

Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday January 30, 2018
2:00 pm, OM 435

MEETING NOTES

Present: Mary Ann Armstrong, Lea Aune, Heather Christianson, Greg Hough, Chris Loar, April Markiewicz (Chair), Bob Putich, Darin Rasmussen, Brian Sullivan, and Kurt Willis.

Ex officio: Jillian Trinkaus

1. Approval of January 4, 2018 Meeting Notes

Rasmussen **Moved** and Aune **Seconded the Motion** to approve the January 4, 2018 Meeting Notes. **Motion Approved.**

2. Review PTAC Charge for 2017-18 Academic Year

The updated and approved PTAC charge for the 2017-18 year was sent to the PTAC on January 22nd by Markiewicz. Trinkaus suggested changing the word “balancing” in the last sentence in the charge from “...while balancing those needs with alternative transportation goals.” to “promoting”. Aune pointed out that the change would change the meaning of the committee’s charge. Moreover, Vice President Van Den Hul has sole authority in changing the PTAC’s charge and the current focus of the PTAC he has mandated is to advise him on parking, specifically on “...current challenges and future needs to provide sufficient, sustainable and accessible parking for faculty, staff, students and visitors...” Sullivan added that alternative transportation is now under the purview of Provost Carbajal. So it is not the role of the PTAC to promote alternative transportation, but it can certainly take its goals into consideration as it makes recommendations to Vice President Van Den Hul.

The first step the PTAC discussed was for Markiewicz to contact Vice President Van Den Hul and ask for direction on our role in alternative transportation now that it is under a new VP. For example, did he want to talk with Provost Carbajal about defining our role (if any) in alternative transportation? If so, would that include possibly having a member of PTAC also serve as a representative on the Provost’s alternative transportation committee? Markiewicz will contact Vice President Van Den Hul for direction on this matter.

3. Updates and Reminder

- 1) Update on 20R crosswalk and lighting – Markiewicz presented slides 5 and 6 of a PowerPoint presentation given by the city of Bellingham’s Public Works Director, Ted Carlson and Assistant Director Eric Johnston. The presentation was part of the city’s Pedestrian Safety Campaign and given to Western’s Central Health & Safety (CHS) committee on January 17th. The city implemented this program after there were 6 fatalities within a few weeks of each other last February. The pedestrian fatalities occurred in enhanced lighted, marked crosswalks.

They evaluated pedestrian/vehicle collision data from 2012-2016 and found there were 149 incidences. They then presented those data and the key points were:

- Most collisions occurred on main arterials and in highly populated areas.
- Few collisions occurred near schools and if they did occur, the severity was low.
- 62% of the collisions occurred at intersections, 25% at non-intersections
- 58% of the collisions occurred at marked crosswalks, 21% in the roadway
- 55% of the collisions occurred during the day, 43% at night
- Driver inattention (texting, on the phone) has become as prevalent as driving under the influence of alcohol as a causative factor
- Pedestrian inattention has exceeded “under the influence of alcohol” as a causative factor

Given these data, the city is prioritizing those areas where collisions occur to invest resources. Moreover, since no pedestrian/vehicle collisions have occurred on W. College Dr. and that more accidents occur in marked crosswalks, there is no incentive on their part to put any resources in that small stretch of roadway. The PTAC did discuss that more lighting may help along that stretch though.

- 2) Update on Commuter Packs – Putich reported that there has been no change in the number of commuter packs issued for core lots like 17G and 19G over the years. A person can get one commuter pack of ten permits per quarter for those lots and may use all ten or carry over those not used to the next quarter. A person can get more than one commuter pack per quarter for lot 12A.

It may be that questions are arising about commuter packs because people are unfamiliar with the process. The first step is to apply and be placed on a wait list (just like applying for a quarterly, academic year, or annual permit). Step two is that within a short period of time, the applicant is awarded their commuter pack code. The third step is the applicant pays for the pack. Since this requests are handled manually by the cashier side of the SBO, there may be a slight delay to set up the commuter pack for the applicant. Putich stated the only time this process will not work is when an applicant is applying for a commuter pack to access a lot for which they do not have the seniority to access.

- 3) Reminder: WAC 516-12 Parking & Traffic Regulations Public Hearing at noon on Wednesday, January 31st in OM 340.

4. Review Fall 2017 Parking Lot Utilization Study Results

Putich reported he is still awaiting additional data from TranspoGroup, the company that conducted the study, he has requested. He did report that the Lincoln Creek Transportation Center (LCTC) has about 550 parking spaces, with about 300 cars using the lot per day. Overall, that equates to about 50% capacity during peak times, usually Mondays and Wednesdays Fall Quarter. Once he gets the report from TranspoGroup, he will share the information with the PTAC.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Approved February 28, 2018.