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BRT

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Pangborn said.

As for cost, Pangborn said the BRT will be much less expensive to build and operate than light rail, because it doesn't use trains and track. He estimated that building the BRT would cost \$5 million to \$5.5 million per mile, compared to \$50 million for every mile of a light-rail system. The total cost of building the BRT will be about \$20 million.

Pangborn said LTD is also in the process of purchasing University property to expand Franklin Boulevard and make room for BRT. The system will have a separate bus lane running along the existing median from Franklin Boulevard to Spring-

field's Main Street. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin spring 2004, and bus operation should begin in fall 2006.

According to University Planning officials, the largest piece of property to be purchased for the route will be 15 feet of Lot 15, the parking lot located across Agate Street from Oregon Hall.

Director of University Planning Chris Ramey said parking spaces would not be lost when construction begins, because the University will reconfigure the lot's layout.

The second and third phases of the BRT project will expand the system from downtown Springfield to the Gateway area and from downtown Eugene to Coburg Road. All three routes will connect, creating a loop

around the Eugene-Springfield area.

A sleek, 60-foot hybrid-electric powered vehicle called "the Invero" will ferry passengers once the BRT system's first phase is completed. The Invero is produced by New Flyer of America, Inc., the largest manufacturer of transit vehicles in North America, according to LTD's Web site.

Pangborn explained that growth in the Eugene-Springfield area and increased traffic are the main reasons that prompted the LTD to consider systems like BRT.

"This is something we can start doing now so in the future we will have better transportation for the whole community," Pangborn said.

Contact the city/state politics reporter at shoikedadailyemerald.com.

COUNCIL

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telecommunications ordinance. Now, Nathanson serves on a 15-member Federal Communications Commission advisory committee that works to protect consumer rights and municipal authority — something she thinks the FCC's deregulation attempts are impairing.

"My particular interest is to make sure we protect consumer rights, which are shrinking in this atmosphere," she said.

Bettman

Ward 1 Councilor Bonny Bettman, who represents what she called in an e-mail a "strong democratic constituency," said she plans on focusing her attention on ensuring a fair, transparent and accountable public process. She also wants to make sure budget priorities reflect community priorities and to work toward neighborhood safety and livability.

"I want to encourage citizens to get involved. Democracy is not a spectator sport," she said. "Pick an issue, get informed, and participate."

Taylor

Ward 2 Councilor Betty Taylor, who has also served on the City Council for six years, represents a liberal to moderate demographic.

Taylor said she approaches this year with three simple priorities: to protect the environment, to protect individual liberties and to maintain an open and accessible government.

Kelly

Ward 3 Councilor David Kelly, who represents the University area, said he serves a diverse set of constituents. Based on voting records, however, the area tends to be more liberal than other areas of Eugene.

Kelly said a major priority for him this year is minimizing cuts to many of the city's smaller services, including recreation and senior services, as the current budget crisis forces programs to be slashed.

"I want the broadest range possible to survive," he said.

The West University neighborhood is also an issue Kelly feels strongly about. As a member of the West University Joint Task Force, Kelly hopes students will become more involved in improving the neighborhood this year.

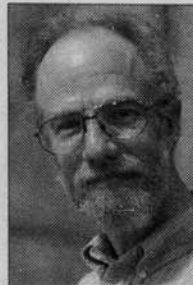
"I really hope that out of that task force will come some good long-term improvements to the West University neighborhood," he said.



Bettman



Taylor



Kelly



Papé

Poling

Ward 4 Councilor George Poling, who also represents moderate and conservative areas, said the biggest challenge for him as a councilor was his time commitment, which includes work on seven committees.

"It's been busy, but it's what I expected," he said.

Poling, a retired law enforcement officer, said he wasn't involved with city politics when he worked in law enforcement, but he became interested in the process after retiring and watching reruns of City Council meetings.

Although he cites maintaining adequate funding for safety as his top priority, Poling is also heavily involved with transportation issues, including the Interstate 5/Beltline improvement, the I-5/Coburg improvement and the Bus Rapid Transit projects.

Solomon

Ward 6 Councilor Solomon, who represents mostly moderate and conservative areas of town, said her biggest surprise when she joined the council was adjusting to the influx of paperwork. Aside from memos and reports, councilors receive a thick packet every Thursday to review for Monday meetings.

Solomon's priorities include economic development and voter confidence, but she said her real passion lies in transportation.

As a member of a citizen committee, Solomon spent a year studying transportation in Eugene and helped develop a two-pronged funding strategy that included a gas-tax increase and the adoption of a transportation-maintenance fee. After being passed through the City Council, however, the fee was later repealed.

Meisner

Ward 7 Councilor Scott Meisner, a former lawyer and an antique furniture restorer, said that based on voting records, his ward has become more conservative after redistricting. But, Meisner said, his ward is still "highly diverse."

For Meisner, the building of the downtown library can already be checked off the priorities list. Meisner was named chairman of the Mayor's Library Improvement Committee and was heavily involved in the new library's planning and development.

"My primary ambition was to get a new library system here, and we've done it," he said.

Now, Meisner said he wants to focus on increasing services for his ward and working the city through the current budget crisis.

Contact the managing editor at janmontrydailyemerald.com.



Poling



Solomon



Meisner



Nathanson

CAMPUS BUZZ

Wednesday

James Cloutier, illustrator and author of "Orygone," talks about cartooning, 10 a.m.-noon, Alaska-Mexico-Canada Rooms at Baker Downtown Center (975 High St.), free.

Friday

The University Theatre's revival of "This Ship of

Fools," 8 p.m., Robinson Theatre at Villard Hall, \$12 for general admission; \$9 for senior citizens, University faculty and staff; \$5 for University students.

Saturday

Welcome Back Students Concert featuring "The Gossip," an undetermined local band and an undetermined DJ, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., EMU Ballroom,

free to University students, \$5 to public.

Monday, Sept. 29

"Christine A. Bidwell Memorial Grove" art by Kristie A. Johnson, installation opening reception at 6 p.m.-8 p.m., LaVerne Krause Gallery at Lawrence Hall. Art will be available for viewing Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.