



April 10, 2008

Mr Mark Pangborn  
General Manager  
Lane Transit District  
PO Box 7070  
Eugene, OR 97401

Dear Mr Pangborn,

The Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization strongly endorses Lane Transit District's application for a Connect Oregon II grant to fund the Veneta Transit Center.

Our policy, as expressed in our regional transportation plan, is to support the park and ride system within the metropolitan area and nearby communities. While the location of the proposed Transit Center in Veneta is outside the MPO area, the success of transit service between Veneta and the Eugene/Springfield metropolitan area is of significant interest to the MPO. Auto trips to and from Veneta add to the congestion currently experienced in the W. 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue area of West Eugene, thereby creating reliability problems for both freight and commercial traffic as well as for commuters and other travelers. The impacted highway is also the main route between Eugene/Springfield and the coastal communities of Lane County.

The Transit Center will not only benefit Veneta residents but also rural Lane County residents from the Fern Ridge area and further west, who currently drive through Veneta to access Highway 126W. A safe, accessible and convenient park and ride such as is proposed in this grant, will encourage transit ridership and provide economic benefits and opportunities to rural commuters in this time of escalating energy prices.

As we look forward to the future, we anticipate the need for a diverse regional multi-modal system that will facilitate economic opportunities throughout Lane County and the southern Willamette Valley for all residents. The Veneta Transit Center is an important component of this system.

We highly recommend the project to the Connect Oregon II reviewers.

Sincerely,

Sid Leiken  
Chair, Metropolitan Policy Committee

cc. Lane County Commissioners