

Saferide changes its on-campus service

By Jim Davis
Oregon Daily Emerald

Saferide's on-campus service will now operate on a call-in basis this term rather than running a defined route with specific pick-ups.

On-campus users will need to call for a ride, but these riders can be taken nearly anywhere within six blocks of campus. Off-campus rides have not changed.

Co-directors for the women's free shuttle service believe the change will accommodate riders' varying schedules, improve safety, help service more women and allow more flexibility.

"This was something we were hemming on all of last term," Saferide co-director Jen Reed said. "There were just so many problems with the old system — we felt we had to make a change."

The old route took too long to go from one

place to another, said Reed and co-director Cori Brewster.

"Women would rather walk than wait the half hour that the van would take going through the route," Reed said.

"And standing too long in one place is just as unsafe as walking sometimes," Brewster said.

The co-directors also said the two off-campus vehicles were usually overcrowded. With Saferide's on-campus van offering rides close to campus, the two directors hope to alleviate this problem.

"There were whole shifts where no one would take the van at all," Reed said.

"By making this change, we hope to give rides to more women in less time," Brewster added.

The new boundaries for the on-campus vehicle will be from High Street to Villard Street and from 19th Avenue to Garden

Avenue and Franklin Boulevard. Before the change, the on-campus vehicle had a defined route from which it would not deviate.

Staff members said the change is going along well.

"It ran fairly smoothly," said Hannah Deutsch, a Saferide dispatcher who worked the first dispatch shift after the change. "I was surprised. I expected a little more confusion."

The staff said they were concerned about the dispatchers being overwhelmed by the additional phone calls and riders being confused by the change.

"For right now, the drivers are still running the same route, and only changing their course to answer a call," Deutsch said. "This is to help passengers who do not know of the change. But we may stop running this route."

Saferide driver Heather Chiappisi also voiced a concern about women hesitating to call.

Review board waits on Amazon decision

By Meg Dedolph
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Eugene Historic Review Board voted last night to extend the time in which they will accept written comments on whether or not Amazon Family Housing should be designated as a historic district.

Comments and information regarding the designation will be accepted until 5 p.m. on January 21. The board is expected to take action on the decision at their February 3 meeting.

Crucial to determining whether or not the complex is historically significant is deciding the strength of its association with the GI Bill, under which returning World War II veterans were able to attend college.

With the influx of veterans and their families, the University had a need for affordable student housing. Prefabricated buildings previously used to house defense workers were assembled to form Amazon Family Housing, where the returning veterans lived.

"Amazon has exceptional historical significance," said Pat Saisi, who helped prepare the initial application for historic designation.

"These are homes the GI Bill built," she said.



Eileen Traylor (center) along with other concerned Amazon residents attended a public hearing Thursday to comment on the possibility of the designation of the Amazon complex as a historical landmark.

Dan Williams, vice president for administration at the University, said the association is not strong enough to warrant a historic designation.

"The GI Bill happened across the nation," Williams said. "You would have to prove Amazon attracted a disproportionate number of vets."

The extension gives those who support the designation a chance to introduce more information supporting Amazon's historic significance.

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