



December 9, 2010

To: Citizen Advisory Committee

From: Andrea Riner

Subject: Item 7 – West Eugene EmX Alternatives Analysis

Action Recommended: Develop advisory comments regarding the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative for the West Eugene EmX Extension.

Issue Statement

This agenda item is the third in a series of discussions about the West Eugene EmX Extension and the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) for the project. The CAC is requested to take action by providing advisory comments to the MPC for their consideration in selecting a Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA).

Background

Two recent CAC meetings provided opportunities for information share and discussion of the West Eugene EmX Extension project. These include:

October CAC Meeting

On Thursday October 21, 2010, LTD staff presented an update on the project and shared preliminary findings in anticipation of a completed WEEE Alternatives Analysis report.

December Special CAC Meeting

On Wednesday, December 8, 2010, the CAC held a special meeting to focus on the West Eugene EmX Extension project. The meeting allowed the CAC and LTD additional time to discuss the final Alternatives Analysis report. This meeting also provided an overview of the MPO and the CAC's role and the decision-making framework.

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.

The CAC received a copy of the Executive Summary of the final WEEE Alternatives Analysis Report in their December 8th meeting packet, and the complete report can be found at LTD's website at www.ltd.org.

Options

The CAC is requested to provide advisory comments to the MPC regarding the selection of a Locally Preferred Alternative. This could include one or more of the following options:

1. Recommend one of the alternatives, including the three build or the no-build alternatives; provide explanatory comments supporting your recommendation.
2. Provide advisory comments regarding project components of interest to the CAC, such as:
 - a. Priority factors or criteria to consider, especially as they relate to RTP goals, objectives, and policies and the stated objectives of the West Eugene EmX project;
 - b. Impacts to properties and mitigation strategies;
 - c. Additional information that would be helpful to the discussion; and
 - d. Public participation recommendations or concerns.
3. Decline to provide advisory comments at this time.

Attachment 2 provides a matrix to assist the CAC in reviewing and discussing the project alternatives. It is provided for your use, but is not intended to limit the discussion and should not be considered as a required homework assignment. CAC members are encouraged to use any strategy they find helpful to fully consider the range of alternatives under discussion.

Recommendation

Staff request that the CAC provide advisory comments regarding those project components about which the committee feels most strongly.

Next Steps

The Transportation Planning Committee will consider their recommendation to MPC in December or January, the specific date has not been determined. MPC will discuss the West Eugene EmX Extension project at their December and January meetings. A recommendation on the Locally Preferred Alternative is scheduled for February 2011.

Attachments

1. Past/Current/Future Decision Diagram (EmX Flow Chart)
2. West Eugene EmX Extension Alternatives Review Matrix