

Federal funds finance parking plan

By Jeff Stanek
Of the Emerald

The city of Eugene will try to solve parking problems and reduce traffic in areas near the University this summer with funds from a federal grant and beefed-up permit prices.

Plans call for a parking policy that will cost non-area residents up to \$20 a month to park in campus neighborhoods.

The city received a \$293,000 federal grant from the Urban Mass Transit Administration to help finance the West University Refinement Plan that was designed last April to address the problems of traffic congestion and long-term residential parking in the area.

The grant was obtained as a two-year subsidy for the refinement plan that will cost nearly \$206,000 a year. Expected yearly revenue increases through parking permits, parking meters and parking citations will maintain the program when the federal money runs out, city officials say.

But parking is only part of the problem, says University Planner David Rowe.

"People wandering and cruising in search of parking space creates too much congestion," Rowe says.

To make matters worse, students and faculty often will not use parking space on campus, Rowe

says.

The parking lot across from the Bean dormitory complex is rarely full, he says.

The Bean lot, located on the southeast end of campus, isn't used much because it is further from classes than the residential areas, and the University charges students \$6 a term for parking lot permits, Rowe says. Students prefer to fight the hassles of finding a parking space in the residential areas rather than pay for the permit, he says.

However, the refinement plan will require commuters to pay \$20 monthly or \$2 daily parking fees in an area roughly outlined by Broadway, Pearl and Hilyard streets and 18th Avenue.

Two additional sections will have 35-cent hourly rates. One will extend from Willamette Street to an alley near Pearl Street and 13th to 15th avenues, and the other will extend from Ferry to Hilyard streets and 11th to 13th avenues.

A residential-preferred parking zone will be used in the "Woonerf Area" from Patterson to High streets and 13th to 18th avenues. Woonerf is a Dutch word meaning "protected precinct."

The parking program and Woonerf area are attempts to balance the automobiles with pedestrians and bicycles.

The program was designed to allow residents and their guests greater accessibility to on-street

parking by requiring vehicles with daily or monthly permits to park in allocated areas only, says Harold Lannom, chairer of the West University Neighborhood advisory group that implements the refinement plan's finances.

The Woonerf concept also involves the slowing of traffic and the redesigning of the 15th Avenue bicycle paths for safety, Lannom says.

Woonerf-area residents will be required to verify their residency biannually and will be given window stickers to prove their legitimacy. All daily permits will be valid only on one side of designated streets to allow for patron parking throughout business zones.

"We are basically trying to bring parking spaces up to market value," says Jarvia Shu, assistant parking administrator for Eugene.

"We are also trying to encourage alternative transportation modes — bicycles, mass transit and carpooling," Shu says.

The refinement plans will reduce long-term congestion by 41 percent because commuters will seek alternative modes to escape the proposed parking costs, according to the WUN refinement plan budget.

Shu says she hopes the University can start a carpool system before the refinement plan begins. "This will be less of a hard impact on the commuters," she says.

Student president ousted at Eastern Oregon State

Eastern Oregon State College students elected a new student body president last week following the removal of the former president for alleged misappropriation of student funds.

EMU head resigns, new chairer picked

EMU Board Chairer John Dulcich resigned last Monday to take an out-of-state job.

"I have recently accepted a job in Alaska which requires me to leave the state approximately May 1, and consequently will be unable to complete my full term of office on the Board," Dulcich said in his resignation letter.

The board elected Dan Cohen as the new chairer in a 6-1 vote at Wednesday's board meeting.

Jeff Pierson, the new president, was elected last week after the student government voted Ed Smith out of office earlier in the week.

The committee charged Smith with "dereliction of duty and an impeachable offense" for using student funds for personal use and misusing the office.

The committee's decision is inconsistent with the school's Student Coalition constitution, Smith says.

The charges relate to \$252 worth of personal phone calls Smith allegedly made with his student government credit card last summer and early fall, committee member Debra Koberstein says.

Smith says he and other people received telephone calls threatening bodily harm, and he made the calls to "keep abreast of the entire situation and control it until it was resolved."

Faculty given awards

A dozen University faculty members have been awarded \$2,500 Faculty Research awards for studies to be conducted this summer.

The awards are intended "to stimulate research by providing sustained time for scholarly and creative endeavors," says Fred Wilhelm, assistant to the Graduate School dean.

The Faculty Research Committee approved awards for five tenured and seven untenured applicants.

Tenured award recipients are Peter Bergquist, music; Esther Jacobson, art history; James Rice, Russian; Cheyney Ryan, philosophy; and Irving Wohlfarth, comparative literature.

Untenured faculty receiving grants included Henry Alley, honors college; Val Burris, sociology; Patricia McCowell, geography; Jeffrey Needell, history; Frances Pitts, art history; Louise Westling, English; and Sergey Yuzvinsky, mathematics.

Arts and Sciences hold fundraiser

The College of Arts and Sciences is conducting its first annual fundraising event in conjunction with the University Foundation.

The event will take place on the evenings of Tuesday through Thursday and May 2-5 between 6 and 9 p.m.

The college needs 30 volunteers per night who will call alumni across the nation from a phone in one of the dormitories on campus. The funds raised during the event will support lectures by distinguished scholars.

For more information, call 686-3902.

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