

TRANSIT, PARKING, AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 28, 2012

Scott Flanagin, Chair

Members Present: Andrew Braham, Reggie Houser, Jeremy McAtee, Bridget Penrose, Susan Stiers, Matt Mills, Matt Trantham, Cameron Mussar, MarTeze Hammonds, Wing Ning Li, Carsten Schmidtke, David Martinson, Gary Smith, and Bob Stassen. Holly Harbin, secretary, was also present.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from January 25, 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. Transit has two new buses, bringing the fleet to a total of 23. Two more are scheduled to arrive in August, increasing the number to 25. These were needed in part because of the addition of the Uptown Campus and new student housing. The Red Route, which serves the Uptown Campus area, will have an additional bus added between 7 am and 6 pm Monday through Friday, providing 30 minutes between buses. A third bus will be added during peak periods in the morning and afternoon, providing 20 minutes between buses during these times. An independent party is building student housing with approximately 390 apartments on the old Love-Box property on Beechwood and MLK Blvd. The Purple Route serves this area. More student housing is also being built on the old Stock Yard property, and transit has been asked to service the area, but cannot at this time.
2. ParkMobile has been implemented, and we are working to expand it to all meters. ParkMobile allows people to pay the campus parking meters by phone and sends a text when their time is about to expire so that they can add time from their phone if needed. Andrew Braham asked if ParkMobile was being abused essentially as parking space rental for short-term meter spaces since a lot of cars seem to stay parked in STM spaces for long periods of time. Gary explained that ParkMobile is not and will not be used at short-term meters.
3. Transit has been working with Chris Nixon in University Development to develop an application that shows where buses are on a map in real time. The application has been submitted to Apple, and the next step is creating an algorithm that will predict the approximate time of bus arrival.
4. Kiosks have been installed in the lobby of the Administrative Services building where students, faculty and staff will be directed to purchase their permits online. The goal is to eventually move all permit purchasing and renewals to online sales.

5. Parking lot designation changes include Lot 2 becoming a student lot, Housing Visitors Only spaces designated in Lot 14, and the addition of a gravel lot at Douglass and Gregg (Student Lot 78 A).

OLD BUSINESS: No old business to discuss at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The committee discussed the penalty for altering a parking permit. The appeals committee has requested that TPT review the current penalty for altering a permit. The current penalty is a \$100 violation charge, the vehicle is towed and impounded, and the vehicle driver's campus parking privileges are suspended for one year. Gary stated that the number of altered permit occurrences has decreased since the implementation of this penalty, but if we decreased the penalty then there may be more occurrences. Gary pointed out that altering a permit is a premeditated violation, and Reggie stated that it is theft of services and that fines/violations go down when the consequences are more severe. Scott stated that we need to educate suspended permit-holders about what their parking options are.
2. The Union director has requested that a space in the Union loading zone be designated as an Employee of the Month space. The meters were removed during renovation. Scott stated that these spots are functional to the union and that there needs to be at least one space for loading. Gary mentioned allowing them to have a Stadium Garage permit and include a pass, which they can use during football games. After discussion, the Committee approved an Employee of the Month space for the Arkansas Union and that Gary would work out the location with the Union director. A motion was made, seconded, and approved with no opposition.
3. Bob mentioned either running a route or partnering with Ozark Regional Transit or shuttle service to run from the U of A to XNA (regional airport). Gary stated that it was listed in the ASG initiatives, recently released, and that we could do this as a charter but not a fixed route. Implementation depends on interest level and cost. The topic will be discussed with the ASG officers.

The meeting was adjourned.