

## **Sounding Board #4 Summary**

March 17, 2016

### **Attendance**

Sounding Board Members:

Eliza Kashinsky, BPAC

Renee Mulligan, Lane County Public Health

Tim Shearer, LTD Accessible Transportation

Alexis Biddle, EmX Steering Committee

Seth Sadofsky, BPAC

Staff:

Sasha Luftig, LTD

Kristin Hull, CH2M

Zach Galloway, City of Eugene

Larisa Varela, City of Eugene

Hart Migdal, LTD

### **1. Introductions and welcome – Hull**

Kristin welcomed the Sounding Board and reviewed the agenda. Kristin provided a brief schedule update and told the group that the team was expecting to begin work to select a locally preferred alternative in late 2016.

### **2. Public outreach to date – Migdal/Varela**

Hart and Larisa provided a summary of recent public involvement activities. They discussed canvassing activities:

- Coburg Road: Staff talked to 213 people. People were generally supportive of the concepts.
- Highway 99: Staff talked to 121 people. Support was mixed with some businesses expressing concern about changes to travel lanes and access.
- River Road: Staff talked to 118 people. People were generally supportive and mentioned the need for bike and pedestrian crossings and bike lanes.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue/Lane Community College: Staff talked to 74 people. People working at businesses were generally too busy to talk. Between downtown and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, people were concerned about access to driveways and congestion on Oak and Pearl Streets. People further south were interested in creating a safe bike route near Camas Ridge School.

Next, they told the Sounding Board that over 75 people attended the March 7, 2016 open house and more than 90 people had completed online comment forms to date.

### 3. Corridor Alternatives and Sounding Board input – Hull

Kristin reviewed the EmX and Enhanced Corridor options for the study corridors. She explained that these alternatives were developed based on input from the Sounding Board, Oversight Committee and public at our last round of meetings. She also told the group that, while the alternatives are presented as concepts because there is still flexibility in design details, the alternatives have been examined closely enough to indicate that they are feasible from an engineering perspective.

#### Highway 99

Sounding Board members discussed the following issues:

- A member asked why Highway 99 EmX is shown on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues. A Sounding Board member explained that the Jefferson Westside Neighbors passed a resolution opposing study of EmX on 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Avenues until an update to their community plan is completed. Another member suggested that the neighborhood group was most concerned about noise from EmX buses which could be a less critical issue in the future if electric or hybrid electric buses are used for EmX.
- A Sounding Board member asked to show stations on the WEE alignment on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenues on future maps.
- A Sounding Board member suggesting including a park-and-ride at the Highway 99 terminus. The group discussed a parking lot at Danbow/Highway 99 that might make a good transit center/terminus location.
- The Sounding Board supported the idea of a pedestrian/bike connection to Trainsong.

#### River Road

Sounding Board members discussed the following issues:

- A Sounding Board member asked how access to the high school will be provided near Silver Lane. Sasha explained that the alternative would include a stop at Silver Lane.
- A Sounding Board member asked if buses would operate more frequently on Blair in the Enhanced Corridor Alternative. Sasha explained that Blair would have approximately 30 minute service.

#### Coburg Road

Sounding Board members discussed the following issues:

- A Sounding Board member said that they liked the Crescent/Chad routing.
- A Sounding Board member said Coburg Road needs better bike facilities and suggested that wayfinding signs for bikes might help people use parallel facilities.
- A Sounding Board member asked if the Coburg Road EmX Alternative would change the EmX routing in Gateway. Sasha explained that LTD has not determined how Gateway EmX service might be affected.

## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard**

Sounding Board members did not have any comments or questions on this corridor

## **30th Avenue/Lane Community College**

Sounding Board members discussed the following issues:

- A Sounding Board member asked if the EmX Alternative precluded a future decision to flip the direction of Oak and Pearl Streets. Kristin responded that the EmX Alternative could use the couplet in either direction though it would require changes if the couplet was flipped.
- A Sounding Board member suggested that the alternatives should include a sidewalk on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue to connect to Amazon Parkway.
- A Sounding Board member noted that Pearl Street (Broadway to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue) is a challenge for cyclists and suggested that the High Street cycletrack be extended north. Zach explained that the proposed project is longer than what is shown on the maps.

## **5. Alternatives Analysis process – Luftig**

Sasha provided a brief overview of the Alternatives Analysis process. She reminded the group that the Alternatives Analysis process is an opportunity to compare the alternatives in more detail on a wide range of topics. After the Alternatives Analysis is complete, the community will be invited to participate in a discussion to inform the selection of the locally preferred alternative.

A Sounding Board member asked if the Alternatives Analysis would include health indicators. Sasha explained that the topics were broad, but that the process does not include a health impact assessment.

## **6. City vision process – Galloway**

Zach told the group that the project team would be documenting projects and needs that could be completed outside of MovingAhead to fulfill the City's vision for each corridor. These projects will not be evaluated as part of the Alternatives Analysis but will be included to reinforce the vision for a safe, convenient multimodal transportation system.

## **7. Next meeting**

The group discussed their next meeting. They said they would be willing to meet for an update before the Alternatives Analysis is complete if there is substantive information to discuss. If the team has information to share that does not require a meeting, they would rather get an update via email.