

The action item given to this committee was found to be too limited for future implementation. Although this indeed may be what the general population now sees as taking care of the needs for parking on the campus, continuing to build garages will prove to be too expensive both in money and land.

As the group looked at the original charge of finding closer covered parking, discussion quickly turned to how can the campus better serve the ever growing population. We cannot begin to finance enough parking garages to keep up with the pace of the increase in student enrollment, research endeavors, and medical center visitor needs.

So, how do we give better service to the population without adding parking garages next to each building? Transportation, transportation, transportation. How, when, what, where and who?

Improving transportation moves the campus forward in many ways (no pun intended). A transportation plan should include a stair step design so the community can see improvements quickly while long term planning is taking place.

Step 1: Improve current shuttle system by adding convenience.

- Adding express routes
- Larger capacity buses
- Shelters at shuttle stops
- GPS to track the buses on route

Step 2: Look for “Greener” public transportation options.

- Use environmentally friendly fuels such as B20, ethanol, natural gas, propane, hydrogen, or methanol, electricity for current shuttle system
- Investigate other transportation modes such as light rail and monorail that would run on cleaner fuels

Step 3: Partner with the city to ensure the campus is included in future public transportation plans.

Implementation should be done with short term and long term goals in place. Short term goals should include improvements of the current shuttle system.

Long term goals should include the universities involvement with the city as it builds future public transportation options for the city. As a university placing itself on the world stage in medical research, it is imperative that the transportation options for those coming to this community keep pace.

The first step could be to improve the current shuttle system. This could include more frequent stops, express routes, larger capacity busses and “greener” busses. We could also look to improve customer satisfaction by adding shelters at strategic locations and GPS web locators to enhance the transportation experience.

The second step would involve designing a long range goal of tying in with the cities plans for raised public transportation to secure our place in the cities growing economy.

All of these improvements would attract additional customers. More frequent stops on the standard routes with an additional express route added would give a choice to those moving about the campus. The additional riders would benefit from larger busses which would lessen the wait time. Wait time could also be minimized with adding technology to the system. With a GPS tracking system for the shuttles, customers could watch their route and only leave their offices when a bus was approaching. As we purchase new busses, we should also look to alternative fuel vehicles to continue down the road to a “greener” campus.

The Parking and Transportation Department is currently purchasing larger buses that run on B20 fuel. The Department is also partnering with Student Life & Diversity to use the new fees to place shelters strategically throughout campus. A GPS system for the shuttles is being investigated.

We think transportation should be kept in the forefront with the campus planners. To not only keep pace in the campus environment but with downtown, we need to be at the table as the city plans their transportation future.