



PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 12, 2010 - Regular Meeting
Student Union Room 285

A regular meeting of the Parking Advisory Committee was convened by Chairperson David Cowan at 12:42 PM on Friday, February 12, 2010, in Room 285 of the Centennial Student Union. A quorum was present with five of the six voting members in attendance.

PAC Member	Attendance	Constituency
David Cowan	Attended	Administration Representative – Voting Member
Autumn Hamilton	Attended	Faculty Association Representative – Voting Member
Abby Knott	Absent	Off-Campus Student Assn. Representative – Voting Member
Sarah Koenen	Attended	On-Campus Student Assn. Representative – Voting Member
Roberta Spangenberg	Attended	Classified Employee Representative – Voting Member
Mike Lagerquist	Attended	MSU. Assn. of Admin. & Svc. Faculty (MSUAASF) – Voting Member
Sue Edstrom	Attended	Parking Services Coordinator/Citation Appeals Board Liaison - Non-Voting
Marty Rost	Attended	Planning & Construction – Ex-officio, Nonvoting Member
Jodi Orchard	Attended	Business Services – Ex-officio, Nonvoting Member
Adam Bartz	Excused	Residence Hall Association President – Ex-officio, Nonvoting Member
Cynthia Janney	Absent	Residential Life Office – Ex-officio, Nonvoting Member
Shirley Piepho	Excused	University Scheduling – Ex-officio, Nonvoting Member
(Vacant)		MN. Assn. of Professional Employees (MAPE) – Ex-officio, Nonvoting Member
(Vacant)		MN. Management Association (MMA) – Ex-officio, Nonvoting Member

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Without objection the previously prepared meeting agenda was approved as modified. Ex-officio member Sue Edstrom requested that agenda time be spend addressing utilization of Residential Life Yellow Guest Permits.

Previous Meeting Minutes Approved

Without object the meeting minutes of November 13, 2009, were approved as written.

2010-11 Proposed Budget - Financial Activity of Parking & Transportation Program

PAC Chair David Cowan presented a \$1,297,020 income forecast for 2010-11 and a spending plan totaling \$1,275,000. Adjustments were then made to bring the 12 month income estimate to \$1,307,020 and spending to \$1,305,000. \$30,000 was added to the spending plan to cover the cost of replacing a ten year old worn out parking citation ticket writing system - the new system would include handheld machines, printers, related software, etc. Without objection the PAC endorsed the revised 2010-11 Budget Plan for presentation to the Budget Sub-Meet and Confer Committee and for review at the Thursday, March 18, Annual Hearing on Parking & Transportation Policies, Capital Improvements, and Budget. (The PAC reserves the right to amend the plan following input from campus constituencies.)

Proposed Higher Fine Rates Added to March 18th Hearing Docket

Sue Edstrom moved that the Hearing Docket (a.k.a. Agenda) include a proposal that fines rates be increased to provide more of a disincentive to violators who elect to park illegally. [It is estimated that 18,000 tickets are issued annually with these collections from past years: FY'07 - \$236,026, FY'08 - \$225,184, and FY'09 - \$246,676.] Edstrom's motion includes the following proposed changes for 2010-11:

Basic Fine Levels	2009-10	Proposed Change	Proposed 2010-11	Observations
Parked illegally in Orange, Purple, Green permit stalls, etc.	\$15	\$5	\$20	
Early Bird Value if paid within 4 business days	\$12	\$3	\$15	
Parked illegally in Gold, Vendor/Facilities Stalls, Fire Lanes, etc.	\$25	\$5	\$30	Gold permit stall violations were \$15 in 2006-07.
Early Bird value if paid within 4 business days	\$20	\$5	\$25	
Auto-clamp - Applied if fines accumulate \$50 or more, three unpaid tickets, revoked permit.	\$40	\$10	\$50	The rate was \$30 In 2000-01. About 300 auto-clamps are affixed annually.

Edstrom's motion was then voted on. Motion to include fine rate increases on March 18th Hearing Docket approved 4 to 1.

Bus Costs for 2010-11

PAC Chairperson David Cowan noted that MSU would be meeting with City of Mankato Finance Director Dan Scott in late February, 2010, to discuss the contract for 2010-11. The current \$76 per hour charge for MSU's two routes will probably increase. [A February 25th meeting was held where the City of Mankato indicated that that the probable per hour charge for 2010-11 would be \$78, a \$2 (or 2.63%) increase over this year.] \$150,000 has been built into the 2010-11 proposed spending plan for busing.

MSU Leased City of Mankato Bus Routes 1 & 8	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Overall Costs	\$239,224	\$267,326	\$292,448
Net Charge to MSU after fare adjustments, bus passes, federal transit subsidies, etc.	\$111,619	\$130,425	\$136,416
Per Hour Charge to MSU	\$68	\$73	\$74
Number of Svc. Hours (Nighttime Svc. started in Route 1 Spring 2009, 7:30 AM to 10 PM M-Thurs.)	3,517.25 Hrs.	3,660.25 Hrs.	3,952.00 Hrs.
Number of Rides	138,185	161,035	189,033

Autumn Hamilton raised the question as to what level should the \$1.35 Million Parking & Transportation

Budget continue to underwrite the busing program?

Concern was expressed that another round of bus rate changes would result in a decrease in ridership and an increased demand for plastic parking permits like Orange and Purple.

A student buying both a \$45 Fall and a \$45 Spring Semester Bus passes now invests \$90, a figure very close to the \$96 cost of an Orange permit (which comes with a bus tag to ride free back and forth to the campus core.)

It was mentioned that a free bus tag is part of the purchase price of several permits including (\$96 Orange permits; \$134 Purple; \$170 close-in Light Green (Res. Hall) and \$72 Lot 20a Dark Green Discount permits.) The 50¢ per ride from the Free Lot (Lot 23) hasn't changed since 2000-01 when it was 25¢. The PAC backed off of a 75¢ proposed fee at the Annual Hearing last March 19, 2009, when the Student Senate expressed its firm opposition. Most PAC members were not interested in raising the fee a quarter notwithstanding it could bring in upwards of \$12,000 in new receipts (\$24,289 were raised in cash fares in 2008-09).

Members noted that bus pass rates were increased this past fall (Semester Pass - from \$40 to \$45; Thirty Day Pass - from \$14 to \$16).

Bus Pass Type	Fall 2008 \$40 Semester/30 Day \$14		Spring 2009 \$40 Semester/30 Day \$14		Fall 2009 Preliminary \$45 Semester/30 Day \$16	
	# of Passes	Receipts	# of Passes	Receipts	# of Passes	Receipts
Passes Sold by MSU Cashiers						
Semester Bus Passes	333	13,320	572	\$22,880	597	26,865
30 Day Bus Passes	172	2,408	252	\$3,328	172	2,752
Totals	505	\$15,728	824	\$26,208	769	\$29,617
Cash Fares Collected/Bus Drivers						
Route # 1 Campus Express to Apts.	N/A	4,236	N/A	6,315	N/A	Pending
Rt. #8 Campus Circulator	N/A	5,654	N/A	8,084	N/A	Pending
Cash Fare Totals		\$9,890		\$14,399		

PAC members as a group elected not to recommend any bus price increases for 2010-11.

Still on March 18th Hearing Docket : Proposed Transfer of Visitors Paylot Stalls to Lot 4a Gold

PAC members were reminded that on November 13, 2009, the following was endorsed by the PAC as a Hearing Docket item for the March 18, 2010, Annual Hearing:

Proposal: Reduce to number of Visitor Paylot parking stalls by 20 and increase the number of stalls in Gold Lot 4a by 20. The existing 200 Paylot vs. 60 Gold Lot 4a mix would then change to 180 Paylot vs. 80 Gold Lot 4a. To accomplish such a change would require a \$5,000 investment moving the existing fence which now divides the lower level of Lot 4/4a.

PAC members remain divided on whether the additional \$4,720 raised annually through the sale of 20 extra Lot 4a Gold stalls would be worth what is now viewed as a plus for conferences and workshop participants being able to park close using the Visitors Paylot and not have to be shuttled in from Lot 21 (Purple). Vacancies in the Visitors Paylot continue - unless a conference or workshop lands - while demand for Lot 4a Gold parking is a matter of record. Head Cashier Jodi Orchard opposed any transfer and conversion of Visitor Paylot stalls to Lot 4a Gold. Cowan noted that "Lot Full" situations now seldom occur, a major improvement for guests and visitors over what was happening 18 months earlier when the Visitors Paylot was expanded at the expense of Lot 4 Gold permit stalls.

Yellow Guest Permit Use Up

Sue Edstrom reported that of the four residence halls a couple have already exhausted their supply of Yellow Guest parking permits. Edstrom had to issue more Yellow Guest parking permits. 4,000 were made available to the residence halls at the beginning of Fall Semester.

The PAC understands that residence hall renters want a way to conveniently park their overnight guests. With this additional demand, once the few close-in Yellow Guest stalls are filled up near three of the four residence halls, there is no alternative for these non-MSU people but to park way out in Lot 20a Dark Green permit stalls (with spillover to Lot 21 Orange permit stalls). A parking crunch is happening out in Lot 20a and Lot 21 where Dark Green permit holders are finding their stalls scooped up by Yellow Guest users and then the Dark Green permit holder ends up in Lot 21 Orange, the overflow lot of last resort.

Yellow permits are issued by the front desks of each residence halls for use 5 of the 7 nights of each week – Sunday night, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. From Friday Noon until Sunday at 6 PM, as you know, the Green permit areas are all open and free hence no need for a Yellow Guest permit.

Autumn Hamilton moved that the PAC recommend putting on the Hearing Docket a proposal eliminating Yellow Guest permit privileges in 2010-11 for the four residence halls. Such a recommendation would not be included on the Hearing Docket pending the outcome of a meeting with the Residential Life Office about how to deal with this demand issue.

[A meeting was held by PAC Chairperson David Cowan with Residential Life leadership on Friday, February 19, 2010. Data is now being collected to allow Residential Life to get a better handle on where the problem exists and what can be done to address it. Residential Life, and the Residence Hall Student Association, are both actively reviewing the matter hence no need for the matter to become an item on the Hearing Docket.]

Annual Hearing Set - Thursday, March 18th, 1:30 PM to 3 PM in the Student Union

The PAC agreed to establish Thursday, March 18, 2010, 1:30 PM to 3 PM as the meeting time and place for the Annual Hearing on Parking and Transportation Policies, Capital Improvements, and Budget.

Universal Gold Permit Issues

Head Cashier and PAC member Jodi Orchard informed the PAC that some who have been sold a Universal Gold parking permit have ignored the published handbook recommendation not to park in smaller Gold permit lots like Lot 10, Lot 12, Nelson Gold Curbside stalls, etc. This creates an enforcement problem for Parking Services Officers. Orchard also questioned why some Universal Gold permit holders with cross-campus responsibilities seemed to be parking in prime Gold permit locations for long periods of time contrary to the "Home Lot" concept. She felt that too many Universal Golds are being sold and that we should cut back on the number for 2010-11.

PAC Cowan agreed to write to Universal Gold permit holders reminding them of the key responsibilities of having a Universal Gold. [The following Cowan email was sent February 19th.]

At its Friday, February 12th, meeting, the Parking Advisory Committee dealt with an issue where a few Universal Gold permit holders have elected to park in smaller Gold permit areas like Lot 10 (Trafton East), Lot 12 (Library), and Nelson Curbside on-street parking. This email is a "heads

up” for Universal Gold permit holders to steer clear of these tiny Gold permit areas where the likelihood is strong that you’ll displace a regular Gold permit holder.

What happens when these Gold permit holders are displaced? They call Security and demand policing action which then requires Parking Services officers to check out the complaint. Of course when the officer figures out what happen no ticket is issued but that doesn’t satisfy the displaced Gold permit holder who then starts to complain about Universal Gold permit holder privileges. Page 7 of the 2009-10 Parking and Traffic Guidelines handbook states:

. . . Universal Gold Permit holders are asked to avoid using the smaller gold lots (e.g., Lot 10, 12, Nelson Curbside Gold spaces, etc.).

The PAC is considering the elimination of the more passive language “. . . are asked to avoid” favoring a stronger ban. Whatever the future holds on the matter we’ll leave to the future but for now please stay out of these sensitive Gold permit parking areas.

The PAC agreed to “wait and see” if this email reminder approach will produce favorable results.

Adjournment

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 2:17 PM.