

# **PARKING & TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD (PTAB)**

September 23, 2011

Present:	Al Byam (Chair)	Rob Hendry	Barbara Stewart
	Mike Brennan	Dan Stratford	David
	Ann Carr	Niels La Cour	Woemhoener
	Jake Clemen	Tom	Kyle Howard
		O'Donnell	Martha Patrick

	Pam Monn	Jennifer
Absent:	Randy Boivin	Bennett
		John Collura

Vacant: SGA (1)

Special Guests: Juanita Holler, Assoc. VC Facilities and Campus Services, Dennis Swinford, Director Campus Planning, Ruth Bonsignore, Elsa Chen, Howard Musie from VHB Gary Noga (sat in for Pam Monn)

**MINUTES:** Approved minutes from April 6, 2011

## **TRANSIT UPDATE:**

- Car Sharing WECAR has come to campus. This is a sub division of Enterprise. Cars are located on the third level of the parking garage. It allows 18-21 year olds and 21+ to rent vehicles hourly. As an introductory offer, the application fee has been waived and the membership has been reduced. In addition, the membership fee will be credited towards the first rental. This is an online service.
- The fall of 2011 brought no major new services for Transit. Five Colleges has added a route operated by Springfield (SATCO) Bus Company to take passengers involved in community service learning programs from each college to the Holyoke bus transfer station. The students will then transfer to a city bus to travel to their final destination. There are two trips a day in the afternoon with return trips in the early evening. Each student involved in the Service Learning Program will have a sticker on his or her id for free bus service within the PVTA service area.
- A grant from Congressman John Olver has allowed PVTA to purchase four new Hybrid buses from New Flyer Bus Industries. These buses will be arriving in the beginning of October, and UMass shall be getting at five of the hybrid buses. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the new buses.

## **PARKING UPDATE:**

- Summer Projects: Visitor lot 34 and 32 were renovated and painted. The parking garage walls were washed, and 6 new visitor meters in lot 71 were installed.
- The new concourse customer service office in the campus center is due to open in mid-October.

## **RIDESHARE UPDATE:**

- UMass is collaborating with NURide to launch a new rideshare program that encourages people who bus, walk, rideshare or telecommute to work to register with the program. Points can be accumulated and go towards purchases from area businesses. NuRide has the State contract for ridesharing, and is looking to involve area colleges. The point system for this new program will be on the honor system.
- A new covered bike rack has been installed outside the student union. The University is looking for feedback to see how well it works. In addition, many new bike racks were installed all over campus.
- A grant was received for a bicycle-sharing program by a student group, and 25 bikes were delivered unassembled. They are in the process of being assembled, and the program will be rolled out later this fall.

## **FRESHMAN PARKING:**

At the November 10, 2010 PTAB meeting Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Jean Kim gave a presentation to the committee about banning freshman from bringing cars to campus. The proposal was discussed at length and PTAB members opted to table the proposal in lieu of gathering more information before voting on the matter. The proposal was deferred to VHB traffic consultants who were in the midst of a campus wide transportation and parking study. At the September 21, 2011 meeting Ruth Bonsignore, Elsa Chen, Howard Musi from VHB along with Dennis Swinford, Director of Campus Planning presented the results of the parking lot study completed by VHB. The summary results of the study demonstrated that there was an abundance of parking available in the purple and yellow lots where freshmen are eligible to park. Parking data also showed there was a drop in freshman permits sold for the fall of 2011 and subsequent years. VHB discussed how they counted every parking space on campus all 57 parking lots. A total of 13, 650 spaces (surface parking

12,700) on 96 acres of land and structured parking of 950 spaces. Peak parking demand between 7am-5pm showed 9,650 vehicles parking in these spaces, leaving available parking supply of 2,650 spaces. The study also demonstrated that restricting freshman parking would reduce revenue to Parking Services by approximately \$100,000. PTAB members discussed the study and voted unanimously to reject the proposal from restricting freshman parking on campus.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- |                         |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| -- Master plan          | - Winter Parking policy | - Parking Policy         |
| - Pay station Updates   | - Abandoned Bike Policy | - Transportation funding |
| Lot 24 Tilson Farm Road | - consultant's report   |                          |

**NEXT MEETING: November 30, 2011 Room 903 Campus Center 12:00pm – 2:00pm**