

Courthouse: Redevelopment has two phases to improve downtown area

Continued from page 1

offices for other federal employees, according to Lesh.

After the new courthouse is finished, the old courthouse building will be leased out by the GSA to other federal agencies, Lesh said.

The city purchased 6.5 acres for the site, 4.5 acres of which it sold to the GSA. The city plans to sell the remaining land to developers after the courthouse is built.

"We want potential developers to have a better sense of what the area will be," Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly said.

Kelly believes the sale money will be equivalent to the city's costs to acquire the property.

Kelly said the city hopes the new courthouse will bring other businesses into the area.

"It is very much at the conceptual stage," Kelly said.

Part of the redevelopment will be a two-phase improvement to the streets around the courthouse site, Kelly said.

The first phase will improve Eighth Avenue from Mill Street to Ferry Street, extend Ferry Street north past Eighth and improve Ferry Street south of Eighth. Improvements will include new curbs, gutters, sidewalks and trees, according to Michelle Cahill, principal civil engineer for the Eugene Public Works Department.

The second phase will be much more extensive.

Traffic headed for Highway 99

West will be diverted at Hilyard Street and run to a new road that will travel along the railroad tracks, hopefully decreasing traffic on Franklin Boulevard headed toward the Ferry Street Bridge.

"If we could unbraid some of that traffic," Cahill said, "we could have a traffic signal (at Eighth and Mill)."

A new traffic signal would allow pedestrians to cross from the new courthouse to downtown Eugene. Currently the area has too much traffic to consider it.

"The courthouse would only be a few blocks from city hall," Kelly said, "but if you're crossing as a pedestrian or a bicyclist, you kind of take your life in your hands."

The road improvements will cost around \$7.7 million, the bulk of which will be paid for with federal money. Lane County will contribute \$1.6 million, and the city of Eugene will pay \$600,000.

Most of that money will come from the urban renewal fund, Cahill said.

The city hopes the first phase will be complete by next fall and expects to start utility construction in the area in March or April 2006, Cahill said.

Cahill said it is still too early to set a date for the second phase, but she expects the project to be complete after courthouse construction is finished.

Contact the city and state politics
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COURTESY

Rape: Women have options for medical care after attack

Continued from page 1

The student said her perpetrator was a 22- to 25-year-old white male, 5 feet 9 inches tall, with a thin-to-medium build and dark brown hair.

One in four college women are raped or somebody attempts to rape them, and 90 percent of these cases are not reported, according to a 1995 study published by The Bacchus and Gamma Peer Education Network.

Women should always be aware of their surroundings and know who is around them, Donaca said.

Also, they should try to be with other people and make sure they are in well-lit areas, he said. The student's advice to other victims of sexual assault is to understand that it is never the victim's fault, to allow time to heal and to feel comfortable about seeking help.

Most victims of sexual assault do not report it because of fear of not being believed, self-blame, shame

or because the perpetrator can be someone the victim knows and loves, said Maria Paladino, director of programs and services for SASS.

Knowledge that the judicial system doesn't always do a good job of holding sexual assault perpetrators accountable also discourages victims from coming forward, Paladino said.

Victims of assault should seek medical care, whether they want to file a report or not, and find someone they trust to talk to, she said. Victims can speak with sexual assault advocates and call hotlines, such as SASS, Paladino said.

The student said she is not letting her attack interfere with her classes or plan to graduate on time.

"Rape is about power," she said. "My revenge is being successful."

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