

Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization

From: pangolina [pangolina@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 6:02 AM
To: Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization
Subject: In Support of West Eugene EmX Project

To the Members of the Metropolitan Policy Committee,

As a citizen who owns a home within a half-mile of West 11th Avenue, I am writing to express my support for the West Eugene EmX Extension Project. There are hundreds of homes located just on the other side of the Amazon channel between City View and Bailey Hill Roads, within easy walking and biking distance of the West 11th corridor.

At the open house on February 8th at the Hilton and in many letters to the Register-Guard, almost every business owner advocating "No Build" seemed unaware of the homes right behind their business that house potential customers. As it is, I spend very little time on West 11th.

It's noisy, smelly, and difficult to walk along. Bicycling is not an option, as there is no bike lane and telephone poles are placed inconveniently in the center of the sidewalk, where that even exists.

I imagine what West 11th could be like after LTD's planned improvements. There would be a bike/pedestrian bridge between the Fern Ridge Path and the Target shopping area parking lot, which would transfer some of my bike-based errand running to West Eugene from other areas of town. There would be a wider sidewalk, inviting more pedestrians to browse the area while going to and from the EmX stations. More protected mid-block pedestrian crossings would encourage more people to get out of their cars and, instead of merely passing through the area en route to other locations, stay a while and spend some cash. Getting to the library with my kids or taking them roller skating in Springfield would be quick and easy even in inclement weather when cycling with kids is a challenge. Student and staff commuters from our area to the University would have a much more frequent and convenient link; more residents from this area would be drawn to the corridor for retail.

I understand why business owners are apprehensive about the changes.

However, the West Eugene EmX extension would bring so much more to my neighborhood than just a bus line. I encourage Metropolitan Policy Committee members to vote in favor of the project.

Regards,
Alpha M. Wilson
1595 Buck Street, Eugene