

Transportation & Parking Committee

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

1:00 pm

Via Zoom

In attendance: Diane Agud, Paul Avey, Jeri Baker, Joseph Cooley, Kirk Felton, Sandra Gabbert, Eric Martin, Jenny McCoy, Haley Michel, Polly Middleton, Nick Quint, Jaden Ringley, Pam Tate, David Trimble
Excused: Kristin Link

1. Welcome and introductions
Co-chair Jenny McCoy called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees.
2. Approval of minutes from 11/9/21
A motion to accept the minutes of the November meeting was made by Paul Avey, seconded by Diane Agud, and approved by the group.
3. Scheduling meetings for Spring 2022 semester
Meetings for the Spring 2022 semester will take place via Zoom on the second Tuesday of each month from 12:30 – 1:30 PM. A calendar invite will be sent to committee members.
4. Update on the ADA Member resolution
The second reading of the resolution to add two members from the ADA community to the TPC was passed at the University Council meeting on 11/15/2021 and approved on 12/6/2021. Jeri Baker will follow up with the groups to appoint representatives.
5. Discussion of budget
 - a. Jeri Baker reported that she was asked to rework the budget as presented during hearings on 1/7/22 to include a small increase to permit prices. Soon an additional parking structure will be needed and smaller price increases help buffer the change. Jeri expressed her reluctance to raise prices since the office had begun charging visitors to park on campus effective August 2020. Additionally, a significant number of parking spaces have been lost due to construction. When a parking space is lost due to capital projects, a per space “parking replacement” charge is generated which goes toward the down payment on a new facility. Jeri reported that while it is difficult to increase permit prices when employee salaries remain unchanged, university personnel are scheduled to receive merit raises in the coming year.
6. Parking and Transportation Master Plan
 - a. The 2015 parking master plan was completed in 2016; Jeri announced that the university is working with planners now on the next iteration. She wants members of the TPC to be engaged with this project and expects to hear more details in the coming months.
7. Member topics for discussion

Q: How can individuals such as a married couple with just one vehicle participate in the carpool program?

A: The carpool program was funded by grant money to incentivize fewer vehicles coming onto campus. Jeri encouraged the group to think about ways this can be achieved without simply offering a discounted permit for people who would already be riding together. The number of carpool permits is a low percentage of all permits sold (~120 F/S carpool permits and ~90 student carpool permits per year). Additional Green RFP funding has been awarded to help increase participation.

Q: Are there plans to return to ending enforcement at 5:30 PM?

A: Enforcing regulations until 10 PM is a permanent change. The decision to extend those hours was made not because of covid but as a means of capturing revenue from others that park on campus in the evening. Requiring visitors who attend events and activities to pay helps achieve greater parity among all who use parking. This change was mentioned in the 2015 transportation master plan. An evening only permit was created to offer affordable options (\$25/semester, \$50/year) to those coming on campus after 5 PM. Payment is required only Monday – Friday.

Q: What changes are being made in the Squires lot?

A: The 60 student spaces in the Squires lot have been relocated to the Media Lot. Parking at Squires will now be limited to faculty and staff, short-term metered parking, electric vehicle charging station parking, and Zipcar parking. The row of spaces next to the Architecture Annex will be reserved for graduate students. This change was made to eliminate a row of spaces that was shared by employees and students, which created confusion as well as presented a safety issue.

Q: What are the priorities committee members should consider in the coming semester?

A: Be a conduit for questions and feedback and enable conversations through connections as committee members. Complaints can lead to dialogue!