



March 2, 2011

To: Metropolitan Policy Committee

From: Tom Schwetz and John Evans, Lane Transit District

Subject: Item 5.c: – LTD West Eugene EmX Extension Locally Preferred Alternative

Action Recommended: Select Locally Preferred Alternative

Issue Statement

This agenda item will provide the Metropolitan Policy Committee (MPC) with an opportunity to discuss the proposed extension of EmX service to West 11th Avenue. Additional information has been provided by Lane Transit District (LTD) in Attachments A, B and C. This discussion and information is intended to allow the MPC to take action at this meeting regarding the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

Attachment A includes questions about the West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE) project, along with responses provided by LTD staff. The questions addressed in the attachment include written questions from the three decision-making bodies raised at the February 8, 2011 WEEE project public hearing, questions from Eugene City Council during their February 23rd work session, and questions from the public related to the Council's February 23rd work session. Public input from the public hearing has been provided previously to the MPC, the Eugene City Council, and the LTD Board of Directors.

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 was 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.

On January 31, the Joint LPA Committee made a draft recommendation that the West 13th – West 11th Avenue mitigated alternative become the locally preferred alternative for further environmental review along with the No-Build alternative. Public open houses were held on February 1st and 8th to highlight the mitigation measures incorporated into the project design and to reflect the Joint LPA Committee's recommendation. A public hearing was held on February 8th, at which time members of the three deciding bodies (City Council, LTD Board of Directors, and the MPC) had an opportunity to submit written questions.

On Monday February 14th, the Joint LPA Committee made its final recommendation (from draft minutes):

Mr. Pryor, seconded by Ms. Ortiz, moved that the LTD JLPAC recommend to the Eugene City Council, the Metropolitan Policy Committee, and the Lane Transit District Board of Directors that the West 13th-West 11th Avenue Mitigated Concept Alternative (3MC) and the West 6th/7th/West 11th Mitigated Concept Alternative (5MC) be forwarded along with the No Build Alternative into the federal environmental review process for further analysis. LTD would incorporate mitigation measures identified through subsequent analysis.

Mr. Pryor amended the motion to include mitigation measures B, C and L. Ms. Ortiz accepted the second to the motion.

The motion passed 7:1, with Mr. Evans, Mr. Eyster, Mr. Chickering, Mr. Leiken, Ms. Ortiz, Ms. Piercy and Mr. Pryor voting in favor of the motion, and Mr. Gillespie voting against the motion.

At its February 23rd work session, the Eugene City Council discussed procedural options and requested additional information. LTD staff response is included in Attachment A. The Eugene City Council was scheduled to discuss and possibly take action regarding selection of an LPA at its March 9, 2011 work session. This memo was developed prior to that work session, and is thus unable to convey a summary of the Council's decision.

Public Involvement

In addition to the extensive public outreach conducted by LTD as provided in previous MPC meetings materials, 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 Recommendation

The MPO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) has already provided its recommendation to the MPC of the West 11th-West 13th route alternative with mitigation. In addition, the CAC was briefed on the project status and on the results of the February 8th, 2011 open house and public hearing at their February 17, 2011 meeting.

TPC Recommendation

At its February 24, 2011 meeting, the Transportation Planning Committee (TPC) recommended that MPC select the West 13th-West 11th Avenue Mitigated Concept Alternative (3MC).

Options

1. Adopt the West 13th-West 11th Avenue Mitigated Concept Alternative (3MC) including Mitigation sites B and L.
2. Adopt the West 6th/7th-11th Avenue Mitigated Concept Alternative.
3. Delay action on selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative.

Recommendation

Adopt the West 13th-West 11th Avenue Mitigated Concept Alternative (3MC) including Mitigation sites B and L.

Attachments

- A. February 8, 2010 Public Hearing and February 24 Eugene City Council Work Session RESPONSES TO LPA DECISION MAKERS Prepared by Lane Transit District, March 1, 2011
- B. Letter from Wildish Construction on Construction Impact Mitigation
- C. Summary of Recommendations