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## COMMUNITY

# Students show bridge solutions

By Rebecca Merritt  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Solutions to Ferry Street Bridge traffic problems need to address urban design issues so the city can revive its defunct downtown and redevelop the riverfront, University architecture students and faculty said Wednesday.



**DECISION:** Ferry St. Bridge

What we do with this bridge is really going to determine the nature of development and growth of this city," said Peter Keyes, associate professor of architecture. "It will determine the nature and fundamental character of downtown."

Five architecture students presented their Ferry Street Bridge solutions to more than 100 Eugene residents, students and city officials at last night's public forum. The students completed the alternative bridge designs in an architecture studio class taught by Keyes last year.

Bridge designs completed in Professor Jerome Diethelm's landscape design class were also presented. Diethelm's students completed their projects in 1987, when the Ferry Street Bridge was first recognized as a problem by city planners.

Both professors and their students said the city's four proposed alternatives — ranging from a no-build option to an eight-lane Ferry Street Bridge — focus only on traffic engineering problems.

"No one really considered the overall impact of these alternatives for the city and downtown as a whole," Keyes said.



**Jim Cary, a graduate student in architecture, explains his proposed solution to the Ferry Street Bridge problem.**

Student designs focused specifically on the downtown corridor without taking into consideration solutions that would cut through Alton Baker Park, Keyes said. Projects also addressed public access to the river and suggested the city redevelop its riverfront when solving the bridge problem.

The Eugene Planning Commission last week recommended that the bridge be widened to six lanes. The expanded bridge would include a bicycle and pedestrian lane on each side, but would be built so it could later expand to eight lanes if needed.

Architecture student Jim Cary said widening the existing bridge corridor would desert the downtown area. His design focused on the rebuilding of downtown, including the

removal of the Downtown Mall to build a two-way street.

Other students, however, agreed with the planning commission's decision. Mark Miksis proposed a six-lane bridge with the continuation of Franklin Boulevard onto 6th and 7th Avenues. But his plan calls for a pedestrian bridge from 5th Street to Alton Baker Park.

All of the student projects suggested the city build a bridge that is attractive as well as functional. One student even presented a late 19th century bridge design.

The City Council will take into consideration the student designs before selecting an alternative, Keyes said. The student projects will be displayed at Eugene City Hall, 777 Pearl Street, throughout the next two weeks.

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