

**Comments - Parking Transportation Annual Public Hearing on Polices, Budget and Capital Improvements**

Number	Submitter	Comment
1	Arnal, Samantha	I agree with the need to make parking repairs and so that would raise the prices of parking passes, however, are the prices going to go back down once the parking lot is fixed? Probably not. Also, I strongly disagree with turning the free lot into a \$62 lot. Where is the mercy for us tuition paying college students?
2	Arndt, Robert	1. Print parking expenses/disbursements monthly on the back page of the Reporter 2. PAC monthly approval of parking expenses/disbursements. 3. PAC order/review annual external audit of parking accounts 4. Annual election of parking chair by PAC 5. PAC approve monthly wages/hiring for all parking funded employees 6. Reduce enforcement during summer, winter break, spring break
3	Barriga, Elizabeth	Please consider the option to continue free parking for students. There are plenty of fee-based lots closer to campus. Students should be able to park for free closer than a 15 minute walk to campus. I would even further recommend more free lot parking as the free lot gets full and students don't have an area to park.
4	Benett, Stephanie	Being a transfer student from another university I was and am impressed at how MSU handles its parking situation: the availability to purchase a permit for close parking is wonderful for those who use it and a free lot opportunity is extremely helpful for many. I work most Wednesdays around the noon hour and I am unsure if I can make the meeting on the 20th concerning the fee changes so I would like this message to speak my thoughts in place of my attendance in two weeks. Reading over the e-mail to all students about the fee increase for each lot concerned me as I genuinely feel the free lot should remain free. I would like to remind you how convenient it is for an individual to NOT have to spend the money on a parking pass. Those who live far off from campus rely only upon the free lot for their parking needs as they travel to campus for their classes. I understand how increasing the cost of parking passes would be beneficial for the repair of lots and so on. I suggest instead increasing the fee on student fees as was the case with including bus fees to allow for "free" bus rides. Adding a few dollars onto tuition of each student allows the school to benefit from a gross income for the repairs for lots that need attention, though also allows students to benefit from free parking. I feel as though I speak for many others also, in this situation, because having a free lot so close to campus is extremely convenient, helpful, and unique. With such a drastic proposed change (free to approximately \$60) I feel as though students would be resistant to paying this fee, therefore there would be only a modest benefit from this change. Instead, by adding between \$10 and \$20 to semester fees of the students the goal total for repairs would easily be met in this way without a huge amount of resistance from the student body.
5	Berstrom, David Wilson	As a student who will be commuting next fall in an effort to save money in college, I am extremely upset that the Free Lot will now cost \$62. Please reconsider changing the rate of the Free Lot. And if there will be an increase, please reduce the price. The largest proposed increase for other lots is \$8. The Free Lot would be increasing \$62.
6	Glaser, Arlene F.	I don't feel the price of parking should go up just because we are getting a raise. I believe the price was raised last year. Sometimes we need to delay project or do less because we don't have the money. That's what I'm facing every day.
7	Hanson, Michael	In regards to the Parking Lot Advisory Hearing on the 20th, I notice that there is a recommendation to change Lot 23 (Free Parking) to \$62 for a pass. I've been speaking with my constituents as soon as I got out of Senate to gauge their thoughts on the all-campus email that was sent out during Senate today and from my understanding so far based on the limited number of people I've spoken to, roughly a dozen students as of now (which I plan to continue to reach out and poll my constituency as I jointly represent those students who live off-campus which frequent Lot 23), there seems to be at this time unanimous thoughts that getting rid of the Free Lot is a bad idea. With that stated, I'm curious as to how many stalls Lot 23 would have, and thus the revenue potentially created by changing it to a pay lot. In essence, what kind of funding would be required to keep the Free Lot Free?
8	Holle, Jacob	While I understand the need to increase the parking permit rates in order to fix the lots, I feel that charging students for the parking in the free lot is outrageous. I purchased a purple permit this year and plan to purchase either a purple or orange permit next year so this charge would not effect me directly. However, I know that some students do not have the money to pay for a pass and live off of the public transit routes or have night classes that go later then public transit go. If you start charging for the free lot you leave these students in a rough spot and I do not see what you want them to do. I realize that \$62 is not a lot of money to some people but while you are in college \$62 can go a long way if you are not supported financially by someone else. I certainly hope you take this into account when you think about these increases.
9	Idso, Robert	As adjunct faculty I have one meeting a month plus another occasional meeting on campus. When I am on campus I arrive early, park in the free lot, and ride a usually crowded shuttle bus to the student union. This seems to me like a responsible way to handle occasional parking at MSU. I strenuously object to charging \$62 or any other amount to park in the "free" lot. This leaves no option to people like me or to others on a budget.
10	Jamison, Daniel	What would happen if students did not buy a \$62 parking pass for the free lot of next year? Are they to find other areas of parking which are none or is there going to be an area for students not to pay and be able to go to the school?
11	Loisell, Darlene	I understand the need for revenue, but charging in the free lots!!! Those kids simply can't afford that! Many are walking in the worst of weather last year, because they didn't have \$0.50 for the bus ride from Lot 23 (Free Lot)! We have a moral responsibility to make sure all students have a right to parking! Even the Free lot! There are many students who can barely find the money to eat. Not a good thing to do!
12	Long, Frances	I'm writing in regards to the proposed increase in parking fees. The price of a permit is already a financial hardship for many of us, and while the increases of 4-8 dollars for various lots is relatively negligible, I have to voice strong opposition to taking away the free lot altogether. Relatively early on in the semester I learned that the eventual cost of parking tickets would surpass the price of a permit, so I simply bought a permit. However, there are many, many students who don't have the luxury of having enough cash on hand to simply buy a permit and there are no other logical places for students to park. I am not certain why you feel the need to raise the costs, or what this money is going toward - but please remember that the majority of your students are already under a pile of debt when they graduate, throwing in extra fees all over the place isn't a good way to <u>thank them for their choice to spend that tuition money at MSU.</u>
13	Namyst, Jeremy	The reason I am opposed to the proposal is specifically the free lot becoming a pay lot (lot 23). I am taking classes online at this moment and currently do not utilize this parking lot as I am also living in the Twin Cities area and use the 7700 France Avenue campus for computer resources if needed. Being I am already charged student activity fees on a per credit level and I don't get to utilize what the fees cover I am opposed to having more expenses for items that I do not utilize to begin with. On the rare occasion that I am on campus, I do utilize the free lot and have yet to put the green fee to use for bus transit to the main campus from lot 23 as I have not been on campus since March 2012.
14	Nowicki, Dalton John	This is dumb . . .
15	Otte, Walter	Please do not put a charge on the free lot. As an adjunct, for, Teacher Candidates around the State, I come to the campus from Roch. about 3 or 4 times per year. And it's a long walk.

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16	Pimsler, Sophia	As an upcoming senior at MSU, it is upsetting that the free parking lot is now going to have a 62 dollar fee. This is yet another fee students need to pay. I would ask you to reconsider, and find another area you can charge for to pay for the parking lot repairs.
17	Plym, Gary	Last year I wrote you regarding the discount rate of Employee Handicap parking. I'm not sure that you addressed the reasoning to me. I'm wondering as to why employees that get the handicapped stalls get such a reduced rate? In my department, Building Services, at least two employees have the "handicap designation", for what reason only their doctor knows. These individuals have no restrictions in their job duties, which are the same as all other GMW's. We all make the same money in our classification, so I would appreciate a clarification as to why they get to park next to Gold at half the rate?
18	Reed, Sarah	I was curious who has the ability to vote on this matter? Is it open to the students and people who PAY to use these lots or are they voted on by people who use these lots for free (or not at all). I honestly think this is not a good way to use student finances as we are already having to pay higher tuition it seems every year and it gets more difficult to complete our education when we have all of these "Extras" plopped in our laps. I feel <u>the need to have a say in this matter, as it will be more money out of my pocket.</u>
19	Rivall, Jack	Charging for the free lot? No thanks.
20	Rodrigues, Crysta	I was reading the e-mail about the Parking Hearing and I am a bit concerned about how well things will go next year if these changes happen. My concern is that if the free parking lot is no longer free, more people will take the bus when there's too many people taking the bus already. Last semester I took the bus every day without a problem. This semester on the other hand, I took the bus for two days and decided that it wasn't worth it anymore because of the amount of people on the bus and I ended up unhappily buying an orange parking permit, even though I'm technically paying for the bus already. I took Route 1 and I live in College Station. By the time it got to my apartment, the bus was so packed there were no seats and there were constantly backpacks in people's faces who were sitting because of the amount of people that had to stand. When people needed to get off the bus at their apartments, other people would have to step off the bus and get back on just so they could let people off. I think that if these changes are going to be made, it would be best if there were either two buses running at the same time or if the route was split in half and made into two separate routes (like in the morning when one bus goes through Briargate, Southridge and College Station, then straight to the parking lot, and the other bus goes straight to College Town first). I hope you consider this when making the decision. Thanks.
21	Ruedy, Jordan	I'm concerned about there no longer being any free parking on campus if the free lot becomes a pay lot. I'm sure this will be the main topic of discussion this year, but I think it's important for everyone to voice any concerns they may have. I foresee it becoming a potential problem for many people. I am currently an orange permit holder myself, but know multiple people who use the free lot. I know that several of them previously rode the bus each day, but eventually decided it was easier to park in the free lot. I know that if their only choices were buying a parking permit or riding the bus, they would revert to using the bus. My fear is that this would be the mindset of many people, and more people would begin taking the bus, as it's the 'free' alternative. As it is, the buses are already operating at close to, or over maximum capacity during the winter months. If this proposed permit for the free lot were to take effect, I would imagine that something would need to be done to increase the bus capacity. Whether that solution is more buses, better routes, or anything else, I can't say for certain. One thing I have noticed as an orange permit holder is that the back half of the orange lot very rarely has more than 20-30 cars in it on any given day. I can't say that I know how many orange permits were sold, but it doesn't seem to be anywhere close to all of them. The same could be said about some of the purple lots, as I rarely see those filled as well. Perhaps one option would actually be to lower the permit price for the back half of the orange lot, which could potentially increase sales for that lot, and get rid of the need to charge for the free lot. Another potential option would be to charge for the front half of the pay lot, while leaving the back half as free parking. Doing this would at least leave some miniscule amount of free parking on campus for those who can't afford to buy a permit, but don't wish to take the crowded buses. I don't claim to be an expert on parking, finances, or anything of the sort. However, I feel that it's vital for students to voice concerns, as they may see something that could have been overlooked. Whatever the outcome, I'm sure it will be done with the students best interest in mind. Thank you for your time and openness to student input.
22	Sheldahl, Cory Lee	After reading the announcement email from Vicki Hanson, I would like to suggest an addendum to the proposed lot increases. As an adjunct instructor, I commute to Mankato (from Minnesota/Iowa border) for 1 class (T/TH). I park in the free lot, and walk to the classroom. I suggest adjuncts be given an allowance to apply towards one of the parking areas for the semester they teach, since they are not full time employees.
23	Sneer, Sara	Free to \$62 is slightly more than a 3% increase.
24	Turner, Shannon	So there will literally be nowhere to park without paying?