Adam Amato Senior Photographer

LTD will eliminate Saturday services provided by The Breeze, the shuttle that takes passengers to Valley River Center, in September.

LTD

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and will compensate for the loss.

"(The Breeze) is a really nice service because you don't have to transfer, but we have a lot of bus service on Saturdays that students can ride and then transfer," Vobora said.

Route 77, which runs between the University and Eugene Station, will be eliminated as well.

"We put (Route 77) in as kind of a helper between the two stations. It was just off the main pulse of activity enough that it never really picked up in terms of ridership. I feel there's enough capacity on other routes to pick up the slack," Vobora said.

Vobora said Route 36 service between the two stations will also be cut, although he indicated that No. 36 buses will turn into No. 11 buses at Eugene Station to provide riders with an easy return to the University.

Route 79 service to Gateway Mall will be reduced to one-hour intervals after the 6:00 p.m. departure from the University.

Fare changes include eliminating the Lane Community College FastPass and token sales to the public, as well as increasing Breeze fares to 50 cents.

Janis Sellers, an interpreter for the University, said she rides the bus to and from work on a daily basis.

"It's much easier than finding parking around here," Sellers said.

Although the routes Sellers uses won't be affected by the cuts, she said she expects the reductions to "have a big impact" on students who live in outlying areas, such as along Route 79 to Gateway.

Senior Erin Hargraves said the reductions will "make a big difference" in passengers' daily schedules, indicating that the elimination of Saturday's Breeze service is particularly inconvenient.

"There are a limited amount of buses that are even coming through (the University) on weekends, so it will make a big difference," she said.

Fifth-year music major Brian Silva, who rides the bus daily, said he is generally satisfied with the services provided by LTD.

"It runs well, but more frequent runs would always be convenient," he said.

Vobora said students will not be adversely affected by the cuts.

"It will take a little bit of adjusting, but for the most part I don't think UO riders will see much difference in their services," he said. "I think we've done a pretty good job trying to preserve all the direct UO services."

He added that LTD wants to engage more student participation in community discussions about future cuts.

"We want to have good discussions with the UO community on these things if we have to go deeper next year," Vobora said.

LTD officials will monitor ridership after the reductions and fare changes take effect. If passengers ride less frequently or change their pass-buying habits differently than anticipated, additional measures might be taken to raise revenue, Vobora said.

"If (the budget factors) all go our way and the economy starts to grow, things should stabilize," he said. "If they don't, we won't see the amount of revenue we expect and we'll be back (to cutting)."

Contact the city/state/politics reporter at parkerhowell@dailyemerald.com.

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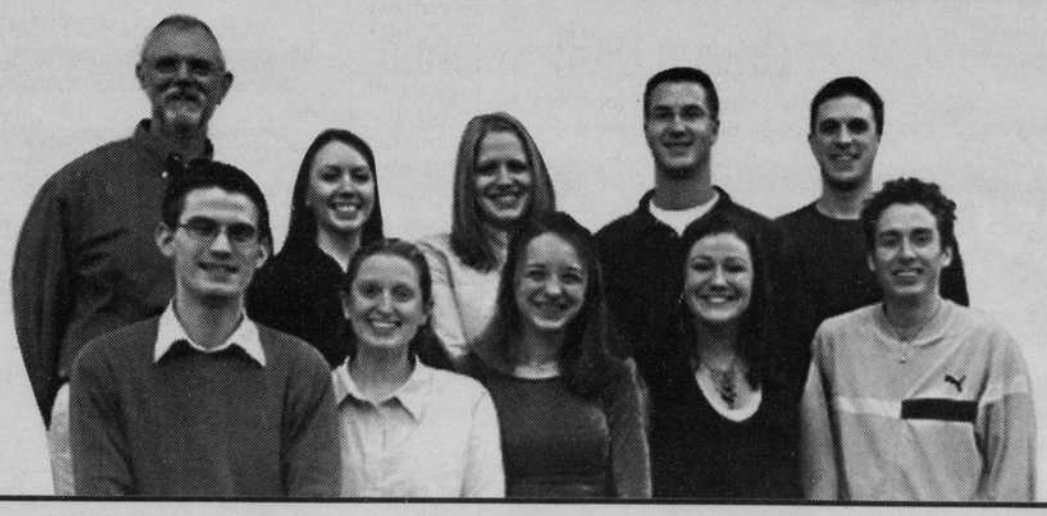

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