

Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization

From: Tom S [toms12@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, April 03, 2011 11:28 AM
To: Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization; Tom Schneider
Subject: Comment on West Eugene EMX

To: Metropolitan Planning Committee

West Eugene EMX Extension. Vote YES! Choose 13th-11th Alternative. The best for the region not one neighborhood!

I was happy that Eugene City council voted in favor of West Eugene EMX but saddened they had to choose the more costly, 6th-7th alignment primarily because of one group of neighbor's opposition to it going through their neighborhood. **NIMBY is alive and well in Eugene!** A good route-planning process thwarted by politics and short-sighted people wanting to hold on to the good old days instead of seeing the future of transit, walking and less cars!

Increasing ridership and cutting trip times is KEY to people using transit. The 13th-11th Alternative does both better. I was in favor of the Amazon option because it went very close to many residences including my own near Acorn Park. As people struggle with the high costs of personal, single-occupancy vehicles, please encourage this needed shift to the whole Metropolitan area's transportation patterns.

I was one of the citizen volunteers who looked at the 6th-7th alternative on one of the EMX route selection committees. After several months of input with professional planners listening, the 13-11th option became our preferred option. I hope **MPC can put this project back on track with a vote in favor of the 13th-11th option.** You have a chance to make this right and give LTD Board a chance to select the best route and a professional process. Show some leadership to all communities you represent not just one Ward in Eugene!

In the 1990's when **Portland Oregon** was looking at their transportation needs a decade or more away, there was **similar NIMBY opposition to site-ing the MAX lines within existing neighborhoods**, epically the Hollywood district. Now the Max lines are heavily used and the best way to get to most neighborhoods. To or from downtown or going to the Airport, it is almost twice as fast as private car or taxi and you get off 200 feet from the luggage carousel! Those houses within a 15-minute walk of rapid transit are now worth about 8-10% more than similar ones farther from rapid transit. Rents are higher, vacancies lower and the businesses have greater revenue from these preferred locations. Portland is now attracting the companies and jobs Eugene needs because of their visionary transportation system. People want to live where there is effective public transit! It just makes sense. More so in the future!

I speak as an individual member of the Bike Pedestrian Advisory Committee. I am an avid transit user, walker and sometimes use a bicycle. I own a home 5 blocks from LTD's Seneca station on W 11th at 3245 W 16th Ave although we are currently staying with my ailing mother-in-law in Danebo. I worked extensively to help my Churchill Neighborhood Association create a lasting

Safety Education Plaza last spring on Bailey Hill Road near Churchill High School where a 10-year-old boy was killed in 2007.

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