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letters

IF WE VOTE ON IT, THEY WON'T COME

I am a simple man and undoubtedly missing the obvious answer. But if a new Ems stadium could cost Eugene taxpayers as much as \$100 million, why can't taxpayers decide this question? Why is the Lane County Commission making this decision, instead of referring the issue to the voters?

Simpleton as I am, I suspect I do know the answer: the commission knows that the people of Eugene would likely turn this crushingly expensive proposition down.

*Tim Baxter
Eugene*

REJECT THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT WALKER

Eugene is a bastion of progressive politics — from housing, to climate action, to worker protections — and Eugeneans overwhelmingly support policies to build a better, more equitable future for our community and our city. These politics don't just stop at issues, either. In the 2016 primary, Eugene voters came out in droves to support progressive champion Bernie Sanders and resoundingly supported Democrats Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden in the last two general elections.

For conservatives running for non-partisan elected city offices, this poses a stark challenge, one they can only possibly overcome by misleading the public about their political views. Take, for example, Ward 7 City Council candidate Barbie Walker, literally a registered member of the extremist Libertarian party, who is working to convince Eugene voters that she is a pro-business Democrat.

Thankfully, beyond just being progressive, Eugene residents are also intelligent. All it takes is a simple Google search to know that Walker's extreme anti-government politics have no place in our (theoretical) city hall. And in that same search, residents will likely find that Walker's opponent, interim City Councilor Lyndsie Leech, is thoughtful, energetic and eminently qualified for the job with strong progressive bonafides.

The choice is clear: Voters must reject Libertarian Walker this fall, and do so with large enough numbers to send a message that conservatives have no place representing Ward 7 or our city. We deserve a strong, honest and progressive voice to stand up for working people, our climate and our future.

*Ryan Moore
Eugene*

STOP, COLLABORATE AND LISTEN

A few weeks ago, the *Weekly* published a letter of mine, defending the Eugene Transportation Planning de-

partment's bicycle lane upgrade of 13th Avenue. I also suggested that the roundabouts in the proposed upgrade of the Franklin Boulevard corridor would be an improvement because roundabouts move traffic much more efficiently than traditional traffic-light systems.

But having read the "request-to-stop" advertisement in the June 29 *Weekly*, I'm now concerned about the proposed elimination of the westbound left turn onto Orchard Street, especially.

The Transportation Planning department doesn't have a great track record of major upgrades that work well (enough) for all primary stakeholders, resulting in a backlog of ill will that colors the Franklin Boulevard controversy. So I'm writing now to request that the department step back and consider the raised concerns.

First, I suggest an experiment: temporarily shutdown the existing Orchard Street left turn, on alternating weeks, to gather actual data. Monitor any traffic pattern changes and work with the Hiron and Market of Choice companies to determine if there's any correlation between turn-lane closures and weekly revenue. And, of course, compensate them if necessary.

Second, provide a forum that initially addresses the already known concerns, then provides ample time for people to express their unresolved concerns, and then address those concerns, too.

The future of the Transportation Planning department's political independence is at stake. If the result is yet another poorly thought-through design, a political solution will surely come.

*Peter Straton
Eugene*

LOVING ELECTRIC

I recently purchased an electric bike and love it! I live at the north end of Gilham and work downtown. My commute to work is less than five minutes longer than when I drive my truck. I ride the river path home most afternoons. Being outside and getting a little exercise on the way to and from work is wonderful. I only pedal if I want to. My wife and I were lucky enough to spend some time in Europe a couple of months ago, and it is amazing how many people are commuting on electric bikes there. I am currently sitting in downtown Victoria, B.C., on a Monday morning at 8 o'clock watching the city come alive. The number of people commuting on electric bikes is amazing. I want to urge my fellow community members to consider commuting on an electric bike and join the trend — it's a game changer! Be respectful of pedestrians and others around you by being an EV ambassador. Otherwise, ride it like you stole it!

*Matthew D. Longtin
Eugene*

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