

Submitter: Daniel Brown
On Behalf Of: Lane County Multi-Use Public Facility
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction
Measure: HB5201

Dear Counselors,

I am writing you today to voice my support for the continued efforts to build a new Lane County Multi-Use Public Facility at the Lane County Fair grounds.

Personally, I do not live in the Jefferson Westside neighborhood, but I live next to it in the Churchill neighborhood. The main arterial roads that I travel to go anywhere from my house are 18th, West 11th, 13th, and Chambers, all main roads that would be affected by increases in traffic. I understand that the main opposition to the new stadium is increased traffic and parking issues in areas adjacent to the stadium. That opposition is disingenuous, at best. I have traveled those roads during large events at the fairgrounds, including during the multi-day Lane County Fair. The additional traffic barely registers a blip in slowdowns in that area.

As far as parking is concerned, I would again point to the County Fair. During the fair, parking is well managed, but does spill outside of the fairgrounds. A new stadium would have neither the crowds, nor the parking issues spilling over, for the simple reasons that the fair occupies most of the parking space at the fairgrounds.

One final thought is that the fairgrounds began development in 1909. Not a person alive, who lives in any neighborhood near the fairgrounds, purchased their property without knowing that a large fairground and events venue was nearby. The idea that the fairgrounds would not grow, develop, and change, would be completely unreasonable. Also, the idea that the space would not be used for traffic-increasing events would also be unreasonable.

On the flip-side, there are numerous benefits to having a ballpark and multi-use facility in a more centralized area, to include increased tax revenue, business traffic, increased opportunities for local recreation for citizens, and prestige. Our community is growing, and not only do we have the room, support, and community good will to proceed with this project, we have an increased need for it.

Please support development of a new Lane County Multi-Use Public Facility at the fairgrounds.

Thank you,

Daniel KT Brown