

Public hearing set for tonight

LTD riders face service cutbacks

By KAREN ADAMS
Of the Emerald

Lane Transit District riders may face service cutbacks in January to offset the district's projected \$340,000 budget deficit.

The possible cutbacks will be discussed at a public hearing tonight at 7:30 p.m. in Municipal Courtroom 1, City Hall, 777 Pearl St.

The deficit results from a 26 percent decline in ridership and a 7 percent decline in payroll tax revenues for the first quarter,

says Paul Shinn, LTD director of administration.

"Last year we were nailed hard by inflation, this year by lack of revenue and next year both. It's not a bright picture here at LTD," Shinn says.

The LTD staff is proposing the following service reductions effective Jan. 4:

- Reduce service frequency from the present 30 minutes to 45 minutes all day Saturday.
- Eliminate 6:25 a.m. and 7:10 a.m. Saturday departures. The first Saturday departure from

the Eugene Mall would be at 7:55 a.m.

- Eliminate 10:55 p.m. and 11:40 p.m. weekday and Saturday departures. The last Eugene Mall departure would be 10:10 p.m.

- Reduce service frequency on Sunday from the present 45 minutes to 90 minutes on routes Harlow 12, Centennial 14, W. 18th 33, Campbell/Bethel 42, Four Corners 45, Santa Clara 51 and Oakway 61.

- Eliminate Sunday service on Park Avenue 50.

The projected cuts would save the district \$240,000 from Jan. 1 to June 30, Shinn says.

The large drop in ridership results from a 25-cent fare increase implemented last spring. Ridership was down as much as 30 percent during the summer, but climbed back to 17 percent below the previous year's level in September.

"When anything like a loss of 30 percent of our riders happens, we want to make sure we know who we lost and why we lost them. Then we try to attract them back," says Ed Bergeron, LTD marketing administrator.

LTD research revealed most

of the 26-percent ridership loss was cash customers — those not using tokens or monthly passes. Tokens at 55 cents each and fastpasses at \$20 for unlimited monthly travel offer a break from the 60-cent fare.

The fare increase came after the voters defeated a proposal to fund LTD through a district income tax. LTD now receives 65 percent of its operating revenue from an employee payroll tax. The tax is .6 percent of the gross payroll of most employers in the district, which covers Eugene, Springfield, Veneta, Junction City, Blue River, Vida, Lowell and Coburg.

The payroll tax is not paid by government employers such as the University and the City of Eugene.

"We proposed the income tax to make funding more equitable. Some of the largest employers in Eugene do not pay the tax," says Bergeron.

emu Food Service
FOOD VAN
9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lickin' The Spoon

There once was a crowd at DQ
Who stood and perused the menu,
From burgers and fries,
Ice cream treats of all size,
I'm sure we have something for you.



13th & Hillyard

Fee committee releases money to fund BSU play

The Incidental Fees Committee voted Monday night to allow the Black Student Union to use \$400 from its Black Arts Festival account to fund a play called "Sizwe Bawsi is Dead."

The committee also voted to release \$100 from a conference account to Women in Communications, Inc. Representatives said the group needs the money to cover expenses incurred when members attended a con-

ference in California.

In addition, IFC member Mark Stapke was appointed IFC representative to the EMU Board, a position vacated when committee chairer Alan Contreras resigned this month to assume duties in the ASUO executive office. Stapke, who is not running for re-election, will hold the board seat only until the new committee is seated next week.

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Rust on Land Use Planning



"The essence of land use planning in Lane County is maintaining a compact Urban Growth Boundary while preserving our agricultural and forestry resources.

"In my term of office we have planned and zoned virtually all of Lane County. Our most important job is to protect our prime resource — land — because it saves tax dollars and preserves the quality of life in Lane County.

"I believe that your involvement and my ability to understand the issues has kept us from costly sprawl and unmanaged growth. I have...

- Voted against unsound development; my decisions, even in the minority, have always been upheld by higher bodies.
- Been part of the process to allocate industrial land in the metropolitan area.
- Voted against the industrial triangle to keep the city from spreading from LCC to Junction City.
- Voted for urban integrity and against 14,000 acres of sprawl development just outside the city limits of South Eugene."

Rust
Lane County
Commissioner
South Eugene

Paid by Committee to Re-elect Rust/Catherine Lauris, Treasurer/
1840 Willamette/Eugene, Oregon 97405