

## Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization

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**From:** Bill Northrup [blar3@juno.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 06, 2011 9:27 PM  
**To:** Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization  
**Subject:** Metropolitan Policy Committee: West Eugene EmX views  
Metropolitan Policy Committee,

I read in today's paper that the fruit of the proposed West Eugene EmX would be a mere 4.3% ridership growth over the next 20 years. That is the equivalent of adding just one more person to each 25 person bus.

This seems hardly worth spending \$87 million of taxpayers money, no matter how that taxpayer money is packaged (grant or otherwise).

I think it it passes a line into the realm of unethical to even throw our hats into the ring. We have to put on not just our local hats when it comes to spending money. We have to also keep our national hats on and look our for our nations dollars, not merely our own state and county.

It's not a good use of public dollars. 4.3% increase in ridership for \$87 million. For \$8.7 million in advertising, we could probably do just as good over that same time frame, but that is neither here nor there.

I cannot support you in this quest to use that amount of money for this little result. It is our collective national money and it is misspent if that is all it does. Please withhold your support for it.

We need solutions that make a real difference, even if we must pay for it ourselves.

One thing seems certain: it is very doubtful could ever win a local bond measure that proposed to spend \$87 million dollars to gain merely one additional rider per 25 existing riders over a 20 year period while building a new lane in each direction that cars themselves were largely unable to use for similar purposes.

Now, if we wouldn't fund it locally, how is it that we treat our nations dollars less important than our own. It all comes from us eventually. So while today we seek to get someone else's money, yet tomorrow someone else seeks to get our money. The Federal Government should quit taking this money from us altogether if this is how it is going to spend it. That would leave us with more money year round to solve our own local issues.

Thanks for listening and considering these views.

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