

Date: July 30, 2007

From: Brett Cloyd
Chair, Parking & Transportation Charter Committee

Re: Annual Report of Parking & Transportation Committee, FY '07

Committee Chair: Brett Cloyd

Committee Members: Joseph Chen, Brett Cloyd, Julie Fell, Karen Griffith, Cynthia Heaton, David Herman, Johna Leddy, Sarah Milani, Jacob White

Administrative Liaisons: David Ricketts, Mary Jean Beach

Committee Charge (from the University's operations manual):

a. Membership. Confirmed by the President of the University:

- (1) Three members appointed by the governing body of the faculty, currently the Faculty Senate;
- (2) Four members appointed by the governing body of the students, currently for purposes of this committee, the UISG;
- (3) Three members appointed by the governing body of the staff, currently the Staff Council.
- (4) Committee is chaired by a staff member; chair selection is made by the president of Staff Council.

b. Charge to the Committee.

- (1) The Committee shall be governed by the terms of the General Charter.
- (2) In addition, the Committee shall:
 - (a) Advise on both short-term and long-term plans for handling on-campus automobile and motorcycle traffic, including flow, control, parking, and storage. Committee members shall consult the appropriate administrative officers and the Campus Planning Committee to inform themselves regarding land use, parking lot design, and landscaping as these considerations bear on campus parking and transportation policies;
 - (b) Advise on plans for campus bicycle traffic;
 - (c) Advise on plans for other modes of transportation, including Campus;
 - (d) Advise on rules and regulations and fee schedules pertaining to all modes of campus parking and transportation, including priorities, registrations, and penalties for violations;
 - (e) Advise on procedure for handling appeals of fines arising from alleged violations of traffic or parking regulations;

(f) Advise in developing and reviewing plans for coordinating University transportation and facilities with those of city, county, state, and federal agencies.

Meeting Dates: The committee met 3 times each in the fall (2006) and spring (2007) semesters. Dates were October 2, November 6, December 4, February 5, March 5, and April 2.

Activities:

- 1) Discussed the newly implemented **Night and Weekend** parking permits (more information is available on-line at: http://www.uiowa.edu/~parking/NW_information.html) . These permits provide authorization to park from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. weekdays and anytime on weekends in designated lots. These permits might be attractive to people who would otherwise utilize bus service, walk or bike to work, but have occasion to be at the University during the evenings and weekends and would like to drive. The permits are relatively inexpensive when compared to other parking permit options. It is worth noting that regular hang-tags allow holders to park during nights and weekends in addition to day-time hours.
- 2) **Physicians' permits** program had been discussed during the last 3 years and a program was initiated with the College of Medicine (COM) and UIHC beginning this year (these are at a higher cost but give the permit holder more flexibility in parking options). There may be outstanding issues in years to come as the Parking and Transportation Department works with the health sciences community.
- 3) Reviewed the new on-line faculty and staff **waiting lists for parking permits** now available on HRIS. Faculty and staff may initiate requests for the wait list and see their current standing in the list.
- 4) **Sports parking** was discussed and the committee was updated on the current policy. Football and basketball are the only sport events at which a parking fee is charged, resulting in annual gross revenues of approximately \$400,000 and expenditures of \$250,000 (expense: salaries for cashiers, Field Service Officers, overtime, equipment, traffic control, and cleanup). Athletics issues the permits and designates lot location based on the individuals' donation. The individuals leasing a skybox have assigned spaces near the stadium.
- 5) The committee routinely reviewed the progress of the department's numerous projects.
 - Card Access System: Physical installation has been completed at the expense of \$1.4 million. The installation consists of 110 readers at gated parking areas. The system is functional and is capable of reading access cards and collection of data for reports.
 - Hospital Ramp IV Expansion: The expansion will be used for Lot 90 faculty/staff permit holders with additional permits issued. The original structure will be held for patient and visitor parking with the option of expanding into Lot 90.
 - Grand Ave. Round-About: South Grand Ave. was widened as a prelude to the construction of the round-about. The widening is to assist in reducing queuing of cars waiting to gain access into the Field House Lot and into the new expansion of Hospital Ramp IV. The round-about will be constructed in the summer of 2007. Committee members stressed the

need for good signage to alleviate unauthorized vehicles. They requested updated drawings of proposed project and signage

- **Burlington Street Bridge:** The demolition and construction currently taking place at the east end of the bridge will continue for quite some time. The closing of the south sidewalk was considered inconvenient and the Charter Committee hoped this might be short-term. After this project is completed the City of Iowa City would like to put a median down the center of Burlington from Gilbert St. to the bridge.

- 6) **Parking Rates:** A rate chart was explained showing the current and future rates through 2009. These rates were initially approved at a December 8, 2004 Charter Committee meeting as part of a multi-year plan through FY09. This year the Charter Committee reviewed income and expenditure figures related to parking rates. The Charter Committee continued its support of these rates. The Board of Regents approved the proposed FY08 parking rate increases at its May meeting.
- 7) **Emergency Ride Home Program.** This is considered a useful program, but it was noted that many people are unaware of its availability and continued promotion of the service was advised.
- 8) **Cambus – late night service.** Concern for the safety of women students and lack of transportation from downtown to women’s sorority houses was discussed on a couple of occasions. The Blue Route’s late night service dubbed SafeRide provides one possible solution:
http://www.uiowa.edu/~cambus/route_blue.html#Saferide. Further communication with the Safety Committee and representatives from Student Government may be appropriate.
- 9) **Visitors from the Johnson County Council of Governments.** John Yapp and Kent Ralston, Assistant Transportation Planners attended a committee meeting and provided an overview of bicycle trails and parking from a county and inter-city perspective. The system currently includes 30 miles of trails and 40 miles of extra-wide side walks. The issue of pedestrian safety on Burlington Street was briefly discussed – the yellow signs asking bicyclists to walk their bikes across the bridges are advisory and offer warning to cyclists (they are not legal in nature, cyclists ride at their own risk)
- 10) **Mary Greer** and colleagues from UIHC and the College of Medicine (COM) attended a meeting to discuss **Emergency Call back** of UIHC and COM computer professionals and how their parking is charged. The Charter Committee hoped that this matter would be resolved quickly to make it easy for employees to complete their work assignments and departments would pay for parking appropriately
- 11) **Parking spaces** available south of Burlington Street have been a recent concern given a number of construction projects slated for that area. This includes the new campus recreation center, a proposed expansion of Cambus and Fleet services, among other projects. The committee is currently providing feedback on possibilities including new parking ramps and other surface lot additions.
- 12) **Transportation survey.** In 2005-06, the committee provided input into the construction of a **transportation survey** sent to staff and faculty that looked to assess transportation choices, especially during the winter months. During the February 2007 meeting, the committee reviewed the results of the survey which are available at:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/Report.asp?U=168088193547>. Committee

members offered suggestions to Parking and Transportation that included: 1) would transit usage increase by better coordinating Iowa City and Coralville bus service with Cambus (a discussion that has not taken place in many years) ?; 2) explore ways to enhance carpooling; 3) explore possibilities of increasing the frequency of city bus routes. Frequency of bus routes was noted as a usage barrier among those surveyed.

- 13) **Energy usage and vehicle emissions.** Mike Wilson, Fleet Services Manager visited the Charter Committee to talk about issues relating to fuel usage and vehicle emissions and some of the challenges his department faces. Cloyd noted some recent federal legislation exploring mandated reductions in greenhouse gas emissions (including CO2 emissions) and wondered how the University might meet targets in the future. This led to some conversation of what the dominant and emerging technologies might be in the future, including better batteries and plug-in hybrids. E85 and Biodiesel vehicles have had growing popularity in Iowa and the Iowa Legislature has been considering some mandates for state vehicles to use these. Wilson noted that his department does compete with rental companies and that imposing mandates might lead to some competitive disadvantages for his unit. Ricketts noted that there is a growing fleet of hybrid vehicles and as they begin to manage maintenance issues, there may be an opportunity to increase the size of the fleet. The Fleet Services group has also evaluated the size and types of vehicles in its fleet to make sure it matches with the needs on campus and has reduced the number of large passenger vans as a result. McClatchey noted the poor fuel efficiency of the Cambus fleet, with many vehicles more than 15 years old, but that federal dollars will likely allow for many replacements in the next fiscal year which would improve fuel usage as well as reduce emissions.

Final Conclusions and Recommendations:

1. The Committee covered a wide number of issues related to its charge and enjoyed amiable conversation throughout the academic year.
2. Minutes for the meetings were usually kept by Starr Jennings, secretary in the Parking and Transportation Department. Ms. Jennings was absent due to surgery for a couple of the meetings and minutes were only compiled later after notes were collected. Assigning a secretary for minutes ahead of time is well advised for future chairs.
3. Finding ways to better communicate the work of the committee. It has been my suggestion for some time that we post minutes of the committee to a web site. My preference has been that this happens at the President's site for charter committees, but if this can be done by the Parking and transportation department, that might be acceptable, too.

Thanks for the opportunity to work with Faculty Senate, Staff Council, and Student Government on important issues concerning the University community.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

CC: Doug True
Mary Jane Beach
Dave Ricketts
Parking & Transportation Committee Members