Parking and Transportation Advisory Board (PTAB)

Meeting Minutes for April 19, 2022

Members present: Glenn Barrington, Niels la Cour, Amy Stout, James Barna, Gregory Wheeler, Jennifer Bennett, Jonathan King, Robert Hendry, Thomas O'Donnell

Past Minutes approved in Quorum

Transportation Update- Glenn Barrington

- Glenn is retiring in May.
- PVTA ridership continues to expand
  - Not quite back to previous pre-COVID numbers.
  - We expect to reach 2 million passengers by the end of the year
- Struggle to recruit student drivers continues
  - Working with 4 MBA students to study training program and see if there are any efficiencies we are missing/could be doing better.
  - Presentation in May
  - Niels- there must be a relationship between the increase in student parking permits and decrease in your ridership
  - Glenn-absolutely. It also has to do with the decrease in the number of buses we are running. That will be continuing into the fall. We will probably be at 20 minute headways for at least another year.
  - We have trained 50 new drivers since July 1, 2021 and will be losing 35 or so after graduation.
- TSA mask mandate was overturned yesterday by a court ruling.
  - Mask mandate is now optional per PVTA for both drivers and passengers on all PVTA properties.
  - We are working feverishly to remove automatic announcements and destination signs, but it will take some time. This will require patience from the public.
- We will run modified full service through Thursday May 12, and PVTA summer bus service begins Friday 5/13.
- UMass Commencement is 5/13 and UMass will be closed. We still expect a lot of traffic.
• B79 Amherst-Worcester route is difficult to run consistently because of continued staffing challenges
• Thomas- Did the university get more buses for Friday morning (of commencement)?
• Glenn- We have not yet heard whether to hire Yankee buses for that morning. We are unfortunately right down to the wire.

Parking Services Update- Jon King

• Project bids came back for Mullins Way Lot 28- slightly under $2 million, had been expecting >$4 million. Shouldn't have to borrow money from the University.
  o 414 parking spaces, primarily for students living in the Honors College
  o EV Charging stations- 2 stations, 4 hoses (still being finalized)
  o New Sidewalk-South side of tennis courts and champions center to Commonwealth Ave
  o New Sidewalk- South side of Lorden field- partial this project, partial Phys. Plant effort
  o First time use of porous pavement for storm water management- minimizes large underground retention center- in parking spaces only, not aisles
  o Niels- any concerns about high water table down there?
  o Jon- not that I was aware of.
• Lot 67- $277K
  o Construction to begin after graduation
  o Completion in mid-August
  o 3 EV charging stations
  o Will set up for more stations in the future
• EV Charging Master Plan
  o Governor has reached out and said that our fleet vehicles need to start becoming electric cars.
  o How do we get them charged? How do we charge vehicles that come to campus? How do we charge vehicles for the on-campus community?
  o Ready to reach out to campus community for input.
  o Demand is high for EV charging.
  o Change in grace period after charging is complete. Now charging $0.15 per minute after 45 minute grace period.
  o Charge time had been around 2 hours and idle time was 2 hours.
  o Since change, idle time down to 1 hour. New record number of charging sessions for March and on track to set a record for April
  o Niels- the rate of change and adoption of EVs has caught everyone by surprise
  o Jon- I don’t know where to go, all of our chargers are at Level 2 for 2-3 hour charge. Level 3 is for people who come in for one class or so and leave. We are looking to accommodate more Level 1 charges (all-day) but we have to be able to charge for the electricity.
• Permit renewals began last Thursday
  o Have already sold almost 2,000 out of our expected 12,000.
  o Renewal period will last until 7/1
  o Any unsold permits will go up for general sale on Tuesday 7/5
• Niels- is there still a big waitlist for employee lots?
  o Jon- Our biggest waitlists are for residential student lots. Commuter lots are no so bad.
• We are already offering reduced rates for EV charging
  o University is charged $0.18/kWh, and we are able to charge customers $0.14/kWh. We pay Charge Point %10 as well.
• Everything else employee related needs to be done through Human Resources if we want to be able to offer any types of benefits.
• Occasional parking permits were eliminated in 2014/2015.
  o Created an online permit called “Click, Print, and Park” that gives us the ability to control access
  o Has already gone to grievance with MSP
  o During the 2018 grievance settlement there were 20 people that were allowed to keep the Occasional Parking Permit for an extra year, and only 3 people actually came to get them.
• We don’t want bikes competing with cars in the darkness of the garage. We don’t want people riding bikes in the garage.
  o Greg- it was deemed too dangerous to have bikes in the garage
  o Jon- We have looked into getting bike boxes. If someone is interested in that I’d be willing
  o Greg- we’ve also looked into getting repair stations/tools.
  o Niels- what about the covered parking that had been over by Worcester?
  o Greg- no one wanted to house it when it needed to be moved.
  o Niels- There is a student whose project is to submit a permit for the University to be a bike-friendly University. There’s a lot of work that needs to be done for that, including getting data regarding mileage on campus
• Amy-I have 2 offices on campus and pay for my spot in Lot 34. 2 days a week I’m in the textbook annex, and park in a visitor spot in Lot 25. Is there technology that allows me to park in Lot 34 3 days a week and Lot 25 2 days a week?
• Jon- If I could do that and both lots sold out, I would need a corresponding person with an opposite schedule in order to make that work.

Meeting Adjourned 12:50pm