

Parking & Transportation Advisory Board

February 12th, 2014

Members Present:

Jeri Baker, Rob Hendry, Greg Wheeler, Niels La Cour, Stefan Herlitz, Savannah Van Leuvan-Smith, Andy Steinberg, Ann Carr, Juanita Holler, Srinivas Lankala, Jennifer Bennett, Maxine Greenblatt, Pam Monn, Martha Patrick, Tom O'Donnell, Marios Philippides

Members Absent:

John Collura, Zachary Broughton,

Vacant positions:

AFSCME, GEO, Southwest Area Government, UMPD

Motion: Maxine Greenblatt, approval of minutes from November 13th. Niels la Cour second

Vote: Motion carried.

Transit Update from Glenn Barrington, guest speaker:

Ridership/UMTS update:

- There was a ridership increase of 4% in the past year, and there has been a steady incline over the last 4-5 years.
- The organization's identity is that of a student run service.
- Snow days are very bad for the service—it means a drop in ridership of around 13,000 people.

PVTA Comprehensive Service Analysis

- Service review by PVTA is currently being done, They've overhauled their web page so that it's easier for members of the community to provide input.
- The proposals take effect next fall.

Level 3 charger:

- It takes 30 minutes to charge to 100% from zero, and since the beginning charge is never zero, it's an average of 12 minutes to charge up to 100%.
- This is far better than the level twos, which take 6 hours.
- It is the first level III EV charger in Massachusetts, and there are currently not many in existence.
- Discussion of ribbon cutting ceremony on the 18th at UMass Transit to celebrate the charger, which highlights the growing environmental awareness of the UMass Amherst campus.

Parking Fee Structure Update from Greg Wheeler:

- For FY15, the algorithm used to determine parking rates is being switched to a linear model. This will reduce the size of the algorithm.
- There will be a sharper incline in fees from FY14 to FY15, but only because of the implementation of the linear model, so just for this one year the rate of increase will be uneven.
- There will be a \$5 increase across the board for student permits as agreed upon by the SGA.

Parking Services Discussion Led by Jeri Baker:

- Since Parking Services is a self-sustaining department, an increase in revenue for parking is needed. Funds are necessary for parking lot maintenance, replacing equipment, etc.
- One proposal to increase revenue is to remove the maximum salary cap on parking rate increase, or increase it. Currently the maximum salary is \$88,000. Maxine Greenblatt points out that the faculty union might have an issue with either of those options. She is also strongly in favor of eliminating the maximum salary cap.
- The parking garage is 16% of revenue. A multi-modal parking facility will be built according to the master-plan of campus, but is very expensive.
- Another idea to increase revenue is a low-cost evening-only permit that is effective from the hours of 5PM to 10PM. This provides parking options on campus for those who pay into the system. The cost could be somewhere

in the range of \$36 dollars for the year. Parking at night would require either a daily pass, a regular pass, or an evening pass.

- There would be costs associated with this change. Additional employees or another shift would be added for enforcement during evening times, and more pay stations.
- Jeri believes that people should have to pay for parking whenever they use it, including on the weekends, however one step should be taken at a time so as not to garner too much rebellion.
- Marios Philippides brings up the issue that there should be an increase in existing enforcement, as he has seen many cars parked in the lot he uses with no permits and no tickets.
- Discussion of types of pay systems in lots. There are two kinds: “pay and display,” which is better for smaller lots, and “pay-by-space,” which is preferable for larger lots.
- Jeri brings up the idea that Parking Services should run all parking, even for events. Right now each facility that is hosting an event pays Parking Services a fee and then runs the event parking. Revenue could probably be increased by Parking Services running the event parking instead. Discussion was had about how to go about this; the costs involved include employment for event parking oversight and management.

Tom O'Donnell on Pedestrian Safety:

- An increase in pedestrian safety is highly necessary. A lack of awareness on the part of both drivers and pedestrians is contributing to accidents – pedestrians cross the road without looking, drivers in a hurry try to pass other vehicles who are stopped for pedestrians, and people text while driving despite the warnings not to. Is there a way to increase safety awareness on campus?
- Maxine Greenblatt mentions that Hick's Way provides an issue in pedestrian and vehicular safety because of the necessity that cars cross two lanes before being able to take a left, while simultaneously having to watch for pedestrians at the crosswalk in front of them. Tom mentions that a stoplight with a pedestrian button or sensor could be added here.

Rob Hendry, Bicycle Committee Update:

- The Committee is working on its to-do list which include getting various groups together to get funding and organize events to highlight bicycle safety and discuss the state of bicycling in MA right now.
- There is currently a bikeshare program, there are plans to make it regional.
- On May 10th there will be a fun safety presentation event. He mentions that Umass Transit should come with a bus to demonstrate rack + roll. Glenn says that a bus could probably be parked at the campus center circle and it is doable. He will look into it.

Motion: Maxine Greenblatt, motion to research increasing revenue for parking services by implementing evening restrictions

Vote: Motion carried.

Stefan Herlitz:

The Commonwealth dorms need more bike racks. The current racks are in the center, which means that people at the top of the hill do not use them because they have to bike down and walk up. They will instead chain their bikes to every available thing, including benches. Adding bike racks to the top of the hill would help. Pam Monn says she will look into this and can definitely put more bike racks out.

Motion: Maxine Greenblatt, motion to adjourn.

Future Agenda Items: At the next meeting, Jeri will provide details of the investigation on extending the parking restriction hours later into the evening. We will also ask someone from Campus Planning to come and give a construction update.

Next meeting is scheduled for: April 16th, 2012 at 12:00PM in Campus Center room 917

The committee was adjourned at: 1:30PM