

Sounding Board #2 Summary

June 30, 2015

Attendance

Sounding Board Members:

Alexis Biddle, EmX Steering Committee

Jeff Mills, Planning Commission

John Barofsky, Planning Commission

Sue Wolling, Sustainability Commission

Edward Goehring, Human Rights Commission

Philip Carrasco, Human Rights Commission

Eliza Kashinsky, BPAC

Seth Sadofsky, BPAC

Renee Mulligan, Lane County Public Health

Peter Barron, LTD Accessible Transportation

Audience:

Linda Lynch

Staff:

Chris Henry, City of Eugene

Terri Harding, City of Eugene

Sasha Luftig, LTD

Kristin Hull, CH2M

1. Introductions and welcome – Hull

Kristin welcomed the Sounding Board and reviewed the agenda.

2. Public workshop summary – Harding

Terri reviewed the public workshops. She told the Sounding Board that more than 200 people participated. She described the workshops as including three activities:

1. A short presentation
2. A table discussion of community needs, transportation barriers and important destinations
3. An interactive cross section exercise

Terri noted that attendance at the River Road workshop was particularly good and that the workshop in Springfield had the fewest participants. Several Sounding Board members said that they attended one or more workshops. Those members said that the workshops had been successful.

3. Level 1 screening overview – Luftig

Sasha provided an overview of the Level 1 screening process. The group discussed the screening criteria related to connections to planned bike, pedestrian and roadway projects. Sounding Board members said that it was important to look at where sidewalk and bike facility improvement are needed rather than where they exist as MovingAhead could provide funding for those types of projects.

A Sounding Board member asked how different business access and transit lanes were from exclusive transit lanes in terms of travel time/reliability. Sasha agreed to follow up and find out.

4. Concept review – Hull

Kristin reviewed the EmX and Enhanced Corridor options for the 6 study corridors. She reminded the group that a no build alternative would be studied for every corridor. She said that these concepts were developed based on public input and are examples only; design for any EmX corridor is likely to combine elements of exclusive bus lanes, business access and transit lanes and mixed traffic. The Sounding Board discussed whether Multimodal Mixed Use Areas (MMAs) might be a good strategy for any of these corridors. Terri explained that MMAs are not needed or applicable to these corridors.

Highway 99 Corridor

Kristin shared two EmX and one Enhanced Corridor options. Sounding Board members provided the following comment:

- Travel Lane County is interested in improving the aesthetics of Highway 99 as it is the entry point for people traveling to Eugene from the airport. Any of the concepts could improve the look of the corridor.

River Road Corridor

Kristin shared two EmX and one Enhanced Corridor options. Sounding Board members provided the following comments:

- What happens when you reduce the number of auto travel lanes?
 - Response: We will conduct more detailed traffic studies around this issue. Generally, some trips will be diverted to nearby roads and some people will continue to use the roadway. Depending on demand, congestion may or may not get worse.
- The community on River Road needs safer pedestrian crossings.
- Some business owners and residents along River Road are still angry about the road being widened in 2000.
- Full traffic signals are better than rapid flash beacons for pedestrians.

Coburg Road Corridor

Kristin shared one EmX and one Enhanced Corridor options. Sounding Board members provided the following comments:

- Why do the concepts not include ideas for Harlow Road?
 - The PMT determined that Harlow Road is not “ripe” for EmX at this time. Connections on Harlow Road could be considered in the Level 2 process.
- Coburg Road is congested near the Randy Papé Beltline Highway.
- Interested in how bus travel times vary between Enhanced Corridor and EmX options.

Valley River Center Corridor

Kristin shared one Enhanced Corridor option. Sounding Board members provided the following comments:

- Did we reach out to businesses and employees along this route?
 - Response: Our community-wide outreach plus targeted outreach was broad and included businesses and employees. MovingAhead will conduct more specific corridor-level outreach after we have narrowed the number of corridors under study.
- Could you serve Valley River Center as part of a Coburg route?

Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard/Centennial Boulevard Corridor

Kristin shared two EmX and one Enhanced Corridor options. Sounding Board members provided the following comments:

- Students are currently well served by the express bus from the student housing to UO. They might not be as well served by EmX if they are routed through downtown.
- Consider shifting the transitway to the south side of Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard near Autzen Stadium.
- Need to conduct outreach to employees along this corridor.
 - This kind of corridor-specific outreach will be conducted during the Level 2 process.

30th Avenue – Lane Community College Corridor

Kristin shared one EmX and one Enhanced Corridor options. Sounding Board members provided the following comment:

- Full signal at University Street would improve safety.

5. Purpose and Need

Sasha shared the Purpose and Need and Goals and Objectives (PNGO). She explained that the primary audience for this document is FTA. She asked for any comments on it by the end of the week.

6. Outreach

The Sounding Board provided ideas about how to reach employees and employers in the corridor.

- Ask employers to share information with employees explicitly in email communications.
- Reach out to unions and professional associations.
- Approach office managers at major employers.
- Reach out to temp agencies.

- Tie into business commute challenge activities.
- Reach out to service providers (St. Vincent De Paul) to target low income employees.
- Table at County health centers.

7. Next meeting

LTD will follow up with a doodle poll for the next meeting date.