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City planning to weigh proposed amendments

□ Changes designed to reduce car use but increase use of other transportation

By Meg Dedolph
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene Planning Commission will consider the Transportation Rule Implementation Project code amendments — designed to reduce car use and encourage alternative transportation — at a public hearing Tuesday.

The TRIP amendments affect land-use codes, bicycle parking and pedestrian and transit access to buildings.

The hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the City Hall Council Chamber.

Seeing the world from the perspective of those who don't have cars or choose not to use them is difficult, said Allen Lowe, an associate city planner who managed the project.

"Only a bike rider knows about the problems of riding bikes," Lowe said. "Car users don't. It's real important for people who are pedestrians and bicyclists to come to this meeting."

Lowe said the code amendments will help create a more "pedestrian-friendly" environment with better nighttime lighting, benches to rest on and a sidewalk system without gaps.

Franklin Boulevard is an example of a street unfriendly to pedestrians, he said.

"All the sidewalks are curbside sidewalks," Lowe said. "Sometimes your elbow is within two feet of a passing car. Someone might jump the curb and wipe you out."

The proposed amendments would require sidewalks on streets like Franklin to be set back from the street and separated from traffic by trees, Lowe said.

Other code amendments would require businesses to provide both short- and long-term covered bicycle parking for patrons and employees.

The amendments require long-term parking spaces to be in a secure enclosure to discourage theft.

Lowe said businesses may resist this because of the hassle in building the

enclosures, providing keys for employees and re-keying the locks in case a key is lost.

Lowe said he expects parking lot size will be one of the most controversial amendments. Even though its purpose is to provide another incentive for people to leave their cars at home, he said he fears it may be perceived as an anti-business regulation.

Sue Prichard, a broker and owner of Prichard and Evans Commercial Real Estate Company, said she is concerned that limiting parking lot size will hurt small and medium-sized businesses.

"If it makes it difficult for small businesses, buildings and investors to make a living, it's bad for the future," she said.

Lowe said business owners are worried that without parking, customers will be lost and banks will be reluctant to loan money to the business.

Lowe also said he hopes limiting parking lot size will reduce the construction of seasonal parking lots like those built by large stores to accommodate holiday shoppers.

"For the rest of the year, there's a huge oversupply of parking," Lowe said. "We have to ask if that's wise land-use policy."

The TRIP amendments also affect building density, the amount of land taken up by a building, and the amount reserved for parking on a specific lot.

For example, under the proposed amendments, a building on 1,000 square feet of land in the downtown district would have to be 2,000 square feet, resulting in a two-story building.

Buildings like this could become multi-use buildings with retail space on the ground floor and apartments or office space above, Lowe said.

By clustering downtown buildings together, increasing the number of people in these buildings and reducing the amount of available parking for cars, the amendments hope to encourage the use of public transportation.

"We're preferring more lots be occupied by buildings, and less by parking," Lowe said.

The TRIP amendments will probably

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Bonnet brouhaha



Photo by Anthony Forney

Walt Parrish, owner of Paragon Goldsmiths in the Fifth Street Public Market, shows off his bonnet in the fourth annual Best Bonnet contest. All store owners and employees were eligible to enter.

Jury ponders fate of policemen involved in King beating

□ For conviction, jury must find an intent to inflict unreasonable force

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A jury resumed deliberating the guilt or innocence of four policemen in the beating of Rodney King Sunday after five jurors spent the morning attending Easter services.

The jurors got under way about noon in their unusual holiday session and planned to continue until 5 p.m.

At one point, U.S. District Judge John G. Davies refused a request by jurors to give them the transcript of testimony by a key witness — California Highway Patrolwoman Melanie Singer.

Although she had been called to testify as a defense witness, Singer ended up weeping on the stand, saying she saw one of the officers strike King in the face with a baton. Baton blows to the head are banned by police rules.

"Even if I had it, I would not have sent it in because

that tends to emphasize testimony," the judge told lawyers during a brief hearing.

Davies had included in the jury's legal instructions a warning that they had to rely on their own memories of testimony in trying to reach a decision.

The jury received the federal civil rights case Saturday after a last round of final arguments and spent two-and-a-half hours getting started on their task.

Some defense lawyers were at the courthouse and oth-

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WEATHER

Clouds should prevail over most of the Eugene-Springfield area today with a few breaks of sunshine.

Rain and cloudiness will continue into the week.

Today in History

In 1877, the catcher's mask was first used in a baseball game.



FROM THE PAST

Members of the Delta Orchestra perform in the Delta House, owned by the Gamma Phi Beta sorority. The Delta Orchestra was together from 1924-26.

Archive Photo

SPORTS

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Roger Clemens is off to his usual start in a most unusual way.

Given a big lead early, Clemens breezed through the potent Texas lineup Saturday night, giving up six hits in seven innings as Boston won 10-2.

Juan Gonzalez hit a home run off of a thigh-high fastball in the sixth for the only run off Clemens (2-0), who walked none, struck out seven and threw 71 of 103 pitches for strikes.

Clemens, who beat Kansas City 3-1 on opening night, has given up two earned runs in his first 15 innings this season for a 1.20 ERA.