

University Transportation Committee November 13, 2007

Present:

Scott Rutherford, CEE and chair of committee
Joshua Kavanagh, Transportation Services
Danny Kraus, Human Resources – Labor Relations
Lance Nguyen, Commuter Services
Stephanie Parkins, GPSS Representative
Vicky Stormo, UWPD
Matt Weatherford, Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology

Absent:

Paul Brown, HFS
Jean Garber, Dentistry
Hannah Lomers-Johnson, ASUW Representative
Jeanette Henderson, Real Estate
Luther Martin, Union Representative – WFSE
Helen Shawcroft, Medical Center Administration
John Stevens, ASUW Representative
Scott Baebler, ICA
Laura Davenport, SEIU 925 Representative
Peter Dewey, Facilities Services
Pamela Jordan, Family & Child Nursing
John Schaufelberger, Construction Management

Meeting convened at 8:30AM at UWPD's conference room.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kavanagh announced that Lance would be the staff person moving forward, responsible for recording minutes, and sending out agenda prior to each meeting.

Sound Transit Update

Mr. Kavanagh talked about the temporary road that will provide access to E12, proposed by Sound Transit (ST) including a new intersection south of Pacific with a fully signalized light. This is a step in the right direction but the proposed implementation is not optimal. The concern is that once the construction is done, it would leave behind a subpar intersection, noted Mr. Kavanagh. Mr. Kavanagh illustrated on the board the map of the general vicinity of the proposed traffic light. He said that the position of Transportation Services and ICA is that this traffic light should be at the end of Pacific, to be an extension of it, so that it can be continue to be of use to the university after the project is done.

Regarding the pedestrian bridge, it will be a 20+ ft from the base to the top so the concern is that people will avoid it. Mr. Kavanagh indicated that ST resisted the escalator idea because of costs and the effort to required to shelter it from natural elements.

Mr. Kavanagh noted that the impact on Burke-Gilman Trail (BGT) will be significant but no concrete research information is available. A study is planned.

Mr. Kavanagh responded to Professor Rutherford that the bridge may have an elevator but no escalator and the University will hire a traffic engineer to consult on the project. Mr. Kavanagh responded to Chief Stormo that it is not part of the ST's plan to replace the bridge across from Bank of America's arena.

Chief Stormo excused herself from the meeting at 8:40AM.

Mr. Kavanagh responded to Professor Rutherford that there is no discussion of eliminating the sidewalks and there is an agreement that the impact on the BGT will be significant. He further noted that three consulting companies were selected by the University to be on call for the next five years: Carl Walker, Desman and DKS. This selection is pending approval from Purchasing.

Studies to Commence

Transportation Principles: It needs to be a consensus building process. We can not do the transportation master plan without building a 20-26 consensus points with the campus master plan, noted Mr. Kavanagh.

Localized Studies: Mr. Kavanagh announced that Housing and Food Services was willing to piggy-back to do a localized Supply/Demand Study as related to housing master plan. A localized S/D study is also planned for the South Campus.

BGT, including ST impact: Mr. Weatherford expressed concern about the impact on BGT. Mr. Kavanagh will provide Mr. Weatherford the scope of bicycle count on BGT.

WAC Updates:

Mr. Kavanagh said that there will be a public notice of intent and other specific changes to the WAC comes next year. We may look to articulate the preapproval process for parking rates in the WAC. Mr. Kraus suggested that after the WAC is rewritten, it should be turned over to the VP or Provost who have the authority to confirm that the WAC should be written that way. Mr. Kavanagh concurred.

UATS (University Area Transportation Study) Update:

Mr. Kavanagh and Mr. Dewey have been meeting with SDOT. There is a desire to create SOV lanes on 45th and Montlake. There is also another proposal to widen Pacific as well.

Mr. Kavanagh noted that there will be a comment period at the end of the year. Meeting with SDOT has been productive and they were eager to talk to seek the University's support.

Proposition 1 Fallout:

There is no clear impact at this point. Mr. Kavanagh predicted that ST will do no more than necessary due to the Fallout of Proposition 1. It was also suggested that plans for replacing the 520 bridge were likely to be more modest.

ORCA Rollout/Transit Contracts: Mr. Kavanagh said that there is confidence among the consortium that ORCA rollout will meet the timeline of January 2009. At that time, all system will be online; all systems on busses will work. Mr. Kavanagh noted that the UW system won't be fully implemented until Fall Quarter 2009. In response to Professor Rutherford, Mr. Kavanagh stated that he won't see ferry being part of the UPASS but part of Smart Card. Mr. Kavanagh stated that all university functions will be based on magnetic stripe and all Transportation function will be based on the chip. In response to Ms. Parkins, Mr. Kavanagh said that marketing materials will be rolled out fully as time comes.

Adjournment

Next meeting will be December 11, 2007 at the UWPD.