

City airport plans growth

By PETER RACEY
Of the Emerald

Expansion of the Mahlon Sweet Airport terminal necessary to keep up with an expected doubling of airport use in the next 20 years is in the "conceptual design stage," says Bob Shelby, the airport's aviation director.

Actual design will begin in early 1981, and if the tight schedule is met, the terminal's expansion will be completed by late 1983, Shelby says.

Shelby also is a member of the Eugene Airport Commission, an advisory board that is considering expansion recommendations made two weeks ago by a citizens committee.

The committee was formed in February by the Eugene City Council to study and suggest principal improvements in the airport terminal, says committee chairer Orlando Hollis, former acting University president and former law school dean.

Shelby says expansion of the terminal is needed to meet the requirements of a community Eugene's size.

The terminal handles an average of 44 flights a day, and about a half-million passengers will use the airport this year. This figure will increase to nearly one million passengers per year by the year 2000, Shelby says.

The existing terminal was

Women's group slates breakfast at local eatery

A benefit breakfast for Women Take Back the Night — a women's group protesting violence against women — will be held on Oct. 13 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Homefried Truck-stop.

Proceeds from the breakfast will help fund a day of educational workshops on Oct. 25 at South Eugene High School. The workshops will focus on the different kinds of violence directed against women and the ways women can assume responsibility and power against this violence. The workshops will be open to the public.

A march through Eugene will be held later that evening for all women wishing to actively "take back the night."

Members of the women's group say violent crimes against women have become commonplace, and a woman must compromise her life if she wants to be safe.

For more information on the group and its activities, call the University Women's Referral and Resource Center at 686-3327.

built to handle only one plane at a time but now handles as many as three planes at one time. When flights overlap, it gets extremely crowded, Shelby says.

The planned expansion will increase public space and parking, as well as allow the airport to handle more flights.

The citizens committee's recommendations fall into three categories: areas of the terminal that need to be updated, areas that should be improved if funds are available, and "dream" items — items that won't get top priority, Hollis says.

Included in the committee's recommendations are an improved baggage-claim area, better parking lot access, sheltered passenger boarding areas and a larger restaurant.

Shelby says the committee's report will be used to gauge the effectiveness of the design work. Design plans also include enlarging the terminal from 24,000 square feet to 50,000 square feet and adding three more gates to the existing four. "Everything needs to be stretched," he says.

The actual drawing and design will start after the commission considers the committee's recommendations, after rates and charges are negotiated and after a budget is drawn up.

The commission then will present the expansion plans to the Eugene City Council for final approval, rejection or alteration.

Funding for the terminal's expansion will come from airport revenues, Shelby says.

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