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EUGENE CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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AROUND THE CITY

Put A Little Zip in Resolve to Get Fit

Kick start a New Year's exercise routine by entering the "Commit to Fit" contest at City pools this month. Sign up at Sheldon or Echo Hollow pool and fitness centers. Each attendance at a water fitness class or work out in the fitness center from Jan. 7 to Feb. 1, will be rewarded with one punch on a Commit to Fit punch card (two punches on double-punch Tuesdays).



After 10 punches, participants can enter to win a 30-day pool pass or other fun prizes. After a month of regular workouts, participants will be well on their way to a healthy fitness routine!

Water fitness classes are offered for a variety of abilities and at convenient times. The intensity of classes ranges from easy to challenging, in shallow or deep water, and are scheduled at times from early in the morning until the evening hours.

The fitness centers at both pools have a variety of exercise machines and free weights for a perfect workout, and there are televisions to provide company. Creating an exercise routine makes it easier to keep that New Year's resolution to get fit!

Purchase aquatics membership cards at either pool; reload online thereafter. Call 541-682-5525 for more information.

Hearing Offers Opportunity to Support City Active Transportation Projects

The City of Eugene has submitted several grant applications for active transportation to the Oregon Department of Transportation's (ODOT) four-year funding program known as the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Applications for the 2015-2018 STIP Enhance program were due Nov. 27.

The Lane Area Commission on Transportation ([LaneACT](http://LaneACT.org)) will make recommendations to ODOT regarding prioritization of STIP funds based on input from local agencies and public comment. The Lane ACT is collecting public comments regarding STIP Enhance funding through Jan. 8. Comments can be e-mailed to Stacy Clauson at sclauson@lcog.org. The Lane ACT will also hold a public hearing on the projects within Lane County at its meeting on Jan. 9. The meeting will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the McLane Room at ODOT, 644 A Street, Springfield.

The City of Eugene has applied for funding for four active transportation projects:

The [Amazon Active Transportation Corridor](#) helps to implement the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan by extending the popular Amazon Path further into south Eugene and making related investments that will enhance safety and accessibility in the Hilyard and West Amazon corridors. This grant would fund widening the concrete sidewalk from 34th Avenue to Tugman Park, installing a two-way separated cycle track on West Amazon Drive from Hilyard to Snell,

reconstructing the Rexus Recreation Trail from Hilyard Street to Martin Street, and installing two additional pedestrian bridges and reconstructing the existing bridge to current standards.

NE Livable Streets implements a significant portion of the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan. The solution would develop Livable Streets that are comfortable for walking and bicycling trips over a large geographic area (7.8 square miles) of the city, and increase access to transit stops. Projects include developing a bicycle boulevard network comprised of enhanced wayfinding signs and shared lane markings, traffic calming, pedestrian islands, stutter flash pedestrian signals and widened sidewalks at critical crossing locations and bus stops. Funding for this project was also sought through ODOT's Transportation Enhancement Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee 2012 Combined Solicitation Program. ODOT has prepared an online [survey](#) to collect public input through 5 p.m., Jan. 31. To register support for the NE Livable Streets project in the survey, select "Linn, Benton & Lane Counties (except coast)" as the Primary Area of Interest and then choose project #48 City of Eugene - NE Neighborhoods - Bike Boulevards and Pedestrian Crossings.

The **Jessen Path** will be a key active transportation facility for the 28,228 residents of the Bethel neighborhood in northwest Eugene. The Jessen Path will create an east-west link across the north side of the neighborhood that connects to the Beltline Highway shared-use path and eventually to the regional path network. The 12-foot-wide path will extend 7,250 feet along the south side of the 222-acre Golden Gardens Park which is a significant natural and recreational resource for northwest Eugene.

The **SmartTrips Regional Program** is comprehensive individual household marketing aimed at increasing biking, walking, use of public transit, and ridesharing. Locations include the West Eugene EmX Corridor in 2017 and West Bethel in 2018.

In addition to the projects listed above, ODOT and Lane Transit District (LTD) also submitted projects contained within the City of Eugene. ODOT is seeking funding for safety improvements on Beltline in the vicinity of the Delta Highway. LTD applied for funds to conduct a study of EmX from River Road/Hwy 99 to Lane Community College and to replace the existing River Road transit station with a new one north of Beltline. More information about projects submitted by LTD, ODOT and other agencies will be posted on the Central Lane MPO and Lane ACT web pages.

For more information, contact Reed Dunbar, associate transportation planner, at 541-682-5727.

Three December Shows at Hult Sold Out

The "SOLD OUT" message on the Hult Center's 6th and 7th avenue marquees for three of its shows in December is the sign of thriving arts and culture in the community. Congratulations to the two local arts organizations, All That! Dance, presenting the Nutcracker Remixed, and the Eugene Symphony, one of the Hult Center's six resident companies, presenting Cirque de Noel. The three performances they presented in December represent a total of 3,400 tickets sold, and much more.



The Arts and Economic Prosperity Study, conducted by Americans for the Arts in 2011, with many local partners including the City of Eugene and the Hult Center, confirmed that Eugene is indeed incredibly rich in arts and culture, and compares very well to other similarly sized cities. Nonprofit arts and culture is a significant industry in the city of Eugene - one that generates \$45.6 million in total economic activity. This spending - \$29.5 million by nonprofit arts and culture organizations, and an additional

\$16.1 million in event-related spending by their audiences - supports 1,739 full-time equivalent jobs, generates \$34.8 million in household income to local residents, and delivers \$2.4 million in local and state government revenue.

This economic impact study sends a strong signal that when the arts are supported, not only is the community's quality of life enhanced, but so is its economic well-being. This December alone, close to 10,000 patrons enjoyed performances at the Hult Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Eugene. The staff at the Hult Center is proud to play such an important part in the vibrancy of the arts and culture community, and equally proud of the considerable economic impact for the entire community.

Read more about the study at <http://eugeneaep.wordpress.com/>. For more information, contact Hult Center Event Manager Theresa Sizemore at 541-682-5242.

Open House Looks at Ways to Improve Inter-City Passenger Rail Service

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is studying ways to improve inter-city passenger rail service between the Eugene-Springfield urban area and the Portland urban area. The study will help decide on a general passenger rail route and evaluate options for train frequency, trip time, and improving on-time performance.

The needs and concerns of Oregon citizens are a key driver of the Oregon Passenger Rail study. The public is invited to an open house to provide input on the **draft goals and objectives**, learn about **corridor concepts** (early ideas for potential rail routes) and provide input on the **preliminary screening results**.



Oregon Passenger Rail

Eugene - Portland

CHOOSING A PATH FORWARD

Locally, the open house will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the ODOT Office, McLane Conference Room (2nd Floor), 644 North A Street, Springfield. Can't make it to an open house? Visit www.OregonPassengerRail.org between Jan. 8 and Jan. 27 for an online event to learn more, connect with project staff, and provide input. For more information, contact Transportation Planning Manager Rob Inerfeld at 541-682-5343.