

TRANSIT, PARKING, AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 17, 2012

Susan Stiers, Chair

Members Present: Andrew Braham, Kevin Santos, Jeremy McAtee, Susan Stiers, Matt Trantham, Cameron Mussar, Reggie Houser, Alexandra Boyd, Carsten Schmidtke, Ben Velasco, Donna Daniels, David Martinson, Gary Smith, and Michele King. Holly Harbin, secretary, was also present.

Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes: The minutes from last meeting were approved by Scott Flanagan last spring.

Report on Current Status of Transit and Parking at U of A:

Gary briefed the committee on the following:

1. Razorback transit now has a total of 25 buses with 19 operating at peak service, and now includes service to the Uptown Campus. Last year's ridership totaled 1.989 million riders. He also reviewed other transit services, including Paratransit, Safe Ride, charters, the Engineering Research Shuttle, and Razorbikes.
2. Northwest Arkansas is now considered a large urbanized area, which covers the area from Greenland up to Missouri. There are no longer federal earmarks available for the purchase of replacement buses. There are some new funds available for Northwest Arkansas but they will be split between Razorback Transit and Ozark Regional Transit, which could limit us to acquiring one new bus per year instead of two for FY14.
3. Chris Nixon and his team at University Relations completed the new campus map, which allows users to track buses in real time in addition to showing on-campus parking, bike rack locations, and other services. This map can be viewed on any web-enabled smart phone.
4. The Zonar GPS system was installed in all of the buses in the Razorback Transit fleet. It allows bus activity, such as location, speed, and distance to be tracked as well as working in conjunction with the new campus map to track buses in real time.
5. Safe Ride has moved to a new location on Graham Street, due to federal rules that prevent it from staying in the same facility as Razorback Transit. ASG sponsored an open house on Friday, October 12, for the campus community to view the new office and dispatch space.
6. More scooter parking has been added in lots 48 and 58, and is already filling up due to the increase in number of students with scooters.
7. Garage permit assignments are still being made in the Stadium and Garland parking garages.
8. Staff at the Pat Walker Health Center has reported a lack of Faculty/Staff parking as a result of the loss of spaces in lot 40 due to Hotz Hall renovation. The land north of Cleveland west of Leverett Elementary is being evaluated for parking use. Jeremy McAtee asked about the petition about Lot 37, which the Chancellor has addressed, but the issue was not further discussed.

9. Future construction projects that may affect parking include the renovation of the Field House, the new housing office, a basketball practice facility, an academic and dining hall, and a utility plant near Lot 56D. Plans are being discussed about possible use of Graham Street property, including road extensions and parking. The Founders Hall expansion is scheduled to be completed August of 2013. McIlroy Ave. will reopen after its completion, and there will be a new loading zone located in Lot 50, which will take away 15 Resident Reserved parking spaces. The committee also discussed the road surface around the new gate on Maple St. causing traffic confusion in that area.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Michele King nominated Susan Stiers for Chairperson, and Reggie and Matt seconded the nomination. All agreed, and Susan was elected.
- B. Resident reserved lot 54, north of Pomfret Hall, is not being fully utilized, and there is plenty of Resident Reserved space in Lot 64 for Pomfret residents. Gary recommended that its designation be changed to Student No Overnight parking. Reggie stated that additional enforcement was needed for lot 55 and would be needed for 54 upon redesignation to prevent misuse by residents as a storage lot. The committee discussed the positives and negatives of redesignation and decided that redesignation would be beneficial. Jeremy made the motion to change Lot 54 to Student No Overnight parking, and the motion was seconded and passed.
- C. The Psychology Clinic has requested three 7AM – 5PM reserved spaces for research participants, who are currently receiving visitors' permits if they do not have a UA permit. Gary recommends putting these spaces in Lot 32 near the entrance, and redesignating the south row of Lot 38 as Blue Reserved to compensate for the loss of the spaces in Lot 32. Carsten and other members stated that there was a greater need for Faculty/Staff spaces in that area than Blue Reserved. The demand for Blue Reserved spaces in Lots 32 and 38 was discussed since they are sometimes not full, but there are still 25 people on the waiting list, and the lots are in fact being used according to lot counts conducted by parking controller officers. Alexandra suggested redesignating the north row of Lot 35 from Student to Faculty/Staff to compensate for the loss of Faculty/Staff spaces in Lot 38. The suggestion was made to change the student spaces in Lot 38 to Student - No Overnight, and there was some discussion about that. Reggie made a motion to change the north row of Lot 35 to Faculty/Staff, the south side of 38 to Blue Reserved, and to designate three reserved spaces in Lot 32 for the Psychology Clinic Research Lab.

The meeting was adjourned.