



December 1, 2010

To: Citizen Advisory Committee

From: Andrea Riner

Subject: Item 3 – West Eugene EmX Alternatives Analysis

Action Recommended: None. Information only.

Issue Statement

This agenda item will provide the CAC with an opportunity to obtain information regarding the analysis of route alternatives for the West Eugene EmX Extension (WEEE) project. This information is in preparation for the CAC to take action at the regular December CAC meeting. This action on December 16th will be to provide advisory comments to the MPC regarding the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

This agenda item will include an overview of the MPO and the CAC's role and the decision-making framework and a presentation on the completed Alternatives Analysis Report. Following the presentation, the CAC will have an opportunity to ask additional questions and to begin discussing the project.

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.

A generalized West Eugene EmX Extension “Past/Current/Future Decision Diagram” is provided as Attachment 1 to this memo. In addition to describing the development of the EmX program, the diagram shows the relationship of this particular project to the regional transportation planning efforts of the Central Lane MPO and partner agencies, including the City of Eugene.

Selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative

Mark Pangborn 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 background and the need for the project;
2. Summarize the comparison of alternatives in the Alternative Analysis Report;
3. Bring the CAC up-to-date on the:
 - a. Decision-making process;
 - b. Design process, including mitigation plans; and
 - c. Ongoing public outreach.

LTD and MPO staff will also answer any questions that CAC members have.

Central Lane MPO staff will then facilitate a discussion of the CAC and outline the WEEE Agenda item scheduled for the December 16, 2010 CAC meeting. The purpose of the December item will be to finalize the discussion of the Alternatives Analysis Report and make advisory comments to the Metropolitan Policy Committee for their selection of the locally preferred alternative.

Additional Information

As a follow-up to items raised at the CAC’s October meeting, LTD and MPO staff have included a number of additional information items in this packet, including the decision diagram described above, a discussion guidance document, a memo from LTD summarizing public comments to date, the Executive Summary of the final WEEE Alternatives Analysis Report, a WEEE Fact Sheet, and a summary of the comments received at the November 9th community event “Let’s Talk Transit.”

The complete Alternatives Analysis Report can be found at LTD’s project website. CAC members interested in additional detail about the alternatives are encouraged to review the document, and may find the contents of Chapter 9 especially helpful. The WEEE project can be easily accessed from the front page of LTD’s website at www.ltd.org.

Recommendation

This item is for information only at this time. Action will be requested at the December CAC meeting. Discussion guidelines have been provided as an attachment to this memo to assist CAC members in considering the various alternatives and developing advisory comments.

Next Steps

The December 16, 2010 CAC meeting will provide an opportunity to further discuss the Alternatives Analysis Report and to develop suggestions regarding the locally preferred alternative and mitigation. These suggestions will then be forwarded to the Metropolitan Policy Committee.

Attachments

1. Past/Current/Future Decision Diagram (EmX Flow Chart)
2. CAC West Eugene EmX Extension Discussion Guidelines
3. LTD Memo to CAC from John Evans and Cosette Rees (11/24/2010)
4. Alternatives Analysis Report Executive Summary
5. West Eugene EmX Fact Sheet
6. Let's Talk Transit Response Summary

*LCOG: T:\MPO\COMMITTEES\CAC\FY11\DECEMBER 8 SPECIAL MEETING\CAC3-COVERMEMO-W-EUG-EMX.DOC
Last Saved: December 1, 2010*