



February 2, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Paul Thompson

Subject: Item 5.d – LTD West Eugene EmX Extension Locally Preferred Alternatives

**Action Recommended:** None. Information and discussion only.

### **Issue Statement**

This agenda item will provide the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) with an opportunity to review and discuss the public input received during the joint public hearing for the West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE) project. This information is in preparation for the MPC to take action at the March MPC meeting regarding the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

### **Background**

The WEEE will be the third corridor of an identified 61 mile EmX system. The project officially began in September, 2007, and is nearing the selection of a locally preferred alternative for the project. As one of three decision-making bodies who all must agree on a single alternative, MPC appointed representatives to a Joint LPA Committee. The intention of that committee is for members to delve into details of the project and its analysis, come to a consensus on an alternative, and make a recommendation to their respective bodies at its meeting on February 14, 2011.

At its past two meetings (December, 2010 and January, 2011), the MPC has received in-depth staff presentations and engaged in discussions as it works toward its selection of an LPA. No significant new information is available beyond that conveyed in the previous two MPC meeting packets and the packet for the February 8, 2011 joint public hearing. This memo was developed prior to that joint public hearing, and is thus unable to convey any summary of the public input or staff responses.

### **Schedule**

The West Eugene EmX Extension project development process includes two decision points. The first is the current decision on selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative based on the October 2010 Alternatives Analysis and subsequent analysis. With that decision, LTD will proceed with the development of the federal environmental review process, which will prompt a second decision focused on selection of either a build or no-build option. LTD also will begin the preparation of a Small Starts grant application.

In order to remain on schedule for the remainder of this process, LTD is seeking approvals of the locally preferred alternative from all three decision-making bodies in March 2011. The current review and approval schedule is:

Joint LPA Committee Preliminary Recommendation	January 31, 2011
Open House	February 1, 2011
Open House	February 8, 2011
Joint Public Hearing	February 8, 2011
MPO Work Session	February 10, 2011
Joint LPA Committee Final Recommendation	February 14, 2011
Lane Transit District Work Session	February 16, 2011
Eugene City Council Work Session	February 23, 2011
Eugene City Council Action (if not on previous date)	March 9, 2011
MPO Action at MPC	March 10, 2011
Lane Transit District Action	March 16, 2011

### **Public Involvement**

In addition to the joint public hearing, the MPO opened a public comment period on February 2, 2011 that will extend through March 7, 2011. Notice of the public comment period has been posted to the MPO web site, and was delivered via email to the MPO's interested parties distribution list. Notices for the two open houses and the joint public hearing were posted on the MPO web site, delivered via email to the MPO's interested parties distribution list, provided to the media in multiple media notices, and advertised in a newspaper display ad.

### **CAC Involvement**

The MPO Citizen Advisory Committee will be briefed on the joint public hearing at their February 17, 2011 meeting. The CAC has already provided its recommendation to the MPC.

### **TPC Involvement**

The Transportation Planning Committee will develop its final LPA recommendation for the Metropolitan Policy Committee at their February 24, 2011 meeting.

### **Recommendation**

Discuss and provide feedback to staff. Action will be requested at the March MPC meeting.

### **Attachments**

None. Additional materials may be distributed at the MPC meeting.