

Transportation Services

Comments received at Parking Forums

February 2008

Recorded in the order mentioned:

February 18, 2008

- Do the campus master planners and decision makers discuss building locations and the impact they have on staff members
- Do they consult you at the beginning of building projects; where are the employees of these buildings going to park
- You said that no funds come from state or federal funding, all by user fees; if you were to build a new building could the cost of parking be broken out and a garage included in the plan
- If you built a new building could you build in parking as part of it
- Seems to me the problem is the actual foot print of the building
- Why can't the lot be part of the design and built at the same time as the building
- Makes sense to me that students should pay a vast majority of parking
- Employees should not have to pay for parking; business charging itself to operate
- First question should be when building a new building; where are employees going to park
- What is the ratio of student permit holders to faculty and staff
- Can anyone make a reservation for a NSG visitor
- Is it in policy that fees go to maintain lots; many years ago, 10 or so, parking and transit wanted us to pay for lot, gravel lot across the street, we requested for it to be paved; answer from Transportation Services ,was it is not our problem - talk to physical plant
- Never paved our lot; painted stripes twice
- How much revenue is lost from employees that don't park on campus; another inequity in this area, Riverside, TEES, John Connally, etc.
- My husband works off campus; husband has no parking permit; he does not park on campus and does not need to; he should not have to pay for campus parking; should not ask folks to pay if not parked on campus
- What is wrong with leaving Riverside alone; they are the only ones out there
- If we get Riverside to pay; the roads need lot of work; it will cost us in the end
- English Dept has been told they are building close to the Evans Library; planning has been going on; is parking thinking about the 200 people that work there; will they be put in the CCG
- Hire a professor, a new post doc in our Lab; shouldn't they have first priority - closest in lot
- Needs to be some way that we can allow high school students to park when working in a lab; they don't make much; distance parking way away from building not good for high school students; squeezes out high school students from a learning job
- Fee issues; I understand everybody should be paying so that my fee is lower
- Did you say that none of your revenue comes from tuitions or fees
- All students pay for the Transit services
- Underground walk way; you have not convinced anyone in this room that it is utilized by the students; it is used for FB games; why doesn't Athletics pay for it
- This issue has nothing to do with you; they built the new practice facilities; I hope that students are not paying for the utility bills for these; it should go to Athletics
- I relayed this to the president, that last year, the extra money for employees not making enough; gave them higher taxes, they did not make anything

February 20, 2008

- Are students represented on Transportation Services Advisor Committee (TSAC)
- How are they appointed to TSAC
- What is GSC
- What is the purpose of paying your staff
- Could they be put in other units & pay for that way? Why have separate unit for parking?
- Does the city pay us for transit service? Unfair that city doesn't pay
- Can we ask the city to run the bus and we pay them? Cy-Ride is operated by the city why can't we ask the city to run the buses. Benefit would be that the city would pick up part of the cost. Can we ask the city government to only hire students? It would be cheaper if city ran it.
- How do people benefit from transit service when don't ride the bus? Having to walk buses are inconvenient
- When you talk about work force are you talking about students
- When you say so much increase, what exactly are you talking about
- 25% of workforce laid off? So you had how many employees? Seems like a lot of people. Does this include Fleet? Do students pay for that? Why would you have so many people working?
- Is maintenance part of budget? What maintenance? 66 some people is a lot of people.
- Can you add more diagonal parking spaces so cards don't get dinged? Don't need special engineer to change the spaces. All spaces can be done in 3 days.
- Are there certain hours of congestion in lots
- Was there pressure to build the garage (WCG) for football
- Where is lot 72
- This increase has been approved and is going to happen
- Who handles parking garages when people go over the line? Who do you call?
- Do you ever look at salary issues & the impact on people to pay? Seems that every time wage increase its eaten up by medical and parking. Parking going up again will eat into even further.
- We are central campus parking (CCG). Is anything going to change like for football game days? Haven't had problems but wondering if that will change.
- At the University of Arizona, library had to purchase permits for staff to work on (football) game days. Their parking was very expensive.
- What you can't put in is there are people whose wage here doesn't match what people make at other universities. That is the missing piece when comparing costs between universities.
- It boils down to we have to pay to come to work
- So does Mechanical Engineering department pay for university vehicle parking in NSG
- Do you have plans to increase any of the bus routes
- Never took bus but friend does. Surprised you don't have routes that go out towards Traditions area
- Was wondering about the cost/space for garage, increased, why? Mentioned 8k/space. Does it have to do with reinforcement?
- What causes the gates to work slowly sometimes

February 22, 2008

- I thought that you were trying to get rid of the RNS
- I had a Reserved Numbered Space one at one time
- I would like to have a Reserved Numbered Space, right out here, at the GSC
- Custodians do have to move out of their lots for athletic events
- So business permits are now \$25, we thought that they were already \$125
- Those of us coming across campus also need a business permit, because I need access to the garages; attending meetings that are part of my job, I need to be on main campus
- During athletic event in Lots 68, I really appreciate the way you are doing it now; the kids let us in at the gate without paying -- as long as we have a permit
- Are you required to support any other services besides parking
- Parking garages you have to pay for yourselves; when building new construction are lots part of the building costs
- Seems like parking goes up every year; I have to many support staff that make less salary, they also have increased health care cost seems like a vicious cycle; we need to be more considerate about these staff members; is there something that we can cut out or change for them
- Is it possible to have a graduating scale on permit prices
- Is traffic control support done by Elmer Schneider or your guys
- I am talking about the police officers
- What we need to ask, are we paying our people appropriately; there is a need to monitor how much they make
- You stated that RNS cause higher level service causing the prices to go up; I have a difficult time getting a hold of someone after 6pm; the reason I get is, that they can't leave their post; how is it higher level of service
- On the week-ends you miss 3-4 cars that are double parked; that would be \$40 per pop for you
- How am I going to justify the \$125 increase for Reserved Number Spaces to my people when we are not getting the service we are paying for
- I will probably try to get into the regular lot 32 because I am not seeing the benefits of a Reserved Number Space at night in lot 32
- I can get to my spot during the day it is on week-ends and after hours that you can't get to you spot; students know that they can park there after hours; my boss is losing out on my time and effort because I am losing time looking for a space to park or going back to move my car
- Business students do not follow rules; they are above the rules
- Do parking fine revenues go to you or Elmer
- Ever consider parking meters instead of 30 minute spaces; I know from employee stand point it would be lots of work involved; this would eliminate the free parking
- Would it not also be a cash cow, so to speak; would it not put off raising permit costs
- Parking meters are strictly mechanical, they are not electronic are they
- I appreciate your comments on the North Side Garage; getting above the gates, this will really help me to get to the people -- that need my help
- Aren't students here all day
- I work at the vet school, and I have 2 questions – one concerning retirees; and one about lots 36 and 24 taken up by construction
- No plans for additional parking spaces in this area, lot 36
- Can't you reduce students parking in lots 36 and 24 during the fall
- Retiree permits go to whom
- If you are a working retiree and you are here every day, then you are not retiree
- How many retiree permits do you give out

- What is the purpose of retiree permits
- Some of them are doing consultant work; they should charge their parking fees with their consultant work fees
- Good thought, but politically its incorrect; it is something to look at
- As a retiree how do they apply; no way to enforce this
- Let's take up a vote now -- to pull retiree permits; and I will be retiring in a few years
- Are scratch offs now \$5 a piece now; I thought it was awful when they went from \$1 to \$5
- Out of the five years how many times have you had an increase
- The perception is that parking fees go up every year
- Your logic is not being questioned; it is the amount
- In your figures for repaving the lots; how did you get those numbers
- I noticed that you left off lots 60 and 61; why are they not on your list for construction
- I work with temporary custodians; they are told to get a visitor parking permit; visitor permits, allow parking in the garages; then they are told they can't park in the garages
- Temporary campus permits can park in any staff lot that is unreserved
- Temporary workers don't understand what they are asking; while visiting in your office they get confused on what they are wanting/needng
- They may be working one week on main campus, then the next week on west campus; these are our express people

February 26, 2008

- Heard about forums by email and the Battalion
- No questions or comments

February 28, 2008

- Heard about forums by email and Aggie Hotline
- I work in a service related department; when there are large events on campus and we come in at crazy times; in order to come in at these times, we have purchased RNS or in the garage so that we can come during those hours; good luck on Football game days
- I have made circles in the garage and cannot find spaces; there are people that take up two spaces in CCG
- I have made circles; then I had to park illegally
- We have 24 hour reserve spot people; these people that can't park on game days
- OPAS events also give us fall out
- On garage permits, did I understand you say that you are having problems with people parking in the visitor spaces
- Can't or don't you know who they are
- Cost of increasing the day and decreasing the night; cut in rate to ½ price at nights; students are primarily the ones that use the garages; this does not make sense to me to pay or for us to pay for the students using the spaces at night
- I am concerned for anyone using the garages in the day; students are already getting benefits by using the garages at night

- You are talking about having spaces in the day; I understood that the offset was to cover the night
- Don't the UB permits currently have a 2 tier; people working off campus pay full lot price for a permit to park on campus; did you said that you were increasing the regular UB permit \$25 dollars higher
- I think that is a good solution to move the campus permits above the gates
- Rumors -- possible increase is because of the abuse of UB permits; I would suggest to ticket the people that are abusing it; let them have to appeal their use
- Number of new faculty and staff being added to the institution; do you know who that is
- How many are grad students
- How many parking spaces have we created
- That is crazy
- It does not work very well to close lots for construction; your moving people to more inconvenient spaces
- They have no choice about the move
- I don't think that a building should be built if you have no spaces for the people to park that work there
- Most of the people that are sitting in this room don't make a lot of money at this institution; every time you raise the parking it is a burden for these people; we are not on a discretionary income
- I have to ask is parking a mandatory item in my budget; increases in parking and insurance; costs us for coming to work, I am not even thinking about the price of gasoline; I have to get here; you are taking the money out of my pocket so that I can have a place to park to do my job; got a raise last year of \$130.00 a month; parking and insurance eats cost of the raise; I got nothing
- I am not privileged like you to make \$140,000 a year; yes, at the moment I am a little bit tick; I have to make choices to I do this or that; do you quit feeding yourself so that you can have a permit; you don't care about my needs; you are not worried about these choices
- You have a discretionary income
- You are right, that is unfair, I take that back
- You have actually created shortages; additional building built and no spaces to put the people in that will be working in these buildings
- Students are not buying permits; because it is worse than hunting
- Where will the occupants of the Life Science building park
- You are saying as a permit holders we are paying for the whole staff, upkeep, etc
- There is no way funds can come from TAMU so that we are not burden with all of it
- Have you ever asked
- Does A&M own the land where Skaggs use to be
- Is this not a utilizable parking area
- As soon as they finish that building (life science) we are going to start another building in lot 50
- That lot (50) is never full
- So at some point can we use that space over there (Skaggs) for parking
- I am with the gentleman that just left; it tough to pay to come to work
- If I understand this correctly your service is to pay for itself , by using user fees; where I am going with this is, the master plan does not include any funds for parking
- Is there a way that the plan can be changed
- Who is going to bat for the employees, I appreciate the forum; appreciate that someone is there for the employees; I appreciate what you are doing
- In order to take the burden off of the employees; is to change the master plan to build the garages and who would do this; is it about who is controlling the funds
- That is not the issue

- Source of the funding is the issue
- To build a building on the master plan and not include parking for it; there is a serious problem with that
- The answer is garages in the buildings
- I operate a service organization on campus; I understand what you are saying
- These forums are good but they are not going to do any good for us (the employees)
- What does that pre-tax parking mean, that is at the bottom of your presentation
- So am I on pre- tax since I am on payroll deductions
- I understand that the main reason fees are going up, is to service the debt on WCG and passageway; it is unfair to place this burden on faculty and staff
- Is there a plan to increase the students rates in that garage (WCG) so that they are equal to the other garages
- Seems like the university or possibly athletics should bear more of the cost of the passageway
- Has the Advisory Committee discussed changing the parking rates based on salaries
- Does any other university do something like this; my boss has a thought on this
- Yes, that answers my question
- How will the comments being made here go to the administration above you; will you be taking them; this is good for the employees and your are trying to help cut the cost of our parking
- You mentioned that there are staff on your advisory committee; are there staff from the different areas of the university; are there staff members that will be displaced because of the Life Science building
- We come from a college that has a staff advisory council and it works well
- You have a free parking at the mall; what time does the first bus leave
- You said that the students feel that they should not pay one price and staff another for lots; they wanted the prices the same; don't you think that this would be an issue as well; if you added earlier routes
- Is it often that you think about hiring some part time
- If you reduce the night time rate; I think that is a lost revenue opportunity; students will pay to use it
- I agree with the day time increase; I think that it is a good ideal
- Who could we contact if we would like for the university to kick in more compensation to employees
- I think that we just need to bombard Dr. Murano's office with letters and stuff
- What you suggested has three or four steps before it gets up to her; it would make more sense for it to go directly up to her (Dr. Murano)