

In response to a concern from Councilor Betty Taylor, city planner Carolyn Weiss said the city is working on changing the building code to allow density while preserving solar access by requiring stepped or sloped setbacks.

Councilor Pat Farr said he was glad the city was working on the density issue. "One of the ways we prevent spreading out is by building up," he said.

Mayor Kitty Piercy said the city has made progress in cutting utility bills for low income housing by as much as half using federal stimulus funds for weatherization.

"This is really good news," said Councilor Andrea Ortiz of the energy and money savings.

McRae said the city is looking at ways to better align monetary incentives for landlords to weatherize if tenants are paying the utility bill.

But Piercy appeared willing to loosen a proposed "complete streets" policy calling for bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in every project. "How do we build some flexibility around that?" she asked, calling for "some way of not locking ourselves in."

Taylor also questioned whether the city should not do more to keep neighborhood schools open for 20-minute neighborhoods. "It's one of the most important things," she said.

McRae said that he talked to 4J about the closures and found their reasons complex. "I'm not sure that's something we would choose to push fairly hard on," he said.

City transportation planner Rob Inerfeld said the city is working on a new transportation plan that will include a draft bicycle and pedestrian plan that calls for infrastructure to double walking and biking rates in the next 20 years.

McRae said a key element will be funding the bike and pedestrian improvements. Future street funding measures could include money to add new sidewalks and bike ways outside existing right-of-ways, he said. "Bonds could be passed that had funding set aside." — *Alan Pittman*



PHOTO BY DANTE ZUÑIGA-WEST

EUGENE, OCCUPIED

The Bank of America protest organized by Occupy Eugene on Oct. 6 added local voices to the Occupy Wall Street protests taking the nation by storm.

Approximately two hundred people gathered at the intersection of East 11th and Pearl Street to protest in solidarity with thousands of others who rallied in the larger cities of New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, Portland and more. Protesters rallied against what they call the abuse of corporate power and misuse of federal funding. Activist Seamus An Naitair dressed as Robin Hood and used the rally as a catalyst to close his Bank of America account.

"While the service at this branch has always been really good, I just don't agree with what's happening at the top of their organization and all the taxpayer money that all those people received," he said.

"Give us our money back," An Naitair said, "Create jobs that are meaningful and are going to help us, the people."

In addition to another Bank of America protest on Oct. 13, Occupy Eugene is planning an occupation protest of its own at an as-of-yet undisclosed location on Oct. 15. Go to occupyeugene.com or call 541-525-0130 for updates on protests, meetings and other organizing details. — *Dante Zuñiga-West*

BICYCLE SHARING

Eugene may get a bike-sharing program where people can check sturdy bikes out of automated streetside kiosks.

The program depends on whether a grant comes through for a feasibility study and the study shows the bike rental system will work. The Lane Transit District has applied for an Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) grant to conduct the feasibility study through its federally funded point2point solutions program promoting alternative transportation.

Many other cities including Washington, D.C., Boulder, Colo., Madison, Wisc. and Boston, Mass. have used bike sharing programs to reduce traffic congestion, cut greenhouse pollution and promote fitness and livability. Portland and New York City plan to create bike share systems using a private vendor.

The feasibility study would examine the costs, benefits, preferred locations, operations and implementing steps for a bike share system in Eugene, according to information provided to the Metropolitan Policy Committee this week. The study will focus on downtown Eugene, close-in neighborhoods, UO, LCC and Northwest Christian University.

The Wisconsin-based B-cycle company demonstrated its bicycle share kiosk at the Eugene Celebration in August.

ODOT has \$21 million available to give "flexible funds" grants statewide. — *Alan Pittman*

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