

EMX SURVEY: MIND THE GAPS

One result of LTD's public opinion survey on the proposed EmX extension to West 11th Avenue was about as surprising to the bus agency as spring rain in Eugene. Other responses were more informative.

The least surprising result to LTD, according to Director of Planning and Development Tom Schwetz, was that Eugeneans are split about 50-50 on whether they support or oppose the bus rapid transit extension. "What we were interested in was why," Schwetz told *EW*.

The 16-minute survey of likely voters, conducted by Portland's DHM Research, gathered opinions on important issues in Eugene, transportation project priorities and reasons to support or oppose the EmX extension.

Schwetz said that one of the most interesting results of the opinion survey was that some of the results directly contradicted lesser-known facts about the EmX, especially where cost and construction are concerned. "I think that a lot of the people who strongly oppose it don't know a lot about the project," he said.

When voters who opposed the project were asked about reasons to oppose the extension, 36 percent cited a waste of money or that it was too expensive.

"Too expensive in what way?" Schwetz asked. LTD received a \$75 million Small Starts grant from the Federal Transit Administration specifically for the extension, and LTD expects matching funds from the state, as well. If LTD doesn't use the grant money for the extension, it would go back to the FTA, to be used for a similar project in a different city.

Another perception that Schwetz said LTD needs to educate the public about is the impact of the construction on

the West 11th corridor. Schwetz said that LTD was told that most of the work could be done at night, in five-block sections for two weeks each, limiting the interruptions to businesses and to traffic.

Schwetz said it's important to take advantage of the opportunity to use the Small Starts grant money to plan ahead for an even higher population and greater need for transportation as even more multi-family housing fills in along the West 11th corridor. He said the EmX extension will offer "more efficient service in a congested corridor," and if Eugene passes on the grant, "there is no doubt in my mind that it would get used in some other part of the country."

"The preponderance of evidence says this is a good investment to make," Schwetz said. "Let's make this an evidence-based decision and look at it."

— Shannon Finnell

GETTING THE JUMP ON IPM

Next time you start to reach for a can of pesticide to get rid of ants or weeds, think of the children — and how Oregon's public schools are managing their pests.

Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP) Environmental Health Associate Aimee Code says that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can actually be defined in many ways, but she likes to approach it by calling it an attempt to get rid of pests while using the bare minimum of pesticides.

"It's going to have an emphasis on significantly reducing pesticide use, making a real difference in schools to improve the health of children," Code says. She says that the best implementation of IPM is progressive and verifiable, and doesn't allow for the approach that "pesticides equals pest control."

Complete Integrated Pest Management is coming to all Oregon schools, by law, in July 2012, but some schools have a jump on the concept. Clear Lake Elementary, in the Bethel School District, is an Oregon Green School and

started working with NCAP to reduce its pesticide use early. "Folks just have to be mindful of how can we set ourselves up for problems where we can do a lot of prevention," says Principal John Luhman.

Clear Lake used to have a fruit fly problem in its compost. Rather than spraying the compost with pesticides or living with the pests, the school consulted NCAP and worked together to find a solution. "They needed to increase the heat and the nitrogen content and carbon content," Code says. An alfalfa boost solved the problem without exposing children to neurotoxins.

Even mice and ants can be addressed without pesticides, Code says. A lot of that work can be done via prevention. "Clutter is one of the biggest issues," Code says. Working with teachers to cut down clutter and store projects safely helps, she says.

Preventing mice from entering the building makes a big difference, too. "If you can stick a pencil underneath a door, then mice can get in it," Code says. Working with building managers to install door sweeps and grating in problem areas can eliminate an ongoing mouse problem.

Code says that calling for reduced pesticide use doesn't remove that option completely, and she hopes that parents will be engaged with the new policy. "What are their concerns? What information do they want to know? We want to create that bridge between those communities."

To consult NCAP about working on IPM, see wkly.ws/187

— Shannon Finnell

ANIMAL FUNDING STILL IN LIMBO

Put your money where your local shelter is — because Lane County and the city of Eugene are not. They have been citing budget cuts and chopping funding to Lane County Animal Services (LCAS) and proposing instead an as-of-yet to be determined new way of dealing with the area's homeless pets.

"LCAS has one of the highest live release rates in the

Happening people BY PAUL NEEVEL



SANDY TILCOCK

Born in Portland, Sandy Tilcock moved to Nampa, Idaho, when she was 6. "I was the first in my family to go to college," says Tilcock, who majored in math at the College of Idaho in Caldwell and returned to Oregon as a graduate teaching fellow at OSU. "After two years, I dropped out and started exploring art." She met and married Patrick Tilcock, and they moved to Eugene in 1973 for his studies at the UO School of Music. "Our intent was to stay three years," she notes. Tilcock started out in calligraphy and co-founded the Valley Calligraphers' Guild, but later focused on bookbinding and sold hand-bound books at the Fifth Street Public Market. She won a fellowship for book arts at the University of Alabama, where she learned letterpress printing. When she returned with an MFA in 1987, she acquired a small Vandercook printing press and launched Lone Goose Press, working in collaboration with writers and artists to produce limited-edition broadsides and books. In 2006, LGP moved from a rented space in the Whiteaker to a new studio in the Tilcocks' back yard. "It has allowed me to get involved in the neighborhood," says Tilcock, currently in her second year as chair of Laurel Hill Valley Citizens, a neighborhood association. An exhibit of her collaborations, titled "It's Not About Me," is on view at the Jacobs Gallery at the Hult from March 30 through May 12.

LANE AREA SPRAY SCHEDULE

- Roseburg Resources (541) 935-2507: aerial Clopyralid, Hexazinone and Mesulfuron Methyl in the Coast Range on 36 acres above Nelson Mountain Road (2012-781-00193).
- Freres Timber (503-859-2121): aerial by Applebee Aviation (503-647-0404), Metsulfuron Methyl and Hexazinone on 160 acres in the Coast Range above Swartz Creek (2012-781-00207).
- Giustina Land and Timber Co (541-345-2301): Clopyralid, Hexazinone and/or Sulfometuron Methyl on 30 acres near Coyote Creek (T19S R04W S21) and Clopyralid, Hexazinone and Sulfometuron Methyl, Triclopyr Ester on 27 acres near Rebel Creek (2012-781-00205).
- Weyerhaeuser Springfield (541-988-7502): many chemicals and additives on 75 acres near Parsons Creek and on 20 acres near Ritchie, Haugen and Forest Creek (2012-771-00243 and 2012-771-00252).
- Roseburg Resources (541-935-2507): Clopyralid, Hexazinone and Metsulfuron Methyl in the Coast Range on 18 acres above Highway 36 (2012-781-00195).
- Nicholas Sumich (541-927-6177): Garlon 4 on 20 acres near Triangle Lake (2012-781-00181).

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