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Greetings Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

I am Carleen Reilly, 395 Marion Lane, Eugene, OR, 97404, proud resident of River Road neighborhood for 38 years. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of our neighborhoods and the larger metropolitan area. **I am a staunch advocate for expanding bus rapid transit, called EmX, and hope you will include \$30 million in funding to match federal funds for the next phase.**

Transportation, including public transit, has been a major priority of River Road and Santa Clara neighborhoods for more than a decade.

River Road (the Road) is the aorta of our neighborhoods. But you might say it has congestive heart failure. A Lane Transit District station sits at the intersection of Beltline Road and River Road. When North Eugene High School students converge and emerge during community rush hours, safety concerns abound in this high-crash area. Traffic backs up, pedestrian crossings overflow, and bus riders in wheelchairs are left behind because buses are full.

EmX could solve many transportation problems. LTD recently purchased property to relocate the transit station to Santa Clara. A federal grant awarded for the River Road corridor would study how to serve present and future population needs as housing is built, support new business and commercial development, and plan for future increased multi-modal forms of transportation.

Expanding EmX on River Road should alleviate traffic congestion and increase safety. The current right of way seems adequate to accommodate EmX. We expect reduced vehicle miles traveled, reduced toxic emissions, and safer intersections—knitting our bisected neighborhoods together—allowing children on the east side to safely reach school on the west side.

Public transit drives economic development and might fulfill our dream of 20-minute shopping. Neighborhoods excluded from or with inadequate public transit experience decreased real estate values, businesses and jobs flee, and the broad mix of residents move—making it a low rent area. Remaining residents may require cars to commute to jobs miles away. We don't want our neighborhoods set up for decimation.

We think EmX would enhance livability in our neighborhoods, make the corridor safer, attract businesses to provide basic goods and services, and transform the road to an amenity. Thank you for helping the heart of our neighborhoods regain health and vitality.

## Public transit represents to River Road and Santa Clara—

1. Safety, first and foremost
  1. Intersection safety
  2. Safer bike lanes
  3. Fewer vehicle crashes
2. Money savings - fewer vehicle miles traveled
3. Cleaner air - reduced toxic emissions
4. Reduction of vehicle congestion
5. Increased bus services for efficient and effective transportation
  1. More bicycle capacity
  2. More wheelchair and baby stroller bays
  3. Support widening multi-modal transportation options
  4. Serve current and future residents as new apartments and residential housing are built
6. Sustain thriving neighborhoods
  1. Increased economic development
  2. Facilitate creation of 20-minute walkable/bikable commercial nodes
  3. Provide goods and services within the neighborhoods
7. Make River Road an amenity rather than a liability
  1. Knit together the east and west sides of neighborhoods
  2. More attractive with appropriate landscaping, good signage, and good lighting