

LTD proposes additional University transit station

Plan draws criticism from workers concerned about noise, pollution

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Associate Editor

A proposed transit station on the corner of 14th Avenue and Kincaid Street is drawing opposition from University employees who work in Condon and PLC halls.

The proposed Lane Transit District transit stop would put the bus shelter in the southeast corner of the PLC parking lot, with buses pulling into the station along Kincaid Street after turning right from 13th Avenue.

A total of 20 parking spaces would be lost on the west side of Kincaid Street.

"The biggest concerns we had were bus exhaust and noise coming into the building," said Linda Steller, PLC building manager. "PLC has no ventilation except to open the windows."

'The street is already terribly crowded with cars and bikes and pedestrians. At 5 p.m., it's already nearly impossible to get your car out of the PLC lot. I can't imagine what it will be like when there are buses to contend with, too.'

— Linda Steller,
PLC building manager

Peter Stark, head of the Condon Hall Map Library, said that noise is his main concern, because the library windows directly face the proposed station.

Steller said she noise is already a problem, especially in the summer and early fall, when windows need to be left open.

"I think it's going to be pretty unbearable for people on the west side of the building," she said.

The opposition stems not only from concerns about noise and pollution, but from the probable increase in traffic congestion.

"The street is already terribly crowded with cars and



The pollution and noise that may be generated by a proposed LTD transit station at the corner of 14th Avenue and Kincaid Street is a concern to some who work in nearby Condon and PLC halls.

bikes and pedestrians," Steller said. "At 5 p.m., it's already nearly impossible to get your car out of the PLC lot. I can't imagine what it will be like when there are buses to contend with, too."

Paul Zvonkovic, an LTD representative, said that the proposed station will actually help create a more orderly traffic flow, because buses traveling south would stop at the new station, turn onto 14th Avenue and continue south on Alder Street.

This split station would save two minutes on southbound routes, giving riders more time to transfer, Zvonkovic said, and the new transit stop is needed to serve current and future increases in University bus riders. Since fall 1988, when students began paying for LDT service in their incidental fees, ridership at the existing station has tripled, he said.

An original proposal to expand on the existing 13th Avenue and Kincaid Street transit station was dropped because of conflicts with short term parking and unloading at the Computing Center, he said.

To measure potential noise and pollution problems, a

demonstration is scheduled for 8:15 a.m. Friday at the proposed site. Noise and exhaust from idling buses will be measured inside and outside of PLC.

LTD's proposal had been approved by the Design and Transportation Subcommittees of the Campus Planning Committee at a Jan. 8 meeting.

Steller did not find out about the proposal until she received a memo dated Oct. 17 regarding an Oct. 25 Planning Commission meeting to discuss the proposal.

Stellar said she was surprised to find out that the proposal had been in the works for so long before University employees were notified, when neighborhood groups and area business had already been contacted.

"Never did they ask their own employees and I think that's insulting," she said.

A petition Steller distributed to department offices in PLC and Condon halls yielded 106 signatures against the proposal, and six in favor.

Zvonkovic said funds for the proposed station will come from LTD and a federal grant. He said it is uncertain when the proposal will be finalized.

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