

LTD to proceed with Rapid Transit plans

This summer, LTD will begin construction on Phase 1 of its Bus Rapid Transit, a new system with its own bus lane

Caron Alarab

Safety/Crime/Transportation Reporter

The first phase of the newest transportation alternative to hit Eugene is set to begin construction along campus at the end of spring term. And although the start date was pushed back a term, University and Lane Transit District officials said planning progress is steady, and a vehicle model should be determined by next month.

This summer, the LTD will start construction on the first phase of its Bus Rapid Transit, a system that will have a separate bus lane along the current median that runs down Franklin Boulevard to Main Street in Springfield. The project will cost about \$20 million, a small part of which will go to the University after LTD purchases property near Riley Hall on 11th Avenue, at Robinson Theater on Franklin Boulevard and from Parking Lot 15 at Franklin Boulevard and Agate Street.

"Once completed, Phase 1 will serve either end of the campus," LTD Assistant General manager Mark Pangborn said. "The Universi-

ty has been great to work with."

University Planning associate Fred Tepfer said the largest chunk of property to be purchased for the route will be 15 feet of Lot 15, which will make room for the BRT bus pad on Franklin Boulevard. DPS Parking, Transportation and Auxiliary manager Rand Stamm said Lot 15 — located at 13th Avenue and Agate Street — primarily accommodates for permitted faculty, staff and visitor parking from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Stamm said the majority of spaces are reserved for campus visitors, who tend to park in Lot 15 first because it sits across from Oregon Hall, the starting point of regular campus tours.

"Outside of the weekly hours, the spaces are available to just about anyone who needs it," he said. "Overnight parking is not permitted, however, so that we avoid excessive car storage."

Construction will not commence at Lot 15 until after graduation in June, a date Stamm said was intended to ensure "the best time in the world" for the project. Despite some minor parking problems for Oregon Hall faculty and staff and other regular parkers, Stamm said the summer timing minimalizes the impact of the construction process.

An additional inconvenience will be posed to regular summer commuters

who use Franklin Boulevard near Agate Street, which will be sludged with traffic at certain points of the construction process, Pangborn said.

Parking and traffic disruptions aside, Tepfer said the University will reconfigure the layout of Lot 15, considering the loss of space, and maintain the same number of spots for fall.

Although LTD planners have significantly discussed phase one of BRT with the University Planning Office, a vehicle model has not been chosen and a price tag for the University property has not been set. In terms of planning progress and project budgeting, Pangborn said one has very much to do with the other.

"We're still assessing the cost benefits of each model," he said. "We hope to have decided by next month."

One vehicle model that has been considered for the BRT project is the Phileas, a sleek-looking model created by an international company in the Netherlands. LTD Director of Development Services Stefano Viggiano said the "green" model is of the latest transportation technology and is one of the reasons LTD is still in search of additional funding.

Although all three of the models are modern, efficient and environmentally friendly, Pangborn said they are also very expensive, which is why LTD has applied for addition-



Courtesy

An artist's rendering shows how an RTD bus stop would look on Franklin Boulevard.

al federal funding to expand its options. Although none of the University property has been appraised, Pangborn assured that everything will follow a set procedure agreeing with federal funding guidelines.

From University Planning's perspective, Tepfer said he is optimistic about the BRT project because LTD has made commendable progress in planning for the new system.

"In general, we think this is a

great idea," he said.

Phases 2 and 3 of the BRT route will run from Springfield through to the Gateway area and from Downtown Eugene through Coburg Road, eventually making a loop back around to the beginning of Phase 1. Phase 3 is set to be complete by fall 2004, Pangborn said.

Contact the reporter at caronalarab@dailymerald.com.

Professors integrate Iraq war into curriculum

By studying history and anthropology in relation to current events, students can gain insight on war issues

War hits home

Lindsay Sauvé

Family/Health/Education Reporter

A situation such as the war with Iraq can provide an opportunity for students to learn that connections between academia and real life do exist. Courses in history, anthropology and even teacher education can give instructors the chance to ad-

dress the war's political, economical and sociological effects in a classroom setting.

Current events can play an important role in discussion of various subjects. With this in mind, a number of University professors have incorporated analysis and examination of the war with Iraq into their lectures and lessons.

History Professor John Nicols said current events can provide useful analogies for studying history. He added that these comparisons can be used to prove any side of a situation and are valuable in providing insight into the motivation behind current events.

"The analogy helps understand

human motivation," Nicols said. "In many cases, it's fear that determines the case for war."

Nicols said the war with Iraq provides a basis for studying tyranny throughout history. Nicols compares Saddam Hussein with Augustus, the first emperor of Rome, and examines how dictators can rule, hidden behind a mask of democracy.

Diane Baxter, an anthropology professor, also tries to tie in historical perceptions in her course titled "Arabs in the Middle East."

"What I've tried to do is give my students tools to understand what the war means for Arabs, which is very different from what it means for

Americans," Baxter said.

Just as there are many different American views, there is no one Arab opinion, she said. Baxter added that her goal is not to incorporate her own opinion into the current events or provide a political point of view, but rather examine various perceptions of history and current events.

But the war has implications on the home front as well. During winter term, sociology Professor Lynn Fujiwara, in her course "Women, Work and Class," examined how politics and economy affect the lives of women in Oregon. Her main focus was the effects a war with Iraq would have on the local economy. Students

shared newspaper clippings about local unemployment and homelessness.

As a teacher education instructor, Sue Yockelson's task is to teach her students to understand their own values and beliefs before they set out to teach middle school students. In order to teach well, instructors must be aware of their own opinions, especially with a topic as heated as war.

"We teach students that, as a teacher, it's important to be aware," said Yockelson. "It's also important for potential teachers to know the values and beliefs of the community."

Contact the reporter at lindsaysauve@dailymerald.com.

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