

Citizens air traffic plan suggestions

By JULIE MORTON
Of the Emerald

Staggering work hours of public employees to reduce peak-hour traffic, reversing lanes and increasing the emphasis of non-auto traffic were some of the citizen suggestions at the first public hearing on the metropolitan area transportation plan (T-2000) held Wednesday.

The planning commissions of Eugene, Springfield and Lane County met to hear public input on the plan, which is a revision of the Eugene-Springfield Area Transportation Study (ESATS) plan completed in the late 1960s. T-2000 is the blueprint intended to guide area transportation planning during the next 22 years. It was developed by the Lane Council of Governments (L-COG) Transportation Planning Committee.

Public input at the hearing ranged from minor suggestions to major changes in the plan.

Gary Spivak, acting as a spokesman for Community Meet, presented an alternative Citizens' Transportation Plan. Community Meet, an organization representing neighborhood groups and other organizations in the area, is concerned with reducing peak-hour traffic and the amount of highway construction, according to Spivak. He said the group was concerned that the amount of highway construction in the plan could have a detrimental effect on the community.

Spivak suggested that the reduction of peak-hour traffic by at least 20 percent be adopted as one goal of the plan. "This would be done primarily by staggering work hours or using flexible work hours by government and private business throughout the Eugene-Springfield area," Spivak said.

Other actions the group suggested were to utilize reversible lanes, that carry traffic into the

metropolitan area in the morning and away from the area in the evening, to have priority lanes for car pools and buses and to reduce the cost of the plan to one more realistic with expected revenues.

Clark Cox, representing West University Neighbors, suggested more emphasis be put on transit and para-transit travel. "Without aggressive transit ridership programs, all the cars from U of O pile up in our neighborhood," Cox said.

Bicycle advocates suggested

more conveniences and incentives for bicyclists be included in the plan, not only to alleviate present and expected traffic congestion, but also to protect the area's environment.

One specific problem raised with an alternate of T-2000 is that a proposed freeway ramp would run right through the WOW Hall building at 8th Avenue and Lincoln Street. Albert Pastine, a member of the board of directors for the Community Center for the Performing Arts, which is located at

WOW Hall, said the ramp could be built on vacant land around WOW Hall.

"As long as Eugene downtown westside corridor, alternate two, is being considered — WOW Hall cannot plan renovations or apply for grants," Pastine said.

The plan was also criticized for failure to incorporate land-use planning. With proper planning, it was suggested, de-centralized communities and residential centers could decrease the need for improved roadways.

Another complaint was aimed at the plan's implied assumption that 20 years from now, the public will still be driving automobiles like it is today. It was suggested that T-2000 roadways will be a waste of money if automobiles do not have the gasoline to travel on them.

Major proposals of T-2000 include: a bus rapid-transit system, a freeway replacing 6th and 7th Avenues and connecting to West 11th Avenue near Beltline, a one-way couplet along Lincoln and Charnelton Streets, a railroad overpass connecting River Road and Chambers Street and replacement or modification of the Ferry Street Bridge.

In order to continue to receive federal funds, for mass transit streets and highways, a long-range transportation plan must be adopted by June 30 of this year.

Oh where, oh where, has our Fluffy gone???

Remember the small, black, female dog called Fluffy by the "Animal House" movie crew? During Christmas break the dog disappeared from its home at Sigma Nu and the fraternity members are asking students for assistance in

finding their lost pooch.

According to Tony Clifford, Sigma Nu member, the fraternity sincerely miss its dog, a Doberman/Shepard mix with primarily shepherd features, but with the cropped tail of a Doberman.

She was a little over four years old when she disappeared Dec. 1 from the Sigma Nu house near 11th Avenue and Alder Street. Clifford says anyone finding the dog would be more than welcome to the dog's Welcome Home Kegger.

The fraternity brothers say anyone with information about the missing dog (whose real name is Bruiser) should call the Sigma Nu house at 686-3244.

CULTURAL FORUM POSITION



Applications now being accepted for the coordinating position in the:

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Interested applicants should obtain application forms from Suite 2 of the EMU. Application deadline has been extended to 5 p.m. Wednesday January 25. Non-salaried position. Call 686-4373 for details.

OSPIRG sponsors water conference

"Water Crisis???" Alternative Energy Scenarios," A two-day Portland conference this weekend will focus on current water resource policy in the region and evaluate alternative proposals.

The Oregon Student Public Interest Research Group (OSPIRG) will sponsor the conference, with funds provided by the federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Topics to be considered include competition for existing water resources, water management and land use planning, economic and

environmental trade-offs, interstate water allocation, and the citizen's role in water resource policy and planning.

There will be two key note speakers from the federal government: Rupert Cutler, secretary for Conservation, Research and Education from the Department of Agriculture, and Dan Beard, deputy assistant secretary for Lands and Water Resources from the Department of the Interior.

Chapin Clark, dean of the University law school and chairer of Oregon's Water Policy Review Board, will speak at luncheons both days and will moderate some panel discussions.

The registration fee will be \$6, payable at the conference in the main Ballroom of the Smith Memorial Center at Portland State University.

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Friday, January 20, 1978