

Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization

From: dorothy ehli [d_ehli@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 7:10 AM
To: Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization
Cc: EYSTER Michael (UO); VOBORA Andy J (LTD)
Subject: EmX

PLEASE VOTE FOR NO BUILD!

All the changes that ltd has made lately have resulted in longer distances for riders to get to the bus stops. I talked to a board member a few days ago and his reply was "Well, the buses will go by every ten minutes." That's comparing oranges and apples. If the rider saves six minutes on the trip, they probably had to spend at least an extra six minutes to get to the stop! It wouldn't make any difference if the buses went by every five minutes, if the person is worn out getting to the stop in the first place. EMX is the hungry caterpillar consuming the rest of the system. After Mike said if we can't afford it, we won't do it, he then followed up with a comment about cutting routes if necessary to support it. 😞 I told Mark Pangborn at one of the meetings that my folks had great plan (our family was -and still is--poor.) If I asked for something, they didn't say no--they said **NOT YET!**. I'm 75 so I can't get all excited about the glorious view of 2031!

I've been riding since 1953--Springfield down 13th Ave to Carson Hall, etc. I used to walk a lot. Now my right knee lets me know if I overdo it, even after the "lube and oil" shots" it got a few years ago. And if I've had to ease the right knee by stepping down from buses, steps, etc. on the left leg, it starts to protest too. There are SO many people on the buses with canes, white canes, walking sticks, walkers, wheel chairs. I tried to find out yesterday from LTD what percent of riders are handicapped, but there are apparently no statistics kept on anything except wheel chairs. 🚗

I worked for years on rehab and neurology wards so I'm very aware of the need for accessibility. I know that each EMX has another wheel chair bay inside, but that doesn't help with the problem of extra travel to get to the stop in the first place.

The Eugene buses first ran only til 6pm not on Sundays, etc. The system has continually improved greatly and it was great to be first to have all the buses accessible, but now it's going backward. I don't think there are as many "on busline" notes in apartment ads in the paper. Who knows if there will be buslines? Our family have always lived near buslines. Now when my son went on a trip to Arizona, I had to walk lots of extra blocks every other day to see to his cat. 🐱

DOROTHY EHLI 75 265 WEST 8TH, #507 EUGENE, OR 97401 541 515-6737