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**News brief**

**Bus Rapid Transit receives federal funds**

Plans for Lane Transit District's Bus Rapid Transit project are one step closer to reality with yesterday's announcement that Lane County will receive more than \$7 million in federal funds to construct it.

"These are the funds we have been waiting for," said Stefano Viggiano, the director of planning and development for LTD, which is the agency spearheading the project.

The project provides transit service along a corridor from downtown Eugene to downtown Springfield, with a stop at the University, and combines gasoline-electric hybrid buses with rail service.

Viggiano said all three municipalities involved — Lane County, Eugene and Springfield — had approved the project's conceptual design.

"Construction should begin in late 2003," Viggiano said. "We will still be working with ODOT and filing permits with city and county planning departments."

Eugene transportation planning engineer Chris Henry said Bus

Rapid Transit is only one part of planning for future transportation needs in Lane County.

"It's one of the cornerstones of our Transplan," he said. "Besides transit, we are looking at transportation and land use."

Henry also said the federal money will help to start the bus project, but additional funds will be required.

"That money will pay for the Eugene-Springfield corridor," Henry said. "But we need more for the vehicles, the remaining legs and feeder portions of the system."

— Sue Ryan

**University Events**

**Wednesday, Oct. 3**

**MCC Open House:** The Multicultural Center invites students to meet new people and see what the MCC has to offer. Noon-4 p.m. Multicultural Center, EMU Basement, Suite 33. Free.

The Emerald will soon offer a full calendar of events online at [www.dailyemerald.com](http://www.dailyemerald.com). Send information regarding campus events to [calendar@dailyemerald.com](mailto:calendar@dailyemerald.com).

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