

Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday February 14, 2018

3:00 pm, OM 435

MEETING NOTES

Present: Lea Aune, Rick Benner, Chris Loar, April Markiewicz (Chair), Doug McLean, Bob Putich, and Brian Sullivan.

Ex officio: Carol Berry, Paul Mueller

1. Approval of January 30, 2018 Meeting Notes

Tabled until the next PTAC meeting.

2. Review Fall 2017 Parking Lot Utilization Study Results

Putich reported he is still awaiting the final report and additional information he has requested from TranspoGroup, however he did hand out a couple of documents that summarized lot utilizations by day, time, and location. When averaged over all lots, utilization is at 80%, with highest rates on Mondays and Wednesdays and from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with peak usage from 11:00 am to noon.

Putich reported that the visitor/commuter lots (6V, 11G, metered spaces, C lots) are at 93% utilization from 11:00 am to noon. Moreover, with the hiring of more faculty and staff, parking demand in G lots is increasing. Benner asked whether there are more students enrolled at Western that may also be driving up parking space demand in the C lots. Putich said he would see whether he has that data and report back to the PTAC. He did state that an additional 100 spaces were added this year and were sold immediately. Employees and students are living further away from campus and prefer driving over other forms of transportation. Putich noted that 60 faculty and staff have purchased parking permits for the Lincoln Creek Transportation Center this year.

Benner stated the university must retain a minimum of 3,400 parking spaces. He was unsure of the exact wording in Western's Institutional Master Plan (IMP) regarding whether the parking spaces had to be all on campus or not. He was also unsure of the language in the IMP regarding utilization rate percent triggers that would mandate additional spaces be added. Aune suggested removing motorcycles from the utilization rates in the report, which would lower parking space utilization rates. Putich agreed, but on reconsideration stated motorcycle parking spaces are included in the 3,400 count and shouldn't be removed.

He will check the IMP to get clarification on the language (see below). He will also send the Lot Utilization Report out to the PTAC once it is ready, along with his handouts he had at the meeting today.

WWU Institutional Master Plan (page VI-6-8 (pgs 146-148)) Parking (Sections 1 & 4):

1. The minimum parking requirement for Western Washington University shall be 3,400 spaces, unless reductions are approved by the City of Bellingham Planning Director, in accordance with section City of Bellingham Land Use Development Ordinance, 20.12.010 B. Additional spaces shall be required if the occupancy of the University's on-campus parking lots and garages during peak periods exceeds 90 percent for two consecutive years, as determined by a comprehensive parking survey of on-campus parking facilities, which shall be conducted by the University during the peak occupancy periods of each academic year. The amount of additional parking required shall be 0.3 spaces for each FTE (full-time equivalent) student in excess of the average of the FTE enrollment during the first year in which parking utilization exceeds 90 percent and the previous year. No additional on-campus parking shall be required for university employees and visitors. For purposes of determining current parking requirements, the enrollment shall be based on the fall quarter FTE enrollment of students on the Bellingham campus. For purposes of determining future parking requirements, State of Washington FTE enrollment targets for Western Washington University shall be utilized, with adjustments made, if necessary, to identify the projected fall quarter enrollment (vs. average annual enrollment targets or projections).

4. Off-campus parking may be utilized to meet up to a maximum of twenty percent of the minimum university parking requirements if it is available during peak periods of parking utilization and is located within 500 feet of the campus boundaries, or beyond 500 feet when it serves university off campus uses located on the same or adjacent site(s) or is connected to the campus by free or low cost transit service operating during peak periods. If off campus parking areas serve other, non-university uses, a joint parking agreement specifying rights and/or operating times must be signed by all participants and the City of Bellingham's Planning Director and filed in the County Auditor's Office. Any off-campus parking must be consistent with City land use and zoning requirements and approved by the City of Bellingham's Planning Director.

Aune asked Putich whether there were any surprises in the report. He replied that the data were consistent with previous year's data, just higher demand for parking from faculty, staff and guests. Aune stated that visitors to campus self-park and Putich clarified that guests are separate from visitors who are usually invited by an academic department and they make the parking reservation and pay the fee.

3. Items from the Floor

Markiewicz reported she had not had a chance to contact Vice President Van Den Hul regarding PTAC's role in alternative transportation that is now under the purview of Provost Carbajal.

Lighting in 20R parking lot: AS VP for Student Life has been in communication with Putich and had found someone to attend today's PTAC meeting and talk on lighting in 20R. The person never showed up so Putich will contact Gordon to reschedule.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Approved February 28, 2018.