

## Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization

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**From:** Anand Holtham-Keathley [eekley@efn.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2011 11:27 AM  
**To:** Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization  
**Subject:** West Eugene EmX; Neighborhood point of view

Good Morning members of the MPC:

I would like to clarify my remarks from the April 5th MPC meeting in regards to the West Eugene EmX and the position of the Whiteaker Community Council (WCC), of which I am the Chair.

The vote approved by the WCC was to support the West Eugene EmX, preferably on west 6th and 7th and also preferably changing the busses to all electric. That notwithstanding, even if the preferences are not met the WCC supports the West Eugene EmX. It was not our intention to make the choices so expensive that either other routes would be lost or the West Eugene EmX was not built at all. I want to be very clear about that.

In related issues having to do with on-going costs, if the system as proposed with busses every ten minutes raises the cost to the point of requiring removing other routes one possible solution may be to have the system move to every 15 minutes which only extends to wait 5 minutes but compared to every ten minutes could reduce the on-going costs by 50%.

On the issue of on-going costs, particularly fuel and maintenance, although to late to be addressed on this current leg the issue of savings from electric busses would be useful to examine. Both fuel costs and maintenance costs are vastly reduced by switching from foreign oil fueled busses to locally produced electricity propelled busses. We at the WCC would like to see an objective analysis of the time it would take to repay the investment in an electric bus system with the savings in fuel and maintenance costs. As the interests rates are so low now it would be a wise time for investments that will save the system on-going costs.

Lastly the WCC would prefer the route on west 6th/7th for two major reasons. Both the WCC and the Jefferson Westside Neighbors, (JWN) feel that it works better to promote neighborhood cohesion by having the EmX traveling the boundary between the two neighborhoods. We expect that the example in other neighborhoods will repeat itself here by local entrepreneurs choosing to build up along the route. the experiences of many communities have born this example out even though, like here, businesses were opposed to the route before it was placed.

The other main reason the WCC would prefer the 6th/7th route is that, even though it initially costs more due to its length, it will serve more area and eventually more people. Further, with the federal deficit driving policy it is highly unlikely that any further federal grants will be forth coming. Which means if we want any other EmX routes we may need to raise the funds more locally. As the plan is to eventually put routes on W. 99 and River Road, having the leg on 6th/7th already built will make it much easier to continue those ourselves.

Thank you for your time and the hard work you put into these important considerations.

Peace,

Anand Holtham-Keathley; Chair, Whiteaker Community Council