

TRANSIT, PARKING, AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 25, 2012

Scott Flanagan, Chair

Members Present: Kevin Santos, Jeremy McAtee, Susan Stiers, Matt Mills, Matt Trantham, Michele King, Katie Helms, Onissa Harris, David Martinson, and Gary Smith. Holly Harbin, secretary, was also present.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from March 28, 2012. The motion was seconded and passed.

Report on Current Status of Parking at U of A:

Gary briefed the committee on the following:

1. The Meadow Street Parking Garage will open in approximately 60 days, around mid-July. Due to the addition of a left turn lane for the garage, the parallel parking spaces on Meadow St. (Lot 51) have been removed along the side of Meadow by the John McDonnell Track. The campus master plan shows Meadow Street crossing Razorback Road and a stoplight at the intersection. Kevin states that this is to make traffic flow better and the roads safer.
2. Lot 14B off Reagan St. by the old Speech & Hearing Clinic (now ARKA) is now open.
3. Mike Seither, Associate Director of Transit, is retiring at the end of April.
4. Parkmobile is expanding to single space meters (excluding gold short-term meters). Other universities are interested in visiting our campus to see how it is working.
5. The bus location/map app will show the GPS location of buses on the map in real time. The app is available for all smartphones. The hardware will be in buses by the end of this week and will make its debut before the end of the spring semester. It will be fully operational by fall. The next step is to develop an algorithm which will predict the arrival times of the buses.
6. Transit is adding a second bus to the Red route from 7 am to 6 pm Monday through Friday and a third bus during morning and afternoon weekday peak times to better serve the Uptown Campus, which is estimating 300-400 students at Spring International, an English-teaching school for international students most of whom will not have drivers' licenses and will be relying on transit. This change will provide a bus every 30 minutes from 7 am to 6 pm weekdays and every 20 minutes during morning and afternoon peaks ridership.
7. By the fall semester, the Center for Educational Access will be expanding into an office in Stadium Garage where they will be conducting testing for students.
8. Parking currently allows 20 teaching assistants who are the instructor of record, to purchase Faculty/Staff permits. We will be working with the graduate school to have these permits assigned by the college deans instead of the grad school.
9. Two more buses will be delivered in August, increasing our bus fleet to 25 vehicles. Enrollment is expected to grow to around 25,000 this fall. We are anticipating having to add more buses on several routes this fall.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Union Employee of the Month space has been installed and is ready for use.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Gary presented a bicycle air pump and explained its use and the locations where they are to be installed.
2. The Razorback Foundation has requested lots 31N and 35N to be designated scholarship parking for football. Matt Trantham explained that the foundation now has about 200 fewer spaces in the Garland Garage due to high student demand, and the spaces in these lots are of value to the Foundation because of their location away from the Razorback Road/MLK intersection, which gets very congested with traffic on game-days. Because of the estimated enrollment and Foundation membership growth, the Foundation will eventually start looking at Baum, which is currently free, for scholarship parking. Free access to Baum can be maintained by providing more scholarship parking access to lots across campus. The motion was approved and seconded with no opposition.
3. Garage rates will not be charged in the Meadow Street Parking Garage due to the fact that it was funded by the Athletic Department. Despite the project being over budget, Athletic Director Long fought for us to keep the parking structure in the plans. Several committee members expressed gratitude for Jeff Long's action on the matter. The structure will contain blue reserved, faculty/staff, metered, scooter, motorcycle, and ADA parking. The ADA spaces will be on the Meadow Street end of the facility with access to the HPER. The motion was made to approve the designation, was seconded, and was passed with no opposition.
4. Once the MSPG is finished, Lot 55 will be redesignated Student parking, no overnight. Gary mentioned removing "no overnight" restriction from Lot 47N, but Matt Trantham noted that it could become a storage lot for Pomfret, which would be counter-productive if the intent of "no overnight" designation is to fill the resident reserved lots. The motion was made to keep 47N no overnight student parking and designate Lot 55 as such upon the opening of the MSPG. The motion was seconded and approved with no opposition.
5. Scott addressed the policy of individual permit use when more than one person is using the vehicle, i.e. husband/wife. Gary explained that permits are for individual use and not for use of the vehicle by anyone, and it is that way due to abuse of the system in the past. Scott feels that this rule isn't family or carpool friendly. Matt Trantham asks if the appeals committee has the ability to override a ticket, and it does have the power to override if needed. Jeremy suggested registering all drivers for a car. No action was taken.
6. The Wal-Mart shareholders meeting will be starting June 1st. Attendance this year is expected to be the same as last year.

The meeting was adjourned.