

**Annual Public Hearing**  
**Parking and Transportation Policies, Budget and Capital Improvements**

Thursday, March 2, 2017

CSU201

Noon - 1:30PM

The Annual Hearing on Parking and Transportation Policies, Budget and Capital Improvements was called to order at 12:00 pm by David Cowan, University Facilities Services Director and Chair of the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee. Minnesota Statutes were cited as the public hearing requirements. Outcome of any policy and budget proposals, will take effective July 1, 2017. Hearing announcements were publicized in the *Reporter* on February 28, and March 2, 2017. An e-mail announcement to all University faculty, staff and students was also sent on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> informing them of this hearing.

Seventeen people were present at the hearing.

Cowan read off the names of those currently serving on the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee including David Cowan, Mike Cofield, Nancy Rolfsrud, Sue Edstrom, Alysia Przbilla, Frederick de Ruiter, Julie Snow, Shirley Piepho, Jodi Orchard, Nathan Huettl. Cindy Janney. He also thanked the volunteers serving on the Parking Citation Appeals Board including Casey Boone, Bradley Barnard, Mary Hadley, and Jodi Malecha, and Sue Edstrom.

Documents available for all individuals to take and review included:

- Public Hearing Docket
- MSU Parking Lot Map
- Busing System Allocation Subsidy Request 2017-18
- MSU Campus Bus Routes
- MSU Parking and Busing Program Finance report
- Bus and Shuttle Ridership Statistics
- Written Statements in the form of Email from each of these people: LuAnn Adams, Bobbi Urban, Sabrina Trickel, Sharon Wetzell, Matthew Bulger, and Rachel Salmi.

**E-mails Submitted for Hearing**

David Cowan read into the record the six e-mails that were submitted prior to the hearing. A summary of the e-mails include:

- 1) Individual wrote that they were “more than frustrated at that the cost of the permits continues to increase every year . . . and dislocation when the Vikings Summer Training Camp arrives;
- 2) Individual expressed view that in 7 year budget plan “parking revenue is well above expenditures. . . recommend a \$0 increase, or even a decrease”;
- 3) Individual expressed disappointment “with the lack of FREE parking available to students who do not have passes to any of the pay lots. . . prices for parking passes are beyond what most can afford”;
- 4) Individual wrote “ I understand the costs of repairing parking lots; however, I pay for a purple parking permit and am not able to ever leave campus during my lunch time as I can never find a place to park when I return”;

- 5) Individual wrote “I am concerned by the continual increase of the cost to attend a 4 year university. As a student the cost of the parking permit continues to add on to the overall cost of attending this university. . . I . . . urge you to look at restructuring the fees so less people attempt to park in the free lot and more of the lots that currently exist are used. . . .”;
- 6) Individual observed “Every year the parking permits are increased and I don’t see any changes to the lots. I would like to know what changes are being made. Also, is this increase in money going to plowing the parking lots? That is another thing that doesn’t seem to be done in a timely fashion . . . .”

### **Capital Improvement Plan Reviewed – Substantial Changes Recommended**

Nathan Huettl, Planning & Construction Project Manager, submitted a revised Capital Improvement Plan for spending during the summer of 2017. He argued that investing in Lot 1 this summer should be delayed substituting in its place a \$370,200 plan affecting six different parking areas. The primary impact would be to push off by one year beginning work on Lot 1 (Dark Green Residence Hall Lot – 477 stalls). Huettl maintained that more immediate needs required a change in the Capital Improvement Plan.

### **Proposed FY’18 Income and Spending Plans Reviewed**

David Cowan went over the various aspects associated with the 7-year Parking & Transportation Budget including the recommended \$1.7 Million income and \$1.8 Million spending plan. Testimony was taken about the need for a 3% parking permit rate increase for FY’18. Cowan noted that adjustments would be made should the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee decide to endorse the revised Capital Improvement Plan presented by Nathan Huettl.

### **Increase Rates for Visitor Paylot Passes Sold to Departments, Conferences and Workshops**

Testimony was taken as to the need to increase visitor paylot pass rates for departments, conferences and workshops.

**Lot 23 – Keeping the Lot Free or Converting it to a Permit Lot** Students spoke to the need to keep Lot 23 (Free Lot) as a free and open parking area. Expanding the free lot concept to Orange Lot 22 South was also brought up.

### **Gold Permit Drawing – 30 Years and Above Separate Drawing Pool**

A proposal which surfaced last year was discussed. A separate pool in the Spring Gold Permit Drawing to be made up of employees with 30+ years of service. These individuals would have their first choice of parking permit prior to the drawing participants. The procedures and suggestions on those who would be eligible to participate in this drawing pool were discussed.

### **Busing - \$39,023 More Requested from Student Allocation Committee & Student Senate**

Presented before the Student Allocation Committee is an 11c increase per credit hour on top of the present \$1.00 per hour credit hour mandatory assessment known as the Green Transportation Fee (GTF). [GTF allocations now total \$313,515 which is used to cover part of the \$537,073 in expenses estimated for 2016-17.]

### **Parking Citation Appeals**

Sue Edstrom stated that the yearly average is 11,000 citations which produce 800 appeals. David Cowan complimented the Parking Citation Appeals Board on their work.

**Public Hearing Adjourned** - The public hearing adjourned at 1:03 PM