



# MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

*Rely on us.*

TO: Commissioners Mital, Simpson, Helgeson, Manning and Brown  
FROM: Mel Damewood, Engineering Manager, Jon Thomas, Planner III  
DATE: March 26, 2015  
SUBJECT: LTD EmX Project Update  
OBJECTIVE: Information Only

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## **Issue**

EWEB is actively relocating water and electric infrastructure needed to accommodate the West Eugene EmX Extension Project. EWEB's partnership with Lane Transit District (LTD) continues to require significant EWEB staff resources to fulfill the commitment to relocate utilities; prior to street modifications.

## **Background**

Lane Transit District initiated the West Eugene EmX project to extend express bus service from downtown to west Eugene. EWEB staff identified many conflicts between utility infrastructures and proposed street changes. Due to the length of the route, the project was broken into East and West sections (or "volumes" in LTD lingo). East section is approximately downtown bus station to Garfield, and West section extends from Garfield to the new terminus on West 11<sup>th</sup> and Commerce.

### On the East section

EWEB Water Operations staff has completed about 85% of the water service relocations; has one fire hydrant (out of seven) left to move; and relocated all water mains projected to be in conflict with excavation limits. To date, EWEB has relocated 3,530 feet of water main in 10 locations along the EmX route.

EWEB Electric Operations staff has relocated all overhead facilities. These pole relocations were required to increase ground clearance to accommodate several new traffic signals and ADA ramps that will be installed along West Sixth and West Seventh avenues. All of the service extensions for bus stations, street lighting, and traffic signals still need to be completed.

### On the West section

EWEB Water Engineering has completed a 90% design for work on 83 water services, 17 fire hydrants and 125 feet of water main. Most of the water mains were found to have adequate depth to avoid conflict with LTD's excavation limits. This data was gathered via

exploratory excavations (also referred to as *potholes*). Not all EWEB water facilities were potholed, so additional designs and relocations may be needed during road construction.

EWEB Electric Engineering has completed a 90% design. The West 11th corridor has a majority of the relocation efforts for existing overhead electric system. Conflicts created by the planned road widening will in part be resolved by shifting poles behind existing curbs. No construction work has yet occurred.

Under the terms of the intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between LTD and EWEB, LTD is responsible for acquiring the easements to facilitate the relocation effort. EWEB has provided LTD with all locations where easements are required to accommodate the relocation of EWEB's facilities. Where existing buildings or other facilities prohibit the simple relocation of poles to clear conflicts, EWEB will underground those facilities. Undergrounding electric service in the West 11<sup>th</sup> area will require approximately 6,000 feet of trenching for the installation of conduits and vaults.

### **Discussion**

The water relocations along W.11<sup>th</sup> Ave. are scheduled to begin in June 2015 and are likely to extend through Fall 2015. Depending on additional shallow water facilities found during LTD's construction, EWEB Water may be involved, to some extent well into 2016.

EWEB Electric Operation's remaining relocation activities are highly dependent on LTD's ability to secure easements along the W. 11<sup>th</sup> Ave. corridor. The tentative start date for electric relocations is also June 2015, with estimated 11-month duration to complete the work. EWEB is working with LTD to determine whether some work can begin before all easements are acquired, but segmenting the project adds more difficulties.

LTD continues to reimburse EWEB for the actual costs incurred for the utility relocations and service extensions. To date, EWEB has received about 63% of the \$3.1 million that LTD has authorized for utility relocations through March 2015. LTD has been very timely with making payments when billed. As the remaining designs are finalized and the scope of utility relocations is fully realized, EWEB will provide LTD with additional construction cost estimates. Preliminary estimates for the remaining EWEB Water and Electric relocation are \$1.6 million and \$4.8 million, respectively, bringing the total project cost to approximately \$9.6 million.

### **Requested Board Action**

No action requested. This is an informational item only. Staff will be available to answer question at the April 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 Board Meeting. If you have any questions, please call Mel Damewood at 541-685-7145 or email [mel.damewood@eweb.org](mailto:mel.damewood@eweb.org).