

Transportation and Parking Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2004

Attending: Shamim Sisson, Becca White, Mark Fletcher, Jo Lawson, Carole Lohman, Phil Moran, Mark Reisler, Len Schoppa, Bill Thurneck

Guest: Richard Kovatch

Ms. Sisson opened the meeting at 3:40pm with a request for additions or corrections to the minutes from the last meeting. There being no changes, Mr. Fletcher moved to accept the minutes as written. The second was offered by Ms. Lawson. A unanimous vote carried the motion.

With reference to the agenda item, P&T Budget, a review of rates was provided. The lowest charge would be \$12 up from \$11 monthly for blue or red commuter parking, student storage parking; the reserved parking would increase from \$22 to \$24 monthly; premium reserved parking would increase from \$31-\$34 and the onsite storage parking would increase from \$17-\$18 per month. With the exception of the onsite storage parking the rate structure equates the one that was deferred from last year. The Comprehensive Bus Fee for students has been requested at a level of \$111 up \$10 from \$101 and summer bus fee would increase to \$26 from \$22. The major features of the department's budget include the excelled bus replacement plan from 20 years to 15years, driver retention initiatives and modified bus service.

The Emmet-Ivy Parking Garage usage has been slow to mature with a peak of 850 cars during the period 11am – 1pm. Overnight some 375 vehicles use the facility. Special event use does not displace the permit holders in this facility. During the Basketball season the garage supported some 190-200 parkers on a good night, 90-110 for a mediocre game, and 6 for the Cal Ripkin event. Concern was brought up regarding the use of the garage and the patrons who would cross the railroad tracks to get to U-Hall via the Dynamics Building. Ms. White will provide an update at the next meeting. The issue has also been discussed in the General Safety and Security Committee.

Bus Service was modified effective January 13, 2004. It became necessary to revert to 10-minute service on the Blue/Orange route during the day after some experience with the new schedule. The Grounds Loop will run until 6pm. Service has been established from Piedmont to the Hospital (7:20am-8:20am) with 6 runs as a commuter link. Ongoing crowding issues on the green route are being addressed. Many more students are using the green route. Many hospital employees have moved back to University Hall for parking in order to get on the bus. The system is providing 3,869 more hours of service to the customer than just one year ago. New initiatives have been put in place to retain trained drivers for the system. Fifteen new drivers were added as a result of the Christmas break training session and two more full time driver positions

have been added. Discussion then centered around the Lambeth bus stop desires, concern over safety issues associated with walking to Beta Bridge, crossing Emmet Street to get to Emmet/Ivy Garage and the pedestrian bridge being built over Emmet Street near Lambeth Housing. Mark Fletcher had met with the Lambeth Council and related the issues to the committee. Ms. White replied that the Lambeth segment of the bus service was removed due to the need to serve the Emmet/Ivy Garage and the turning issues at the Italian Villa and Ivy Road.

Other discussion centered on second semester student parkers. Although no permits were available for first year students at second semester, observations indicate that a number of vehicles are here especially on weekends. Mark Fletcher reported complaints of students using the AFC meter spaces for parking while attending class. Construction has also had a deleterious effect on meter parking in the west grounds area.

The Occasional Parker program will be addressed over the coming weeks for a pilot program to be in place for next year. Various means of validating/permitting will be reviewed as well as the appropriate areas to use. The larger lots would be the likely sites such as A-9, E-3, or Emmet/Ivy Garage. A pricing schedule will need to be determined. A further report will be made at the March meeting. Len Schoppa would like to see wide promotion of the option. Discussion continued regarding the possibilities as well as the arena project.

The Bus Stop Safety Committee has developed an evaluation form, reviewed maps and prioritized the stops. On-grounds will be evaluated first by precinct: Central Grounds & Hospital, North Grounds, and West Grounds. Two person teams will review and evaluate each stop in both daylight and at night. Off-grounds stops will be reviewed at a later time. The project is hoped to be complete by the end of the year with an inventory of requirements to phase into the P&T Budgets over a few years.

Due to the late hour, most of the New Business was deferred to the next meeting. P&T has subscribed to Zoomerang – a subscription service for surveys. It has been offered to Student Council for transportation survey work. Advertising on buses is being considered. This would involve the use of an agency to solicit and place ads on the interior of the buses. The University can define criteria for such ads. It could provide another revenue stream for Parking and Transportation. Currently public service announcements are displayed in buses for free. Using $\frac{3}{4}$ of the available rail space could yield \$30-\$40,000 annually.

Ms. Sisson invited the committee to attend the opening of the new space in the Informal Lounge. Attending will allow knowledge of the name being given to this transformed place with a new purpose.

The March meeting will be held on March 24th in an effort to accommodate our student members. Again we will meet in the Office of the Dean of Students Conference Room, second floor, Peabody Hall at 3:30 pm. A meeting site on Central Grounds seems to be favored by many.

