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Senate Bill 1020

Greetings Chair Beyer and Business and Transportation Committee members:

I am Carleen Reilly, 395 Marion Ln, Eugene, OR 97404, and I appreciate the opportunity as a 38-year resident of the River Road neighborhood to advocate for Senate Bill 1020. When I refer to "We," I am speaking about my experience with several teams of neighbors I have worked with in the last decade in both Santa Clara and River Road neighborhoods.

Our newly minted Senator James Manning, Jr., is sponsoring this bill requesting \$30 million to help fund the extension of bus rapid transit, called EmX, to both neighborhoods.

River Road (the Road) has been described as the aorta of our neighborhood. It might be considered to have congestive heart failure. Safety concerns abound with unsafe pedestrian crossings, backed up traffic, and bus riders in wheelchairs left behind because there is no more room on the bus.

The current Lane Transit District station is located at the interchange with the Pape Beltline—a high vehicle crash area, with a large high school a half block away.

Relocation of the transit station to Santa Clara is the first step toward the installation of EmX, alleviation of traffic congestion, and increased safety.

After a decade of advocacy, our neighborhoods are excited about EmX's arrival. We don't think the road would need to be widened to accommodate EmX, but it would reduce vehicle miles traveled, reduce toxic emissions, and provide safer intersections.

We know public transit supports economic development. Neighborhoods excluded from or with inadequate public transit experience decreases in real estate values, businesses and jobs flee, and the broad mix of residents move—making it a low rent area. Remaining residents would need cars to commute to jobs miles away. We don't want our neighborhood set up for decimation.

Land use applications have multiplied after the economic downturn, with larger tracts of land being developed with 3-story apartments and larger residential housing areas. We have two brand new elementary schools to accommodate children from these additional families.

We think EmX will enhance livability in our neighborhood, make the corridor safer, attract businesses to provide basic goods and services, and transform it to be an amenity that will encourage people who want to walk or ride a bike.

Thank you for your help in making the heart of our River Road community regain health and vitality by supporting SB 1020. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.