



COMMUTER SOLUTIONS

Monthly Department Report – March 2007

Prepared for: Transportation Planning Committee (TPC)

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Program Management

Staff presented information at two Neighborhood Climate Council events. Commuter Solutions provided information at the Springfield Business Expo and at the Junction City Business Expo. Staff attended a lecture by Donald Shoup, author of *The High Cost of Parking*, on how to manage parking in ways that promote compact livable cities. Commuter Solutions staffed an information booth at Royal Caribbean Cruise Line's benefit fair.

Group Pass / ETC Programs

Whitewater Designs, Inc. has enrolled in the Group Pass Program.

CarPool/VanPool/Emergency Ride Home Program (ERH)

A \$4900 mini-grant was received from Community Cycling Center/ODOT for the "Be Safe Be Seen," pilot bike light program. Commuter Solutions provided bike lights and information at the Project Homeless Connect event at the Lane County Fairgrounds. Forty-six commuters were added to the Rideshare database.

Smart Ways to School Program (SWTS)

Efforts began this month for a new collaborative project that will be conducted at Monroe Middle School this spring and continue next year. The project will encourage more students to walk, bike, carpool, or ride a bus rather than being driven to/from school. Project partners include Commuter Solutions' Smart Ways to School; City of Eugene – Traffic Engineering, Traffic Enforcement, Public Works Bike/Ped, Recreation Services, and Crime Prevention; Bicycle Transportation Alliance; Paul's Bicycle Way of Life; Eugene 4J School District; Monroe Middle School staff, parent volunteers, and students. The project is funded in part by a \$5,000 grant from ACTS Oregon. This project is modeled after the "safe routes to school" focus on education, engineering, and enforcement to encourage more walking and biking while improving conditions for safety.

A Carpool Contest was conducted to boost the number of registrants in our SchoolPool carpool-match service. More than 125 student commuters joined the service during the month-long contest, an increase of 30 percent.

Student Transit Pass Program (STPP)

The successful Student Transit Pass Program is changing because it has completed three years as a research and development project. During this time, the program significantly increased the number of students in grades 6-12 who rode LTD, especially for school transportation. The next step is to see if the program can find sustainable funding. LTD is offering a Student Group Pass Program that public school districts and private schools can purchase to provide free LTD passes to students for the coming school year. School districts and private schools will decide if this is a priority that fits within their budgets. Students at schools without a Group Pass will be able to purchase LTD monthly youth passes or pay cash to ride LTD. LTD hopes the positive experiences students and parents enjoyed through this successful research program will encourage them to use LTD as one of their travel options.