

Parking & Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday May 8, 2014

4:00 – 5:00 pm, MH 011

MEETING NOTES

Present: Kurt Willis, Ira Hyman, Doug Adelstein, Brian Sullivan, Wendy Johnson, Darin Rasmussen, Chris Sutton, April Markiewicz, Julia Gassman, Carol Berry

1. Approve April 17th Meeting Notes

Corrections were made to the last paragraph as follows: “It was suggested that when the gravel lots at the south end of campus are paved or when the Lincoln Creek Transportation Center is renovated, the university should cover expenses equal to that amount.” Ira Moved to approve the April 17th Meeting Notes, as amended, and Kurt Seconded the Motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

2. Item from the Floor

- Fare Rate Increase for WTA’s 80X Bus Route

Carol reported that WTA is accepting input on its plans to extend service in the east part of the county (<http://ridewta.com/node/357>). This change will also affect the fare structure of the 80X bus service to Mt Vernon. Currently, some riders commuting from Skagit and Snohomish counties may have to purchase multiple passes, i.e., the Everett Transit Pass, Skagit Transit Pass, and the WTA Bus Pass to commute Bellingham. Others may only require one bus pass and access the 80X from Skagit Station or a park & ride between Bellingham and Mt Vernon. To address the multiple bus pass issue, a single bus pass it being proposed that would be valid throughout the entire area. The concern however is the huge increase in the price of the new pass i.e., from \$100/year to \$600 per year per rider.

The fare change would affect a small number of Western’s employees and students. Carol stated that an agreement has been made that enables students to continue using their bus pass at no increased rate for 80X bus service in the 2014-15 academic year. Employees, however, are faced with the decision to pay the extra amount and continue to commute by bus, make other commuting arrangements, or drive their vehicles to campus and pay the cost of a parking permit. If they decide on the latter option, it might create greater demand on the current lots, as well as counter the university’s efforts to support sustainable transportation.

WTA is holding public meetings to obtain feedback on its proposed changes and Carol has been forwarding comments she has received from employees to WTA as well.

3. Work on 2013-14 PTAC Draft Recommendations – April

April stated that since the draft recommendations had just been sent out earlier in the morning, she suggested that the rest of the meeting be spent familiarizing the committee members with how the content is laid out, not in the details of the document. That said, there were some suggested changes that were incorporated into the draft recommendations as the PTAC members reviewed the draft together.

At the end of the hour-long meeting, April stated she would send the latest draft out to all the PTAC members later that day and asked that everyone read through it before the next meeting and send edits, comments, suggestions, etc to her. At the next meeting we will go through the draft in detail.

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.

Meeting Notes approved unanimously May 15, 2014.