

Lane Transit District West Eugene EmX Extension Project Environmental Impact Statement

Public Scoping Meetings
October 8 and 9, 2007



Lane Transit District EmX West Eugene Extension



What is an Environmental Impact Statement?



What is an Environmental Impact Statement?

- Document
 - Discussion of environmental impacts associated with project alternatives
 - Environmental review process
- Created by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)



What is NEPA?

- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- Requires Federal agencies to
 - Consider potential environmental consequences of major Federal actions
 - Document analysis
 - Make information available to public and other agencies
 - Consider analysis and feedback prior to implementing action

What is scoping?
Why is it important?



What is scoping?

- Start of Federal environmental study
- Used to identify a project's:
 - Purpose
 - Range of alternatives
 - Areas of concern
- Allows public and other agency participation
- It's a decision-making process, not a meeting or event

When does scoping occur?

- At start of project
- When public/agencies are notified that a Federal environmental study will occur
- When alternatives can begin to be identified

Scoping Timeframe

- Project Initiated – September 18
- Agency Scoping Meeting – September 27
- Public Scoping Meetings – October 8 & 9
- Public Comments by November 6, 2007



Who participates in scoping?

- General Public
- Interest Groups
- Agencies and Jurisdictions



Why is scoping important?

- Helps define
 - Key project issues
 - Proposed alternatives
 - Focus of environmental study
 - Public involvement
 - Agency coordination
 - Which issues require more intensive level of evaluation
- Ensures public and agency issues are considered



Why is scoping important?

- Comments from public/agencies will:
 - Be documented and summarized
 - Be considered before Scoping decisions are made
 - Help to better define project issues
 - Help identify alternatives for further study



Today's Scoping Meeting

- Learn about
 - Environmental review process
 - Why the project is needed
 - Ideas for solving West Eugene transit problems
 - What we have heard to date
 - How you can participate



Today's Scoping Meeting

- Tell us what you think about
 - Why the project is needed
 - Ideas for solving the West Eugene transit problems
 - Issues we should study in EIS
 - Study process
 - Opportunities for participating



West Eugene EmX Extension Project



Lane Transit District EmX West Eugene Extension



Draft Project Purpose

“To improve:

- Transit travel time
- Reliability
- Ridership
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness in West 11th Corridor (east/west), ...”



Draft Project Purpose (Cont.)

“... to support local and regional plans and goals for land use and transportation, and

To support economic development opportunities in the corridor ...”



Draft Project Purpose (Cont.)

“... while being sensitive to and protecting environmental resources and obtaining local public support.”



Why is the Project Needed?

- Historic and projected increases in traffic congestion in the West 11th Corridor
 - Due to increases in regional and corridor population and employment
- Lengthy transit travel times and deteriorating transit reliability in the West 11th Corridor
 - Due to growing traffic congestion

continued ...

Why is the Project Needed? (Cont.)

- Increasingly scarce transit operating revenue
- Bus rapid transit (BRT) is region's preferred high capacity transit mode
 - Identified in adopted and amended Regional Transportation Plan
- Recent removal of West Eugene Parkway as regional transportation system improvement

continued ...

Why is the Project Needed? (Cont.)

- Growing reliance on transit by region to meet mobility needs in West 11th Corridor
- Prioritization of West 11th travel shed by City of Eugene and LTD as region's third BRT corridor

continued ...

Why is the Project Needed? (Cont.)

- Local and regional land use and development goals and objectives target West 11th Corridor
 - Residential, commercial, retail, and industrial development
 - To help accommodate forecasted regional population and employment growth

continued ...

Why is the Project Needed? (Cont.)

- Identification and protection of important resources in natural and built environment in West 11th Corridor
 - Including but not limited to wetlands and rare plants and animals and their habitat that could limit options for improvements to transportation system



Goal and Objectives

- Define project's desired outcome
- Reflect community values
- Consistent with laws and regulations
- Goal
 - State broader project issues
- Objectives
 - Specify how to achieve goals

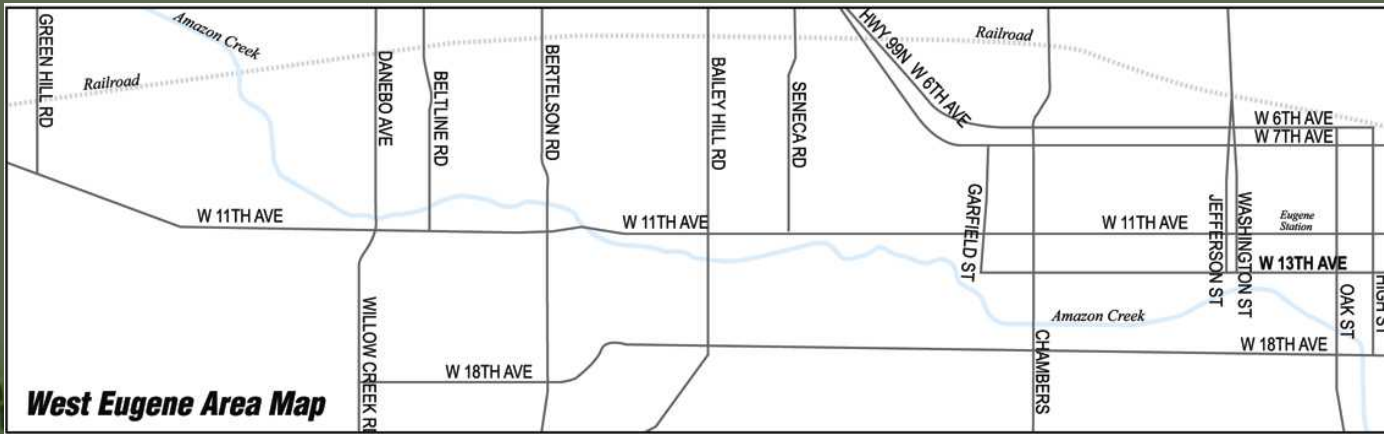
Project Goal

- **Same as project purpose:**
 - Improve transit travel time, reliability, ridership, efficiency, and effectiveness in the Corridor (east/west)
 - Support economic development opportunities
 - Be sensitive to and protecting environmental resources
 - Obtain local public support

Project Objectives for Corridor

- Provide convenient, fast, and reliable transit service
- Improve efficiency and effectiveness of transit service
- Support desired land use patterns and development
- Help accommodate future growth in travel demand
- Seek opportunities to enhance safety and operations for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists
- Provided for fiscally stable and efficient transit system
- Provide environmentally sensitive design for project

General Study Area



West Eugene Area Map

Lane Transit District EmX West Eugene Extension



Which agencies are involved?

- **Federal Lead Agency**
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- **Co-Lead Agency**
Lane Transit District (LTD)
- **Participating Agencies**
Invited more than 20 federal, state, local, and other agencies



Who else is involved?

General public

- Study Area Information
- Review and Feedback
- New Ideas

West Eugene EmX
Corridor Committee

- Advise Project Team and
Steering Committee

EmX Steering
Committee

- Recommendations to Board

Metropolitan Policy Committee
Eugene City Council
LTD Board of Directors

- Select Locally Preferred
Alternative

Environmental Review Process

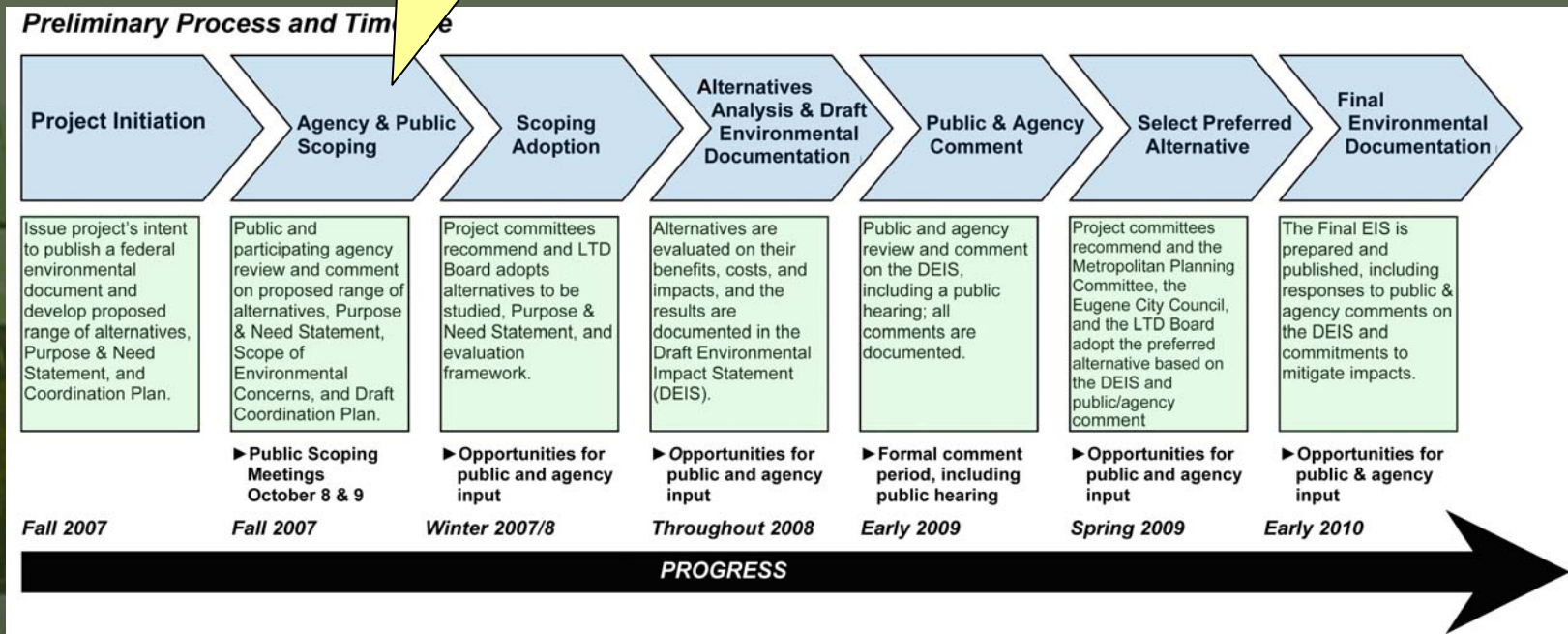


Lane Transit District EmX West Eugene Extension

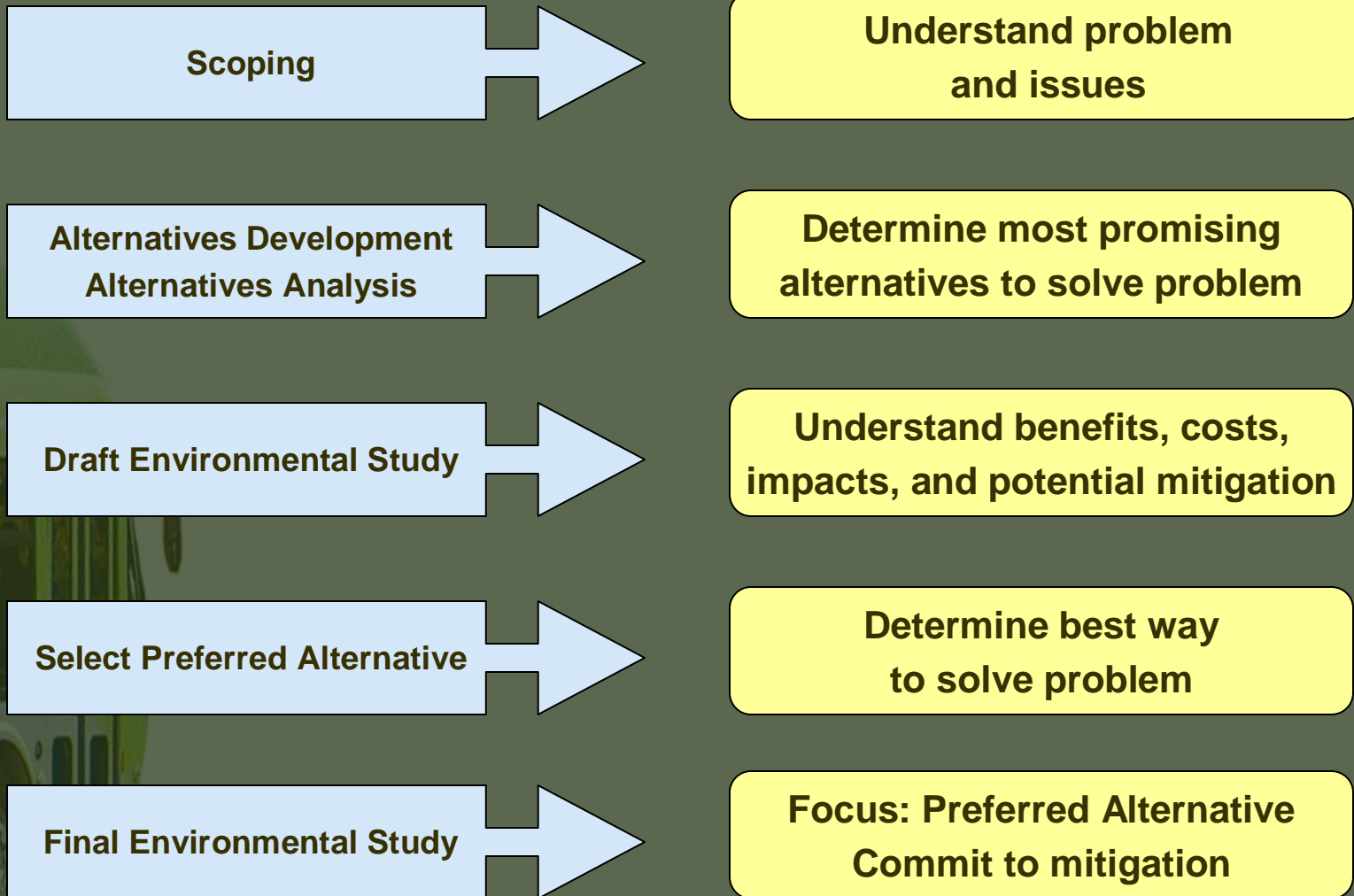


Key Steps and Timeline

We are here



Process Overview



Next Steps in Process

- Develop alternatives
- Evaluate alternatives
- Prioritize alternatives
 - How well do they meet project Purpose and Need / Goal and Objectives



We want to hear from you...

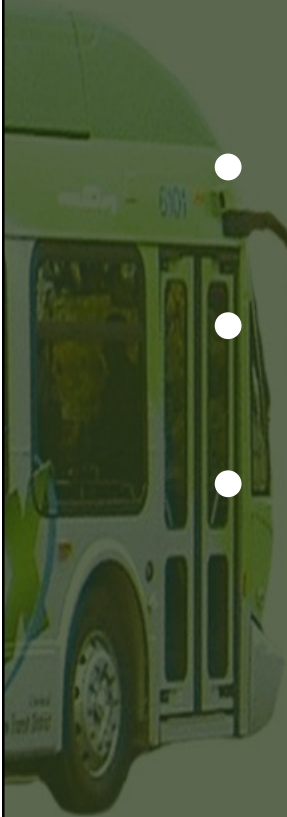


Lane Transit District EmX West Eugene Extension



Tell Us What You Think

- Why the project is needed
- Ideas for solving Corridor transit problems
- Issues we should study in EIS
- Study process
- Opportunities for participating



Proposed Project Alternatives

- **Review concept alternatives**
 - **Developed by**
 - Public
 - Agencies
 - Committees
 - Technical Team
- **Submit new ideas**
 - **Blank maps available to draw your proposed alternatives**



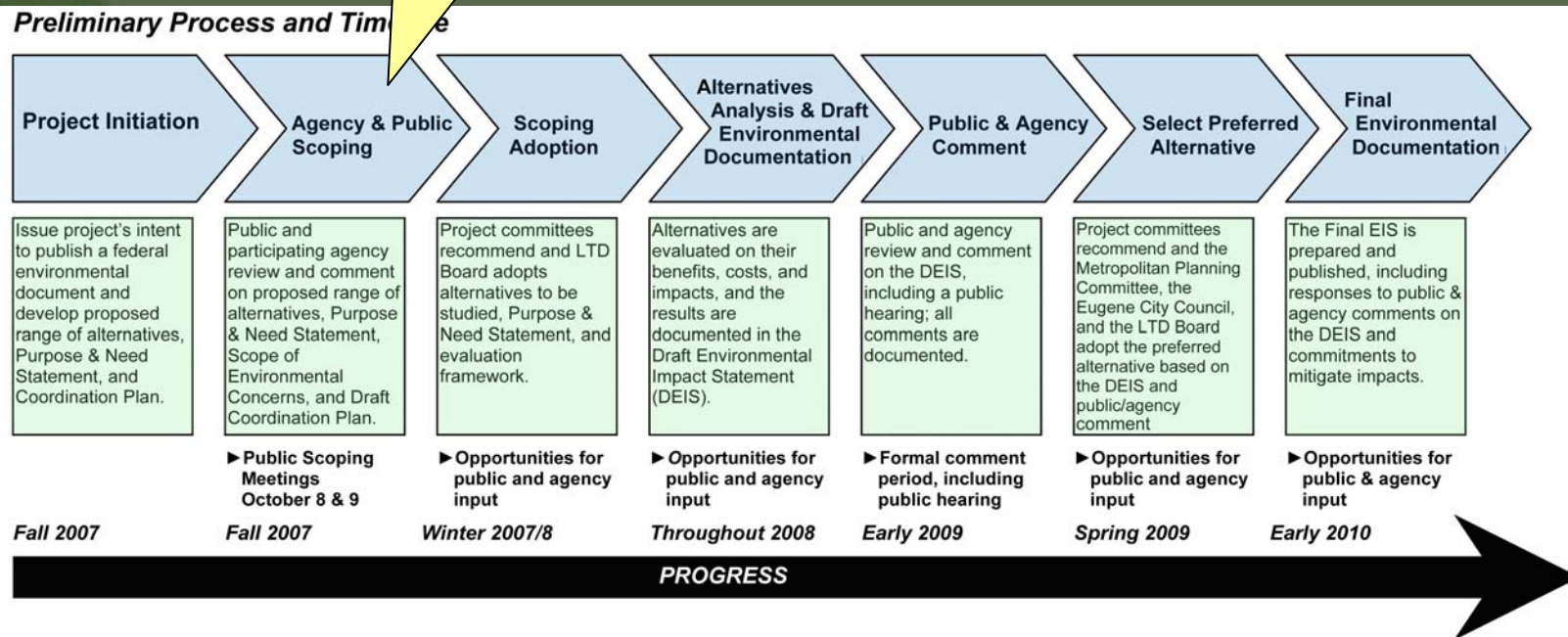
Which Issues Should We Study?

- Air quality
- Transportation and transit
- Bicycle and pedestrian access
- Water quality
- Flooding
- Neighborhoods and property impacts
- Noise
- Parks and open space
- Businesses and employment
- Public services and utilities
- Natural resources, such as trees, wetlands, animals, and habitat
- Cultural or historic resources
- Land uses
- Hazardous Materials

Are any issues missing?

Study Process and Opportunities for Participating

We are here



Ways to Comment

- Submit comment forms
 - In drop box today
 - Mail it to address provided on comment form
 - Fax it: 682-6111
 - Comments received by LTD no later than November 6, 2007
- Give oral comments tonight
 - These will be written in comment record



Ways to Comment

Web site and E-mail

Web: www.ltd.org

Email: we.emx@ltd.org

Telephone

541-682-6100



Key Dates

September 18, 2007 – Project initiated and Scoping begins

November 6, 2007 - Scoping comment period ends

December 19, 2007 – LTD Board considers comments and makes Scoping decisions

Questions & Answers



Lane Transit District EmX West Eugene Extension

