

# LTD expands service

■ The board of directors votes to add Cottage Grove into the bus service area

**Jessica Blanchard**  
*for the Emerald*

After a five-year struggle, University students living in Cottage Grove can finally look forward to direct bus service to Eugene.

The Lane Transit District Board of Directors unanimously voted at their Oct. 27 meeting to include the city of Cottage Grove into the Lane Transit District service area.

A tentative schedule outlined by LTD will have seven buses running between Eugene and Cottage Grove Monday through Friday, three trips on Saturday and two on Sunday. The new bus service is scheduled to begin in February.

Cottage Grove residents voted to join the transit district last year. Cottage Grove resident Don Nordin, a founding member of the Friends of LTD, was credited by LTD officials with helping organize the grassroots campaign to expand

the bus service to Cottage Grove.

"They really just weren't answering the need that the people had, which was commuter service between Cottage Grove and Eugene," Nordin said. "Now it's perfect — there's no parking places up there at the University, so instead, people can catch a bus in Cottage Grove and ride in comfort. They don't have to worry about parking, or paying for parking."

"It provides students, as well as the community, the opportunity to go farther out with bus service," Student Sen. Jereme Gryzbowski said.

Nordin said that one of the main arguments against the city joining LTD had been that no one would use the service.

"Well, the only way we could really prove otherwise was to offer the service and see how many people used it," he said.

Between 1997 and 1998, LTD ran a year-long pilot project to determine whether residents would benefit from the expanded bus service. During the project, LTD provided round-trip service to Eugene,

## Tentative schedule

Cottage Grove to the University (weekdays)

leaves	arrives
6:11 a.m.	6:40 a.m.
7:06 a.m.	7:48 a.m.
8:06 a.m.	8:48 a.m.
12:26 p.m.	1:08 p.m.
4:50 p.m.	5:19 p.m.
5:50 p.m.	6:19 p.m.
6:54 p.m.	7:23 p.m.

SOURCE: Lane Transit District

with several stops between, including Lane Community College and the Cottage Grove park-and-ride.

"When we ran service out here for a year as a trial, it was well-utilized," said Mark Pangborn, an assistant general manager at LTD.

A large contingent of riders were people who worked at the University or Sacred Heart Medical Center, he added.

Andy Vobora, an LTD service planning and marketing manager, said the annual projected cost of the whole transportation package is \$307,000. The revenue will be generated by levying a new transit tax.

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