



Date: November 14, 2018

To: Corvallis Planning Commission

From: Laura Lahm Evenson, President
League of Women Voters of Corvallis

Subject: Draft Transportation System Plan

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) supports aggressive efforts to restore balance to the planet's climate systems by reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide. In addition, the League of Women Voters of Corvallis (LWVC) has a strong commitment to effective community planning, including planning and management of transportation systems that promote good land use, conserve natural resources, and maintain environmental quality.

The most recent report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) states that, globally, we must dramatically reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 in order to avert the worst effects of climate change, including the triggering of runaway feedback loops. In other words, the next 11 years will be critical in our efforts to reduce GHG emissions. In recognition of this responsibility, both the LWVUS and the LWV of Oregon have *amici* standing in the *Juliana v. US* case brought by Our Children's Trust in support of the youth plaintiff's fundamental and constitutional right to a livable climate.

While there are many positive features of the draft Transportation System Plan (TSP), such as new multi-use paths and bike lanes and transit improvements, we are concerned that the draft TSP has not made GHG emissions reduction an overarching goal. The Corvallis Climate Action Plan calls for the community to reduce its total 1990 GHG emissions 75 percent by 2050. Transportation is the largest GHG emitting energy sector in Oregon, and one over which the State, the MPO Region, the County, and the City have some control. Addressing the magnitude of changes required to meet GHG emissions targets will require a focused commitment to reduce fossil fuel use, improve efficiency, and decrease car dependency.

We understand that the TSP has involved considerable investment of time, effort, and funds during the four-year TSP planning effort, and we expect that City Council will approve it. The LWV of Corvallis would like to offer the following recommendations as the City moves into the implementation phase:

- **Ensure that the TSP is a “living document”, informed by the Community Greenhouse Gas Inventory that is on a two-year schedule.** We support those statements on page 6 of the draft TSP that call for more frequent TSP reviews and updates and for City staff to explore ways to modify the TSP that are more streamlined than the current Comprehensive Plan amendment process.
- **Support extending current and new forms of transportation systems in new developments to discourage dependency on automobiles.** The City's Climate Action Advisory Board has determined that land use/development to reduce car dependency is one of its top three priority strategies.
- **Building new or widened roads to ease congestion should not be a priority.** Transportation analysts report that past experience over decades has shown that new roads do not solve traffic congestion in populated areas; they simply allow increases in traffic and new congestion to form.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations.