



October 14, 2010

To: Citizen Advisory Committee

From: Kathi Wiederhold

Subject: Item 5 – West Eugene EmX Alternatives Analysis Report

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Issue Statement

This agenda item will provide the CAC with information regarding the analysis of route alternatives for the West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE) project. This information is in preparation for the CAC November meeting discussion and involvement with the process to select a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). Included in the presentation will be background on the role of the MPO and the CAC in the decision-making process.

Background

Based on the results of a federal Major Investment Study, the Eugene-Springfield metropolitan region identified bus rapid transit (BRT) as the preferred high-capacity transit strategy for the twenty-year plan horizon. BRT has been a fundamental strategy of our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) when adopted in 2001, 2004, and most recently in 2007.

Lane Transit District (LTD) implemented Phase One of EmX between downtown Eugene and downtown Springfield in January 2007, and plans to implement Phase Two between downtown Springfield and Gateway in January 2011.

In January 2007, the Eugene City Council and the LTD Board of Directors selected the West Eugene Corridor as the next BRT priority corridor to pursue in Eugene. The project proposes to implement BRT improvements in this corridor with the following stated purpose:

The purpose of the proposed West Eugene EmX Extension project is to implement high-capacity public transportation service east-west in the West 11th Corridor, utilizing the adopted high-capacity transit mode identified in the Regional Transportation Plan that is less hindered by congestion and that provides efficient, effective, dependable, and visually appealing service throughout the life of the project. The project would support local, regional, and state plans and goals for land use and transportation, and support economic development and redevelopment opportunities in the corridor, while being sensitive to and protecting the natural and

built environmental resources and continue to obtain local public participation in its development.

Selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative

Tom Schwetz and John Evans from the Lane Transit District will make a presentation on the West Eugene EmX Project, to cover the following:

1. Review the status of the project and the need for the project
2. Summarize the preliminary results of the Alternative Analysis Report (the final report is not yet available)
3. Bring the CAC up-to-date on the:
 - a. Decision-making process;
 - b. Design process, including mitigation plans; and
 - c. Ongoing public outreach.
4. Outline the WEEE Agenda item scheduled for the November 18, 2010 CAC meeting. The purpose of this item will be to discuss the final Alternatives Analysis Report and make suggestions on the locally preferred alternative and mitigation to the Joint Locally Preferred Alternative Committee

Recommendation

This item is for information only at this time. Action will be requested at the November CAC meeting.

Next Steps

The CAC's November 18, 2010 meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the Alternatives Analysis Report and to develop suggestions regarding the locally preferred alternative and mitigation. These suggestions will then be forwarded to the Joint Locally Preferred Alternative Committee, a committee that is composed of members of each of the recommending agencies, including the Eugene City Council, the LTD Board, and the Metropolitan Policy Committee. A full copy of the final report will be provided in the agenda packet for the November meeting.

Attachments

1. Table of Key Preliminary Results
2. Timeline for Selecting the Locally Preferred Alternative
3. Map of Alternatives