

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Action: MovingAhead Corridor Screening

Meeting Date: October 12, 2015
Department: Public Works
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: 4
Staff Contact: Chris Henry
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-8472

ISSUE STATEMENT

The Eugene City Council will be asked to take action to advance MovingAhead corridors for further study and alternatives analysis. MovingAhead is a cooperative effort between the City of Eugene and Lane Transit District (LTD) to make the main streets in the transportation system safer and more accessible for people traveling by foot, bicycle, mobility device, bus, or car while supporting great neighborhoods.

BACKGROUND

The City of Eugene and LTD, with the help of other regional partners, are developing MovingAhead to determine how to improve the main streets that connect neighborhoods, shopping areas, and places of employment. MovingAhead will prioritize transit, walking, and biking projects so they can be efficiently advanced to design and construction. It will focus on the key corridors identified in Envision Eugene, LTD's Long-Range Transit Plan, and the Regional Transportation Plan.

MovingAhead is a system-level approach to corridor improvements. Over the next year, MovingAhead will: determine the needs of people using transit, biking, rolling with a mobility device, and walking in each corridor; develop concepts for how transit might work in these corridors and what improvements are needed for biking and walking; evaluate the concepts and determine which best meet the community's needs; select which corridors are most ready for near-term projects; refine corridor concepts, and complete a study of environmental impacts and benefits. Then, projects will be ready to design, fund, and build.

On May 11, 2015, the Eugene City Council and LTD Board of Directors met jointly for a briefing about MovingAhead in advance of community outreach efforts. Following a series of five public workshops in May, the project team developed a set of high-level design concepts ranging from Enhanced Corridor bus service to full EmX bus rapid transit service; each with space for people walking, rolling, and biking along and across the study corridors. A robust public involvement process is ongoing, drawing on stakeholder interviews, community workshops, open houses, tabling at events, online outreach, and targeted outreach to neighborhood, civic, and business groups.

The project team has attended more than 20 events throughout the city this summer and spoke with an estimated 590 people (not including the community reached through the MovingAhead Sounding Board). In addition, 372 responses were received through a virtual open house. The corridor concepts were evaluated against screening criteria with the results presented for feedback to the MovingAhead Sounding Board and community groups, including a community open house held on September 14, 2015.

The corridor screening results indicate that both Enhanced Corridor and EmX service concepts could be considered for Highway 99, River Road, Coburg Road, and 30th Avenue to Lane Community College, and an Enhanced Corridor should be considered on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Valley River Center should not be advanced within MovingAhead. At their September 23, 2015 meeting, the MovingAhead Oversight Committee made a recommendation on corridors to advance for continued study consistent with the corridor screening results.

The LTD Board of Directors are also scheduled to take action on October 12, 2015, to select corridors to advance for further development and alternatives analysis through the winter and spring of 2016. In this next phase, both the Eugene City Council and LTD Board of Directors will decide on a preferred alternative for each corridor.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Envision Eugene, TransPlan, Draft Eugene Transportation System Plan, LTD Long-Range Transit Plan, and Regional Transportation Plan.

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Accept the City Manager's recommendation on corridors to advance.
2. Modify the City Manager's recommendation to include other corridors to advance.
3. Take no action.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends action to advance the following MovingAhead corridors for further study to evaluate an EmX alternative, an Enhanced Corridor alternative, and a no-build alternative during the Level 2 alternatives analysis:

- Highway 99 Corridor
- River Road Corridor
- Coburg Road Corridor
- 30th Avenue-Lane Community College Corridor

And, the City Manager recommends that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Corridor advance as an Enhanced Corridor as part of the Level 2 alternatives analysis.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to direct the City Manager to advance the following MovingAhead corridors for further study to evaluate an EmX alternative, an Enhanced Corridor alternative, and a no-build alternative during the Level 2 alternatives analysis:

- Highway 99 Corridor
- River Road Corridor
- Coburg Road Corridor
- 30th Avenue-Lane Community College Corridor

And, direct the City Manager to advance the Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard Corridor as an Enhanced Corridor as part of the Level 2 alternatives analysis.

ATTACHMENTS

A. MovingAhead Corridor Screening Evaluation Summary

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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