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# COMMUNITY

## Congestion imminent for Bridge

■ **RENOVATION:** Starting Aug. 1, the Ferry Street Bridge will be under heavy construction

By Eric Collins  
Community Reporter

Bridge lanes will close, bike traffic will be detoured and citizens will get up close and personal with construction delays for the next three years as the Ferry Street Bridge Preservation and Enhancement Project gets underway June 16 with seismic improvements to strengthen the bridge.

The project, which also includes a bike/pedestrian suspension bridge, a traffic signal at the Coburg Road and Centennial Boulevard intersection, and a restructured northbound on-ramp amongst other projects, will be developed from the south to the north end of the bridge corridor until 1999.

With both Autzen Stadium and student housing located on Cen-

tennial Boulevard, Tom Larsen, project manager of the enhancement plan, said students will see traffic begin to become a problem as soon as August 1, when the northbound lane on the bridge will be reduced to one lane.

Larsen said one-third of the people using the bridge are turning off onto Centennial Boulevard, which is one of the reasons why development will cater to Centennial traffic. The intersection signal, to be installed by 1999, will allow Centennial drivers to turn left and head back into the city instead of using the current Club Road merging entry. In addition, the bridge bike route will be expanded for two-way traffic on both sides as well as rerouting the traffic currently coming down off the bridge and merging into traffic.

Saturday football games at Autzen Stadium for the next three years will not conflict with the project, though, Larson said, as the Mowatt Construction Company, the project's contractors, have

signed an agreement to keep all lanes open and move all vehicles and equipment during weekends of home football games.

With motorists bearing the brunt of transportation conflict, pedestrians and bicyclists will also be rerouted due to the building of a bike/pedestrian suspension bridge that will connect the South Bank bike path with Alton Baker Park. The path will be closed from the Eugene Water and Electric Board Plaza to the western portion of Skinner Butte Park.

During the years of construction, the Public Works Department is encouraging motorists to use both alternative routes or LTD buses to beat the crowded corridor. This includes rerouting traffic heading south to the Washington/Jefferson Bridge in order to make it the University.

The project, almost a decade in the making, is receiving \$23.7 million from a federal grant, \$5 million from Lane County and \$1 million from the city of Eugene.

## Forum: Council listened to complaints

■ Continued from Page 1  
forum.

"I'm the one who was seen on television being sprayed and beaten by police officers. Up in that tree, I was tortured. I was beaten. I was harassed. I was criminalized. They [police officers] cut my pants all the way up the back so they could spray pepper spray up my anus," said James Flynn, the last protester to be pulled out of the trees Sunday morning at the protest.

"I don't know if you gave the order for that, but you put my life in danger," said Lacey Phillabaum, directing her statement toward Police Chief Leonard Cooke.

Community members, who were at the protest to witness what was going on, also spoke to the city council about their observations and concerns for the actions of police officers.

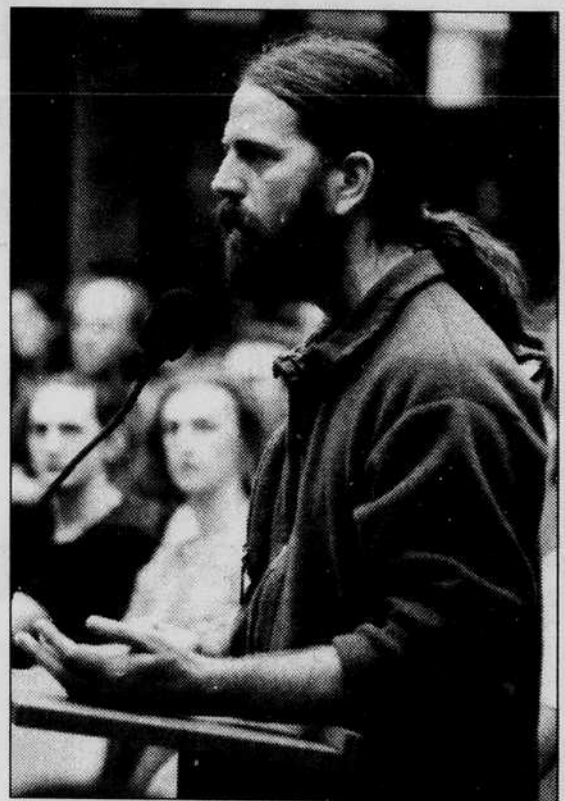
"I was shocked by the behavior of the police," said Karen Stingle, a witness. "I was there for most of it, from a few minutes after 7 a.m. on. The cops had riot gear pretty much from the get go. They [police officers] sprayed people in the trees and at close range."

At the close of the meeting, several of the city council members addressed the concerns of the community.

"I think there is some truth to the allegations, but if you treat us like the enemy, how else do you expect us to respond?" asked council member Tim Laue.

"This community has made a firm decision that for as long as humanly possible, we will maintain the urban growth boundary. In order to accomplish that we must develop the interior of the city. This particular project was discussed for approximately two years," Torrey said.

"We need to make sure we don't harm these people, but we cannot allow these people to make decisions that are contrary to legitimately decided issues by this council. And as a result of that I ... drove down to the site and from approximately 6 a.m. until



MICHAEL CRISP/Emerald  
James Flynn, the last protester to be pulled from the trees at the protest, speaks to city council members Monday night. Flynn was released from the county jail shortly before Monday's public forum concerning the protest.

12:30 p.m., I viewed that situation. I did not see activities taking place that, in my opinion, justified my interruption," Torrey said.

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