

ROUTE TO THE RIVER

As a father of two children and a regular bicycle traveler here in town, I've looked for a direct route between the West University area and the Willamette River. Hilyard and 13th are dangerous for young cyclists. We're not likely to go on a huge detour the other direction and cross eight lanes of traffic on Franklin Boulevard to get to the tunnel near the Autzen footbridge.

What we need is a more direct route to the river with a way to get under the railroad tracks. I was dismayed to learn the Riverfront Research Park will block that option for the generations to come. As my children grow up, I want them to inherit a bike-friendly city that includes a direct corridor between the Alder Street bike route and the river. Let's preserve this cycling right of way for today and for our children!

Patrick McIlrath
Eugene

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

With each election people are asked to approve an increase or new wealth transfer, else the world as we know it will end. Sometimes, the request is appropriate; especially, when additional responsibilities are being transferred to government. To people asking how the current largesse has been spent, government reports — the tools of transparency — are not sufficiently developed to provide clear answers, and further inquiry will cost \$80 to \$120 per hour.

With Lane County, there is a cost-neutral solution which fits the existing county operations. Let's add a financial advisory committee (FAC); 20 committees exist now comprised of volunteers costing little and allowing folks to be involved. Government accounting organizations have recommended these since 1993.

A FAC could develop and manage the missing tools. One is the citizen financial report, a 20 to 30 page translation of the confusing 200-plus-page Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. In response to my urging, Lane Finance recently announced the expansion of Internet reporting. "All bills paid of \$500/month and over" will soon be "both all bills paid and funds received of \$100/month and over." The county wants to be more transparent but lacks the resources and expertise which a FAC could provide.

The bylaws are written, CFR samples gathered and meetings with commissioners and staff individually are under way. A 15-minute presentation is being prepared for a regular commissioner meeting to formally request adoption. The committee will have the typical five plus two volunteers. Those wanting to participate may contact Keith@TheUS.Com or call (541) 997-1398.

Keith Stanton
Florence

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to letters@eugeneweekly.com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.



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