

Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Sent: Monday, April 04, 2011 10:18 AM

To: Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization

Subject: West Eugene EMX comment

Metropolitan Planning Council.

Vote Yes for the West Eugene EMX. Go with the planning process' preferred option: 13-11th alignment.

Good transit is good for business and jobs in Eugene-Springfield. Encouraging people to leave their cars at home and walk for some of their needs. Walking is the simplest form of transportation and is part of every trip even those made by vehicle or bus. Walking makes neighborhoods safer, encourages human interaction. Walking is transportation that builds better communities. The EMX is good transit and it is a necessary part of walking if walking is to get you where you want to go.

Completing the backbone of a Bus Rapid Transit system the way it is planned. It is key to cutting trip times, increasing ridership and making it attractive for people to leave their vehicles at home. The West Eugene Extension of EmX (WEEE) has to be part of that system.

While I admire those who choose the bicycle way of life, it will not get most people out of their cars. Even less so as our population ages and our mobility needs change. Bicycles can be part of an inclusive, integrated transportation system. But pedestrians, using public transportation, will be the main way we move away from a car-centered culture. The sight of each EmX bus running full on the other routes means 70 single-occupancy vehicles were not driven or parked.

All great public transport systems were marked with initial NIMBY resistance to new system installation and the change of access to their businesses. Later, business increases and home values rise along rapid transit routes. Sidewalks fill with people walking to restaurants, grocery stores or home from work. There is eye contact. Check www.WalkScore.com or www.CompleteStreets.org for accurate statistics.

Please show leadership for the entire area and do something that makes good economic sense for the future of the whole community. Please say yes to a project that will take long-term vision not just the short term politics of one neighborhood or interest group. Do this for all of us.

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