

# Council reviews bridge project plan

Marcelene Edwards  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Although Eugene City Council members were not convinced Wednesday that a complete plan for the Ferry Street Bridge was in front of them, they asked a citizen bridge committee to look into the first phase of bridge improvements anyway to help prevent the possible loss of existing federal funds for the project.

The committee that has been working on the improvement proposals has until Aug. 9 to provide a more detailed plan for the first phase of the project.

John Lawless, chairman of the Ferry Street Corridor Citizens Advisory Committee, presented the fruits of a seven-month study of the design of the bridge corridor to the council Wednesday.

Committee members recommended preservation and enhancement improvements for the bridge that would be short-term, making immediate use of available federal money. The council is facing a deadline for the use of federal funds on the project.

If the money is not allocated by Oct. 1, the city cannot assume it will have any funds left, said Councilman Jim Torrey, who went to Washington, D.C., recently to discuss the issue with government officials.

One long-term plan proposed by the committee would involve couplet lanes — two separate bridges, one for each direction — that would allow two lanes for auto traffic and one lane for mass transit each. A recommendation for a multi-modal river crossing system, which would accommodate bicycles, pedestrians, cars and mass transit, included a Valley River Bridge and an Alton Baker Park transit bridge.

But many council members said the committee needed to examine the options more thoroughly and address some of the problems with each, in part because the long-term plan did not have the total support of the committee.

Some committee members wanted to keep the four auto lanes on one bridge and have another bridge solely for mass transit, rather than a couplet with

auto traffic on both spans. The council wanted a plan that would have more support from the committee.

Councilwoman Laurie Swanson-Gribskov said that by going ahead without more specifics, the council was taking the cake out of the oven too soon. The plan for the bridge area needed more time to bake, she said.

Some council members said they wanted to make sure all phases of the plan would work together and that all of the construction completed in the first phase would work in subsequent phases.

When charged with the study in December, the bridge committee was asked by the council to look at the design of the Ferry Street Bridge corridor and review the land use in the corridor's northern portion. The committee was also asked to consider the possibilities of a trolley or high-speed rail connection and improvements to the Franklin Boulevard/Interstate-5 interchange, and to seek out potential revenue sources to pay for bridge improvements.

## BUSINESS

Continued from Page 1

are not just places for instruction. They have a large role to play in research, business development and continuing education for all Oregonians."

Griffin, who was an assistant professor of speech communication at Point Loma College in San Diego for five years, will be responsible for public policy and public services related to business and economic development statewide.

"The investment in, and delivery of, quality higher education during the next 10 years is of utmost importance to the people, businesses and other public and private institutions of Oregon," Griffin said.

The Oregon State System of Higher Education offers educational services to Oregonians at eight colleges and universities and 28 off-campus centers.

## ET ALS

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