set of values we believe are shared region-wide (Lines 54-100). And we have used those values as a basis for developing a set of Vision Statements--the heart of our Vision document.

Developing a region-wide Vision has been challenging. Recently, I read about the City of Sherwood's visioning experience and their highest priority was to maintain the rural character of their community. The Commission's document respects their vision, but also needed to address those who live in the City of Portland who want a vibrant cosmopolitan urban center; therefore, you will see Vision Statements on Diversity (S-3), Vital Communities (S-5), Roots (S-6), Choice (P-2) and Downtowns (P-6).

We offer suggestions on how to achieve the Vision and list a set of Indicators to guide you in measuring whether or not we are moving toward the Vision. Please note that we attempted to offer you indicators whose data is already being gathered or may be easily obtained. We also wanted to find a few that would catch the imagination. In reading Jonathan Nicholas' column Sunday, however, I look forward to even more creative suggestions from the community. At the heart of our Vision is that we cannot save that which we treasure, change that which we don't and improve that which is wrong unless we do it TOGETHER (Vision Statements on Participation (I-3), Civic Life (S-4) and Vital Communities (S-5).

For those of you who might have missed the column, let me share a couple of excerpts as he talks about "Americans' passion for civic engagement". He quotes Robert D. Putnam, a Harvard scholar, in "The Journal of Democracy" about the benefits of social interaction: "Better schools. Faster economic development. Lower crime. More effective government."

And then he shares statistics (translate that to Indicators) which show "We all are spending less and less time with our neighbors, more and more time with our televisions." And now the hooker: "In 1993, 80 million Americans went bowling. That may not sound to you like a big deal, but Putnam reminds us that's almost 30 million more than went out to vote in the 1994 congressional elections. In the past 10 years, whereas the number of bowlers increased by 10 percent, the number of bowling leagues dropped by 40 percent. There you have it: Society's problem in a nutshell. We're a people face-to-face with a distinctly unAmerican destiny. Bowling alone."

And that brings me to the section on Implementation. We have offered suggestions on how the Vision can become tomorrow's reality. Again, the heart of the strategy is that we must do it TOGETHER--individuals working together, society working together, governments working together--for the future of us all.

Now we turn to you, the Metro Council, and ask for your advice and direction as we begin the task of engaging the general public in responding to the VISION, moving toward YOUR adoption of YOUR VISION by July 1, 1995, as called for in the charter.

We have reviewed Councilor McLain's memo of January 17th and have unanimously adopted the recommendations contained therein and ask your advice on the best method to carry out those recommendations.

The final adopted VISION will be YOUR VISION for the future of our region. We ask that you assume the role of decision-makers for this document by attending the proposed listening posts as lead "listeners". The Future Vision Commission stands ready to support you by attending and acting as resource people, but the people need to be able to talk directly to you about their feelings regarding the VISION.

The Future Vision Commission hopes that you will become so acquainted with the document that there will be values and vision statements you can quote during speaking engagements throughout the region once the VISION is adopted. Therefore, we ask that you begin the process of taking ownership in the VISION and making it YOUR VISION. We stand ready to support you in any manner you request.

We also ask that, because the VISION includes a recognition that we all are a part of a much larger region, you reach out to those jurisdictions and citizens outside of Metro (but included in the nine-county area shown by the VISION map), and share the VISION with them, explaining that the map includes them because we recognize their importance to our future and express your desire to develop positive working relationships with them as they plan for their future.

Finally, we ask that you consider the importance of the VISION in your up-coming decision-making. If you can point to your VISION as the reason for making a particular decision, the public can better understand and accept those tough choices that lie ahead. (Mayor Alice Schlenker of Lake Oswego and a Future Vision Commissioner has stressed the importance of giving her a document she can use with her constituents as the tough decisions are made.) A reminder about our collective values and VISION is a positive method of communication. The

fact that the VISION contains issues and concerns of the everyday person may help us all put individual land use and transportation decisions in a much broader context.

Metro is charged with helping to plan for a large region, but individuals live, work and play here. The VISION can help to put the decisions regarding Urban Reserves and where to put major streets and roads in the broader context of what's the best decision for the people of the region. The fact that the VISION speaks to those who will live here fifty years from now may help with today's decisions--a fact our children and grandchildren may come to appreciate even more than those of us who reside here today.

Lastly, we have heard criticism about our focus on children, but let me leave you with this reminder for whom the Vision is written: In the Tri-County area's public schools alone (that's K-12 and does not include children ages 0-5 and those not in public schools) there are over 200,000 children. Recent coverage of the closing of salmon fishing in the Columbia validates our direction: Everyday people were quoted as supporting the decision--because they wanted their children and grandchildren to one day be able to experience fishing for salmon on the Columbia as they have in the past.

Please accept this Vision, make it your own and allow it to lead us into the future.

I leave you with a quotation from a great American:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever has."

-Margaret Mead

ABOUT TOWN

Who's who and what's what around Portland

Wanna know our problem? Answer's right up your alley

Ah, look at all the lonely people... America, the land of joiners, is turning into a country where nobody wants to belong

Bowling alone. That, he said, was Portland's problem. Too many people bowling alone.

As a rule, when some old codger mumbles stuff like this to me, I just smile and quietly move to another seat on the bus.

But this guy looked different.

This guy looked like Ethan Seltzer, the hugely erudite director of the urban studies school at Portland State.

Two doubts rushed in an instant to the front of my finely tuned reporter's brain.

■ 1. If this guy was so smart, what was he doing on my bus?

■ 2. No way had this dude ever bowled better than a 165 in his life.

Are you sure, I said, trying to



sound compassionate, this story is up my alley?

It's not your alley I'm worried about, he whispered. It's your life.

Then he was gone.

Two days later it arrived. Whomp. It landed on the desk. The Journal of Democracy, Jan. 1995.

The article in question — quite a change of pace from my regular People magazine fare — was by Robert D. Putnam, a Harvard prof deeply versed in the art of waxing eloquent on something called "social capital."

Don't worry about being out of the loop. I'd never heard of it either. Basically, Putnam's thesis goes something like this.

Harvard profs, of course, always have to start by quoting Alexis de Tocqueville. It's in their contracts. Putnam does not disappoint.

It was the 19th-century Frenchman — sort of a Charles Kuralt wandering about in the 1830s — who first remarked on Americans' passion for civic engagement.

"Americans of all ages," he wrote, "all stations in life and all types of disposition are forever forming associations."

Putnam goes on to build a pretty persuasive case that a country of joiners is a country in which democracy flourishes and where all sorts of wonderful things can happen.

Places low on "social capital," on the other hand, include Rwanda and Bosnia.

"Nuff said.

Putnam insists that both the quality of public life and the performance of social institutions are greatly influenced by what he calls these "norms and networks of civic engagement."

The fallout from an engaged citizenry, he says, is as widespread as it is welcome.

"Better schools. Faster economic development. Lower crime. More effective government."

Social connections and civic engagement, in other words, exert a dramatic influence both on our public life and our private prospects.

Comes now the scary part. (I can't believe this will hit you as a surprise.)

In recent years, our social capital has been eroding faster than the beach at Salishan.

It goes way beyond the tens of millions of people who no longer bother even to vote.

In the past 20 years, attendance "in the past year" at public town or school meetings has tumbled from 23 percent to 13 percent.

From church attendance and union membership through the PTA to the Boy Scouts, the story is the same: Public involvement is plummeting.

The only thing we are joining in record numbers is the mailing lists of those folks who send us junk.

We all are spending less and less time with our neighbors, more and more time with our televisions.

This "privatization" of leisure time may have consequences we're only just beginning to question.

But what does all this have to do with bowling?

I thought you'd never ask.

In 1993, 80 million Americans went bowling. That may not sound to you like a big deal, but Putnam reminds us that's almost 30 million more than went out to vote in the 1994 congressional elections.

In the past 10 years, whereas the number of bowlers increased by 10 percent, the number bowling in leagues dropped by 40 percent.

There you have it: Society's problem in a nutshell.

We're a people face-to-face with a distinctly unAmerican destiny.

Bowling alone.

Jonathan Nicholas writes his column four times each week — on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Reach him by phone at 221-8533, by fax at 294-4026 or by mail at 1320 S.W. Broadway, Portland 97201.