

MINUTES

Eugene City Council Work Session Eugene, Oregon 97401

November 10, 2025
5:30 p.m.

Councilors Present: Eliza Kashinsky, Matt Keating, Alan Zelenka, Jennifer Yeh, Mike Clark, Greg Evans, Lyndsie Leech, and Randy Groves

Mayor Knudson opened the November 10, 2025, work session of the Eugene City Council in a hybrid format at 500 E 4th Avenue, North Building, Eugene OR 97401.

1. **WORK SESSION: Airport Terminal Renovation and Expansion Update**

City Manager Sarah Medary introduced Cathryn Stephens, Airport Director, who provided background on the Eugene Airport Terminal Renovation and Expansion (TREX) project.

Councilor Discussion:

- Councilor Groves – asked whether the drop-off and pick-up area at the airport would be addressed as part of the expansion; asked whether federal funding for the project would come with restrictive conditions; stated appreciation for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agents working without pay during the government shutdown.
- Councilor Evans – noted he is paying close attention to airport development because it is located in his ward; asked about the long-standing lack of hotel development near the airport and how Clear Lake investments might leverage future development; asked about regional competition and connectivity; referenced other Oregon airports and the potential for expanded flights to major destinations.
- Councilor Zelenka – stated support for the expansion, citing clear economic and environmental benefits; noted traditional funding mechanisms would delay the project by 30 years; asked whether the airport receives general fund support; asked whether nontraditional funding sources described in the presentation were realistic or aspirational; asked when the Lift Off Eugene feasibility study would be completed.
- Councilor Keating – asked whether naming rights could include corporate branding; asked for clarification on recent grant language issues and how they were resolved; noted constituent concerns about a controversial video played at the airport; asked about the City's authority over TSA-controlled monitors; asked whether the proposed expansion would include additional natural relief areas for dogs; asked whether Ontario Airport in Southern California was being considered for future nonstop service.
- Councilor Kashinsky – asked why the refined terminal expansion alternative was significantly more expensive than earlier scenarios; asked whether design changes or constraints led to the selection of the current configuration; asked

whether building only part of Concourse C would be financially viable; expressed concern about delayed revenue generation from incomplete gate construction.

- Councilor Clark – stated appreciation for the Airport Director’s leadership and vision; asked about the future role of general aviation at the airport and whether private pilots would continue to have access; asked whether general aviation use is expected to increase and how it might factor into future fundraising strategies.
- Mayor Knudson – asked for more detail on the airport’s economic impact; asked how Eugene’s lack of existing bond obligations compares to other regional airports; questioned whether this positions the City advantageously.
- Councilor Evans – noted interest in public transportation connections between the airport and regional universities; suggested a potential transit link between Eugene and Corvallis-Albany.
- Councilor Groves – asked whether the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) interest in expanding secondary airports could result in additional federal funding for Eugene; asked about the future of air freight at the airport and whether current facilities are sufficient to support industrial growth; asked whether the airport’s cargo capacity could be impacted by expansion at the Port of Coos Bay.
- Councilor Clark – asked whether the airport is planning for increased air cargo capacity in response to regional freight expansion, including at the Port of Coos Bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie LaSala
City Recorder

(Recorded by Cherish Bradshaw)

Link to the webcast of this City Council meeting [here](#).