

Parking Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – Friday, October 31, 2003

Parking Advisory Committee Chairperson David Cowan convened a regular meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee at 1:05 PM on Friday, 31 October 2003 in the Conference Room of the Student Senate.

Regular PAC Members Present – 6 of 6

1. David Cowan
2. Rose Marie Ley

3. Bryan Hart
4. Victoria Peters
5. Beth Paulson
6. Scott Hagebak

Administration Representative
Classified Employee Representative – Voting Member

Student Association Off-Campus Representative
Seat Shared Between Ian Radtke & Bryan Hart
IFO Faculty Association Representative

Student Assn. Residence Hall Representative

MSU Association of Administrative & Service Faculty (MSUAASF)

Regular PAC Members Absent – 0 of 6

Ex-officio Non-Voting Members Present – 2 of 8

1. Sue Edstrom
2. Dave Neve

Parking & Traffic Services/Parking Citation Appeals Board - Nonvoting
Business Affairs Office - Nonvoting

Ex-officio Members Absent – 6 of 8

1. Annette Spiess (Excused)
2. Marty Rost (Excused)
3. Mikal Christian or Zach Sonnek (Alternate)
4. (Vacant)
5. (Vacant)
6. (Vacant)

Mn. Assn. of Professional Employees (MAPE) – Nonvoting
Facilities Mgmt. Planning & Construction Manager Designee - Nonvoting
Residence Hall Association President - Nonvoting
Space Scheduling Office Liaison - Nonvoting
MN Management Assn. (MMA) – Nonvoting
Residential Life Office - Nonvoting

Others in Attendance

1. Syed “Ali” Raza
2. Sean McGoldrick
3. Kelli Bruns
4. C. Rhys Gaffer

Red Eye Shuttle Driver
Assist. Vice President for Facilities Management
Reporter for *MSU Reporter*
MSU Student Association President

Meeting Agenda Approved

Without objection the 31 October 2003 meeting agenda was approved with agreement that the capital improvement plan would be pushed up to the front of the agenda.

Prior Meeting Minutes Approved

Without objection the meeting minutes of 19 September 2003 were approved as written.

Review of Proposals for Parking Lot Capacity Increases

Sean McGoldrick, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, then presented a package of proposed changes to MSU's current parking stall inventory of 5,200 spaces.

- Create new parking lot on Southwest edge of campus (minimum of 70 stalls) to accommodate proposed permanent elimination of one side of at least 69 curbside parking stalls within the campus core (12 Golds Maywood West south curb; 14 Golds Ellis Southeast curb near Wigley; 14 Purples on west side of McElroy front; 15 Purples on east curb of West Road; 9 Purples on South Road north curb; and 5 Purples on Maywood East north curb across from Nelson). Next spring construction fences will also take "off-line" 30 Golds in Lot 5 (Otto south) and 14 Golds in Lot 6 between Morris and Otto. Lot 5's 30 stalls may not return if plans for a right turn lane off Stadium Road are finalized. **Summer 2004** construction season. *\$91,000 estimated cost.*
- Expand Lot 21 by 200 stalls to accommodate known demand for hard surfaced parking stalls. **Summer 2004** construction season. *\$260,000 estimated cost.*
- Expand the east edge of Lot 20/20a to address at least part of the known demand for additional 39 Purple permit stalls (\$50,700) and 34 Dark Green Residence Hall Discount stalls (\$44,200). Summer 2005 construction season. *\$94,900 estimated cost.*

PAC members asked a number of questions and discussed among themselves issues revolving around the proposals. Members noted that existing permit color designations could be changed to guard against revenue losses and meet demand for certain permit types like Purple as indicated in the recent "Parking Stall Vacancy Survey 2003".

PAC Chairperson David Cowan said that \$310,000 was the cash balance for the Parking Program as of 30 June and that another \$100,000 for lot expansion could be taken from this year's FY'04 parking budget.

It was surmised that traffic in the campus core would be reduced if the existing Purple curbside stalls would be converted to Gold permit stalls. (Gold stalls have little oversell, are area specific, and are not "roaming hunting licenses" as Purple permits are currently.) Sue Edstrom, Parking & Traffic Services Coordinator, argued for the elimination of parking on at least one side of street to minimize pedestrian crossing risks. McGoldrick indicated that the University's Master Plan looks at the elimination of on-street parking from both a safety and esthetics viewpoint.

PAC Member Beth Paulson moved that for Summer 2004 the PAC endorse the proposed expansion of Lot 21 and table the proposed creation of the Southwest Edge lot until the next meeting. Motion passed.

Red Eye Shuttle Coverage

PAC members then reviewed the pros and cons of expanding the coverage of the nighttime Red Eye Shuttle to cover drop off points within the Campus Express's Route #1 daytime bus 22 minute "U Zone". Members studied customer activity statistics for the Red Eye Shuttle since the beginning of Fall Semester noting that 3,200 riders had been served. Members also referenced statistics for MSU's three contracted bus routes of which 26,961 rides were given with the first 40 days.

C. Rhys Gaffer, Student Association President, presented the text of a petition which he said had some 150 names. The petition states:

Petition for Expanding the Campus Express #1 Bus Route/ Red Eye Shuttle

I support the expansion of the transportation service offered for the U Zone at MSU, Mankato. Expansion refers to a service that will take individuals from on campus locations to off-campus locations on the Campus Express 1/U'Zone Route from 6 PM to 10 PM Monday through Thursday, and 6 PM to 8 PM on Fridays.

PAC Member Scott Hagebak did not support expanding coverage of the Red Eye Shuttle to deal with the nighttime needs of customers utilizing the Student Senate's Campus Express Route #1 bus during the day. He stated that he has reservations about parking permit revenues supporting bus services in general and wondered when state funds would be used to subsidize such services in lieu of existing student activity fees (Route #1) and parking funds (Routes #8 & #9). [MSU paid a net of \$100,841 in 2002-03 for Route 1 and 8 services; \$91,197 was from the Parking Program or 8.7% of Parking's 2002-03 outlays of \$1,048,320. MSU charged \$57 per hour for the bus services; this year the charge is \$75.]

PAC Chairperson Cowan indicated that parking funds had been supporting bus route services for a number of years as a counter measure to demand growth for on-campus parking stalls. The Red Eye Shuttle, which costs around \$10,000 annually, was originally created to service Dark Green Residence Hall Discount permit holders stuck out in Lot 20a (east of Blakeslee Stadium), but had its mission changed and its customer base enlarged when the buses were reduced to a 6 PM end time from the 10 PM shutdown of earlier years. [The Red Eye Shuttle runs 6 PM to Midnight Monday-Thursday, 4:40 PM to 6:30 PM on Friday, and 5 PM – 11 PM Sunday.]

Red Eye Shuttle driver Syed "Ali" Raza informed PAC members of his experiences as a driver and the difficulty of saying no to customers who have little money and just want a ride back to their apartment on the Campus Express Bus Route #1.

Beth Paulson commented that the response time of the Red Eye Shuttle drivers was running 15 to 20 minutes per call, unlike the 5 to 10 minutes of past years. PAC members acknowledged that some of the delay had something to do with the increased ridership but that was all the more reason not to drop off people beyond MSU's property.

Beth Paulson moved that the Red Eye Shuttle coverage be limited to MSU property and that the issue of taking care of the nighttime needs of Campus Express Route #1 customers be referred to the Student Senate, which in part funds Route #1. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cowan, Chairperson
Parking Advisory Committee