

July 8, 2020

**TO:** Metropolitan Policy Committee

**FROM:** Carleen Reilly  
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**RE:** CLMPO Funding Applications: Support for Santa Clara projects

I want to share my support for proposed transportation projects in Santa Clara. I have been working with River Road and Santa Clara residents for the past decade as we develop our neighborhood plan. I have listened to Santa Clarans as they voiced their desire for bike paths connecting to the West Bank Trail that would thread through their neighborhood, and for safety improvements for Division, Beaver, and Hunsaker.

### **Division Avenue Roundabouts: River Road to Lone Oak**

When I visited Lone Oak assisted living facility with Lane County Transportation staff to talk about pedestrian safety, it was obvious that residents want to get out and go places. They were willing to make efforts to walk safely, but if it wasn't safe, they would take whatever risk necessary to cross Division to get to Fred Meyer. You would, too, if you needed to pick up a prescription. These three roundabouts with marked crossings for pedestrians and bicyclists appear to be strategically placed to improve safety.

Safety permeates this project employing speed reduction, reduction in number of vehicle lanes, separations between vehicles and pedestrians/bicyclists, improved business access turns, and enhanced pedestrian/bicycle crossings. When people perceive it is safer, they will be more comfortable biking and walking and engage in it more often. The more we walk and bike, the healthier we will be and the fewer car emissions will be in the air. In addition, the expectation is that fewer vehicle crashes will occur with reduced deaths and severity of injuries.

### **West Bank Path Extension: Echo to Admiral**

Santa Clarans have a long-held dream of a community center and park, and the City of Eugene purchased property next to Madison School for that purpose. Collaboration between the City of Eugene and Lane County with Santa Clarans to extend the West Bank Trail is part of a dream come true. The West Bank Trail currently runs the length of River Road neighborhood and terminates at Beaver Street. This termination dumps bicyclists and pedestrians on a street with higher speed vehicles and very narrow shoulders. The proposed extension would provide safe north/south connectivity that neighbors have been plotting out for years, and it lands in the Madison School area. The addition of a sidewalk to Admiral Street with enhanced crossings at River Loop 1 and Wilkes Drive will be much appreciated by neighbors. My husband and I drive in this area every Sunday to pick up our farm produce, and we see people walking and biking year round.

## **Hunsaker Lane Complete Street Improvements: River Road to Taito**

Many of you will remember impassioned testimonies for transportation safety after the death of my friend Irene Ferguson on Hunsaker on January 17, 2019. This reconstruction of Hunsaker will address safety concerns by adding sidewalks on both sides of the roadway from 500 feet east of River Road to Taito and by widening the roadway to include buffered bike lanes.

The sum of these three projects will provide a much safer neighborhood for walking and biking and will connect the northern and southern portions of the area. We all know that we must take cars off the road and reduce vehicle miles traveled to reduce air emissions. Biking, walking, and public transit are major transportation modes that we will depend on for reducing VMT.

I have listened to neighbors agonize about congestion along River Road as they try to access Beltline or continue southward. They raised hues and cries about safety. They have dreamed of a community gathering place and safe ways to reach it. Rarely do we have a packet of proposals to address transportation problems and provide answers to a neighborhood's dreams. I urge you to support these three projects.