

# PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 9, 2021 2:00 pm

206 TAPS/via ZOOM

## ATTENDEES:

**MEMBERS:** Ann Baird, Maj. Brad Barber, Sara Diffenbach, Thomas Hawkins, Michelle Leonard, Allen Masters, Keith Rambo, Mark Rush, Carley Rudd, Vincent Savarino, Scott Washburn, Matt Williams

**LIASONS:** Linda Dixon, Scott Fox, Craig Hill,

**NON-MEMBERS:** Myra Au, Frank Bellomo, Patrick Eddy, Jessica Davidson, James Featherington, Ron Fuller, Adam Gayle, Frank Javaheri, Chris Jones, Joey Mandese, Chuson McFadden, Cydney McGlothlin, Jake McKinney, Melanie Heflin, Robert Mooney, Jeremiah McInnis, Alison Moss, Jose Ramos, Randy Sorenson, James Vignola, Michelle Westriell, Milo Zapata, Nina Shubert (Recording)

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** Lauren Amos, Eric Esterline, Micaela Gibbs, Meryl Jones, Stanley Kaye, , Kalen Manasco, Carley Rudd, Bruce Welt

**CHAIR:** Keith Rambo

## CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Keith Rambo.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Keith Rambo asked the committee to review and approve of the minutes from January 2021. Motion to approve as presented was set by Scott Washburn and seconded by Thomas Hawkins. The minutes of January 2021 were approved.

## TAPS UPDATE

**PRESENTING: RON FULLER, TAPS**

### **DISCUSSION:**

- Projects
  - Awaiting final FDOT/UF approvals for Construction Agreement so work can begin on bus pull-out in front of Tigert Hall on SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Working with consultants on Feasibility Study for future Garage XV.
    - Tentative location site is the parking area between Beatty Towers and Diamond Village
    - There was a question regarding Red decal as the possible parking designation for the students in the area. Affirmed by Scott Fox and Ron Fuller.
  - Awaiting FDOT/UF approvals for Construction Agreement to begin work for bus pull-out on 13<sup>th</sup> Street in front of Tigert Hall.
- Garage maintenance work continues in various garages.
  - Weld joints
  - Sealants
  - Upgrading signage
  - Concrete spalls
  - Re-caulking
  - Re-stripping
- Continuing efforts to support COVID-19 testing sites at Garages 4 and 11 and Ben Hill Griffin Stadium
  - 600 vaccines (2/8)
  - Goal is 3000 to 5000 vaccines per day
- License Plate Recognition (LPR) system is up and running in two vehicles. Currently the system is used for parking enforcement. Partial deployment related to decals (virtual permits for Medical Residents) on campus will begin July 2021 with the remainder of deployment (virtual permits for all other customers) scheduled for September 2021.
  - No back-in parking, except for vehicles with a front plate.

## **UF-670 HARN MUSEUM AMERICAN ART WING DESIGN PHASE**

**PRESENTING: CYDNEY MCGLOTHLIN, PD&C**

### **DISCUSSION:**

Cydney McGlothlin presented the programming phase for the Harn Museum American Art Wing. Present and discussed first was an overview of the Cultural Plaza area:

- Buildings
  - Harn Museum
  - Museum of Natural History
  - Phillips performing Arts Center
  - Phillips Center Garage (Garage XI)
  - Museum Special Collections Building – To be built
- Studies:
  - 2010 parking study – Make parking easier to navigate in area
  - 2005 massing study – Future build out of Cultural Plaza

Consensus and desired by all are drop-off areas in front buildings for patrons.

- Potential Cultural Plaza projects – Meetings with Facilities Services, TAPS, Security IT regarding infrastructure.
  - Building additions to Phillips Center, Natural History and Harn
  - Planning a utilities corridor
  - Parking garage in the flat parking area.

Discussion points for The American Art Wing project:

- Project footprint
- Parking
  - Visitor parking
  - Docent parking
  - Current project footprint encompasses around 75 spaces.
- No architect for project yet.
- Green space around the Harn
- Presented photos of the proposed project area
- Program overview:
  - 20,000 gross square feet
  - Three stories
  - Basement for storage
  - Main level galleries
  - Upper level – works-on-paper and conservation lab
- Other objectives include:
  - Entrance to the Cultural Plaza
  - Better drop-off to the Harn
- Schedule:
  - Architects selection, April 2021
  - Schematic design approvals, July 2021
  - Fundraising pause
  - Design development approvals – TBD
  - Construction – TBD

The committee had concerns and discussed the following:

- Traffic on Bledsoe Road and pedestrian sidewalk access.
- Explanation for loss of parking around the museum –
  - Estimation 50-60 spaces; 75 is the safe over estimation for parking loss.
- Utilization of exiting parking in Cultural Plaza

- Garage XII use
- Visitor parking concerns – Scott Fox provided an overview of the paid museum visitor parking
  - Pay upon entry
  - Excess demand pre-COVID 19
  - Expansion concerns with visitor traffic flow to both museums
- Linda Dixon spoke Campus Master Plan expansions to parking at the Bledsoe Road lot to accommodate parking needs for the SW Rec Center parking and others.

**ACTION:**

Keith Rambo called for a motion on the programming and site selection phase (corrected by Cydney McGlothlin from the agenda item.) Scott Washburn made a motion to approve the programming and site selection phase. A caveat added by Thomas Hawkins to retain visitor parking wherever it is located and to improve pedestrian access on Bledsoe Drive. The caveat was added to the motion and was then seconded by Thomas Hawkins. The motion was approved by the committee.

**UF-623 B, C, D CENTRAL ENERGY PLANT AND UTILITIES INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCED SCHEMATIC DESIGN PHASE**

**PRESENTING: MILO ZAPATA, PD&C, CHUSON MCFADDEN, JESSICA DAVIDSON, CIVIL ENGINEERING, RANDY SORENSON, JACOBS, PARICK EDDY, JACOBS, JOSE RAMOS**

**DISCUSSION:**

Milo Zapata introduced the advanced schematic design for UF-623 B, C and D. Jessica Davidson presented an overview and discussed the three utility projects:

- 623 D – Central Energy Plant (CEP) – Updated facade
- 623 B – Thermal Distribution
- 623 C – Electrical Distribution – Presented previous updated design change
  - Three directional drill electrical ducts from new substation to the plant.

Robert Mooney presented update on the façade for the 623 D Central Energy Plant. Presentation/discussion points included:

- Artist rendering of directional building views.
- Three masses for the plant:
  - Front - Chill water pumps, chillers, electrical equipment
  - Back side – Cogent area
  - Sides – Support areas - Office/administrative space
- Building design idea was to create an interesting structure that worked with the UF neighborhood, providing visibility as to the building’s functions.
- Presentation of materials used for structure.

Randy Sorenson presented an overview of the landscaping design for the Central Energy Plant. There were changes since the last presentation. The design has been simplified and has considered the number of utilities coming from the front of the building. Presentation points included:

- Reduced the cost.
- Walkway at front of the building
- Plaza area at the front door – Concrete pavers
- Back walkway – large planters with small flowering trees
- Benches between planters
- Planting areas from the sidewalk to the face of building – grass and shrubs
- Bike rack at front door of building
- Stilt-picket fence enclosing property
- Presented proposed landscaping materials

- Trees, shrubs, grasses, bedding, planting pots, walkway materials, benches, pavers, fencing, bike racks, lighting.

Jose Ramos presented the update for the HDD progress. The project has worked with Duke energy to minimize environmental impacts and disturbance to the wetlands. Presented was the new option design for the duct lines, given the go-ahead by Duke Energy. This option included three conduits from substation site to the e-houses west of the Central energy Plant. This option minimizes land disturbances and traffic impacts along Mowry Road and Gale Lemerand Drive.

Patrick Eddy presented the package plan for the Chilled Water Plant. Location will be on Center Drive next to Frazier-Rogers Hall. Chilled Water Plant will provide additional chilled water generation capacity for new buildings currently under construction and/or design phase - Data Science building and Public Safety. This will provide chilled water prior to the new Central Energy Plant construction. Presentation points included the following:

- Preliminary design layout
  - Modular – will be able to be moved as needed around campus by Facilities Services.
- Routing of utilities
- Parking impacts – Until CEP is built, 4-5 years
  - 14 spaces impacted
- Showed representative three-dimensional model for scale.
- No significant plant/landscaping impact.
  - Trees will be pruned

There were questions and concerns from the committee regarding following:

- Location of the Central Energy Plant - The plant will be located on the remain south end of the commuter lot, south of Garage XIV on Gale Lemerand Drive.
- Addition of driveways
  - Pedestrian and bike traffic safety along Gale Lemerand
  - No additional drive areas – Will be moving the current drive to accommodate CEP.
- Start of the CEP construction timeline
  - Loss of parking lot – Using lot as laydown area
  - Early as July 2021, but no definitive
- Scott Fox had concern regarding the impound yard parking in the back of the commuter lot. This was absorbed from the Police site when construction began. TAPS was assured that the area would be available for at least two years. As the 623 projects are being accelerated, moving this compound would be at a considerable expense and there is currently no alternative place for the impound yard. It was asked that this back area of the lot be left available.
- Scott Fox also asked about noise with the chilled water unit at Frazier-Rogers. The new unit will meet all University noise abatement requirements.
- Ron Fuller asked about the large amount of glass front on the CEP and bird-etching. The consideration of the east facing exposure and the bird concerns have been reviewed.

**ACTION:**

Thomas Hawkins moved to approve the advanced schematic design phase with Scott Washburn seconding the motion. The motion was approved.

**UF-668 RACQUET CLUB DINING RENOVATIONS DESIGN DEVELOPMENT STAGE**

**PRESENTING: MILO ZAPATA, PD&C, ADAM GAYLE, LEVEL ARCHITECTURE**

**DISCUSSION:**

Milo Zapata introduced the design development stage for this project. He stated that Tom Featherington was also part of this project. The project mostly consists of interior renovations, however there is a consideration

which has brought the project before this committee. Adam Gayle presented the design consideration the Racquet Club. This design would bump out a small portion, around 10 feet, of the east side of the building. This will be in the food service area. An arial view of the proposed design was shown. Specifications for this bump-out include:

- Maintaining bike rack area
- Addition of tables on the south side
- Preserving the ADA pathways and access
- Two new entrances
- Relocating/shifting bike racks

Presented artist's rendering of building. Scott Fox offered assistance, if needed, to relocate bike racks.

**ACTION:**

Thomas Hawkins moved to approve the renovations design development stage. The motion was seconded by Scott Washburn. The motion was approved.

**UF-656 LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN DESIGN DEVELOPMENT PHASE**

**PRESENTING: MELANIE HEFLIN, PD&C, FRANK BELLEMO, GAI CONSULTANTS, CHRIS JONES, IBI**

**DISCUSSION:**

Melanie Heflin introduced the Landscape Master Plan design development phase for the Newell Drive Gateway and the Northeast Campus (Tigert court) Gateway entrance areas. Projected start of for the Newell area will be May 2021. Frank Bellemo deferred to Chris Jones and he presented the changes from the previously presented advance schematic design. Presented first was the Newell Gateway:

- Paving multiuse paths
- New trees
- Coordination of gateway to crosswalks
- Added bollards to curb line for safety – Bollard in the middle will be removeable; all others will be fixed.
  - Frank Bellomo added that the crosswalk and signals are not part of the project. The project is working with the Department of Transportation (FLDOT) on the layout.

The Tigert Gateway was presented next with the following points:

- Exit drive changes
- Permeable pavement – Where it will and will not be installed
- Dedicated bike lanes in the turn lanes
- Architectural update to the gatehouse
- Showed permeable pavement in Criser lot
- Shade trees and other plantings
- Disability parking up to code
- Increase space size in Criser lot to 8 ½ feet – Parking loss is 10 space.
- Tigert Lot –
  - Permeable spaces will be moved and relocated to north and south areas
  - ADA spaces moved to outside the gate on the east.
  - Added one parking space
- Added bollards along the flush curb between vehicle and pedestrian zones
- New gatehouse area
- Auto court turning area for tractor trailers.

Discussed extensively by the committee were the following:

- Increase in parking space size to 8 ½ feet and loss of spaces in the Gated parking area at Criser.
- City of Gainesville autonomous buses and the autonomous bus pick-up and drop-off.

- ADA compliance for permeable pavements – Point that it will hold paint, but not plastics
- Turn lanes at 13<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Consolidating exit lanes for bike lane
  - Post traffic counts and analysis, three lanes remain in place with bike lanes
- Relocation of bike racks – Bike racks have been consolidated to the south and a bike shelter will be built
- Bollards at Newell – Vehicles breaching the bollards – Bollards can be added to eliminate vehicles larger than a golfcart.
- Bike lane concerns at Tigert – Share (“share rows”) lane for bicycles turn left.

**ACTION:**

There was discussion regarding adding the increase size, 8 ½ feet, for parking spaces and share rows for bike turns at SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street exit. These were added to the motion.

A motion for the committee to approve this project was set by Thomas Hawkins with three (3) modifications:

- Addition of share rows for vehicles making a left-hand turning movement onto SW 13<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Increasing the parking space size to 8 ½ feet in the Hough Hall/Criser lot.
- Changes to the bollard alignment at Newell and University Avenue to prevent large sized vehicles access.

This motion was seconded by Scott Washburn. The motion was approved with the modifications.

**DISCUSSION OF SAFETY AND SECURITY RELATED TO PARKING AND MOVEMENT OF TRAFFIC ON UF CAMPUS**

**PRESENTING: SCOTT FOX, TAPS**

**DISCUSSION:**

Scott Fox presented an overview of campus transportation safety. Presentation points included the following:

- Regional Transit Systems (RTS)
  - Largest provider
  - 10 million trips annually
  - COVID precautions – masking, limited seating capacity, sanitizing
  - Safety Planning Resources
  - Transit Safety and Security Officers
  - DOT Standards for fleet, drivers, performance
  - Safety and Technology – Example. “Mobile Eye” pedestrian detection
  - Internal safety policies
- Gator Lift – Disability transport
  - Passengers - Extensive COVID safety precautions - require masks, reduced seating
  - Vehicles – Fully COVID sanitized daily, inspected pre-trip nightly for lights, signals, brakes, tires, etc. Annual safety inspection through Motor Pool.
  - Drivers – Professional with CDL, annual physicals and subject to random testing. Drivers have signed UF anti-texting and driving pledge, cell use is restricted. Staff receive comprehensive training regarding safe operation on wheelchair lift and passenger loading and unloading.
  - Infrastructure – Drivers drop off passengers as close as possible to destinations for maximum safety and convenience.
- Campus Connector – Fixed Campus route service
  - Passengers – COVID safety precautions, requiring masks, reduced seating
  - Vehicles – Sanitized daily, inspected pre-trip for lights, signals, brakes, tires, etc. Annual safety inspection through Motor Pool.
  - Drivers – Professional with CDL, undergo annual physicals, subject to random testing. Drivers have signed UF anti-texting and driving pledge, cell use is restricted. Staff receive comprehensive training regarding safe operation on wheelchair lift and passenger loading and unloading.

- Infrastructure – DoubleMap Bus Tracker mobile app allows tracking vehicle arrival in real time while waiting in a safe area.
- Campus Cab – Taxi service for faculty and staff for scheduled rides
  - Passengers - COVID safety precautions, requiring masks, reduced seating
  - Vehicles - Sanitized daily, inspected pre-trip for lights, signals, brakes, tires, etc. Annual safety inspection through Motor Pool.
  - Drivers - Professional with CDL, undergo annual physicals, subject to random testing. Drivers have signed UF anti-texting and driving pledge, cell use is restricted.
  - Infrastructure – Cab stopping points are located as close as possible to destinations for maximum safety and convenience.
- SNAP – Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol – Nighttime safe ride program for students
  - Passengers - COVID safety precautions, requiring masks, reduced seating and occupancy. Priority to lone riders over groups whenever possible.
  - Vehicles – Sanitized daily, inspected pre-trip for lights, signals, brakes, tires, etc. Annual safety inspection through Motor Pool.
  - Drivers – Professional with CDL, undergo annual physicals, subject to random testing. Student driving records are checked pre-employment and on-going by UF Human Resources. Students must complete a 15-Passenger Van Training thru UF Environmental Health & Safety.
  - Policies – SNAP has extensive safety and security related policies detailed in its employee manual regarding seatbelt use, passenger security, inclement weather and accident/incident response.
  - Infrastructure – SNAP stops located in well-lit areas as close as possible to destinations. TapRide mobile app allows tracking vehicle arrival in real time while waiting in a safe area.
- UF Safe Rides Program by LYFT – Was UBER, now LYFT
  - Map of service area
  - Subsidized by the University Transportation Access Fee account for 50% off rides.
  - Decline during COVID but has increased in spring semester.
  - Passengers – COVID safety precautions including masks and passenger self-certification of health prior to ride. UF Safe Rides discount zone allows maximum safe transport of students throughout Gainesville. Passengers may share ride details with friends for additional safety and tracking in real time.
  - Vehicles – All LYFT platform vehicles meet city, state and LYFT safety standards
  - Drivers – LYFT drivers operating in Gainesville undergo same background/driving checks as City cab drivers. Drivers must complete LYFT Community Safety Education training program.
  - Policies – LYFT provides extensive safety policy information and tips for passenger safety on their website. LYFT provide 24/7 dedicated Trust and Safety response hotline for reporting issues.
- Scooter
  - Challenges of scooter rider behavior –
    - Smaller vehicle and riders go where they like
    - Prior to COVID, 7000 scooter decals sold
  - Impending scooter restrictions: Auto-free Zone – May offer changes to scooter culture
    - Will impede cutting across campus to destinations – less desirable to own a scooter
  - Mega-scooter Zones – Removing smaller scooter parking areas
- E-Scooters – Next wave of vehicles
  - City of Gainesville’s new Micro-mobility Program
  - 3 vendors approved to deploy 200 e-scooters each (600 scooters)
  - Each vendor must sign a License Agreement with UF and commit to operating on campus under our terms.
  - May 2021 program launch, pending agreement with UF.
  - Safety challenges, both anticipated and unanticipated.
- Bikes and Pedestrians

- Passenger/Cyclists – Bicycle Commuter Support program provides safety guidance to cyclists seeking to commute to UF.
- TAPS Bicycle Fleet – Trained mechanics perform regular safety inspections and maintenance on Gator Gears and Department Bike Share fleets. All fleet bicycles equipped with Kryptonite U-locks; Gator Gears riders receive free helmets.
- TAPS Employees – All bicycle staff and interns complete Cycling Savvy Online Basics and Mastery safe riding course.
- Infrastructure – Auto-Free Zone is a bike and pedestrian zone, as recommended in the T&P Strategic Plan. Design of campus construction projects continues to incorporate enhancement and improvements. Secure Bicycle Parking for Spring 2021 in Garage XIV to provide low-cost, restricted (gated) access bicycle parking. May look to expand secure bike parking,
- Education of Students – UF is the first university in the country to offer Cycling Savvy safety course, both online and in-person.

Scott spoke to the committee of the recent tragic student deaths due to traffic accidents. There have been meetings with University, City of Gainesville and Department of Transportation experts. There is consensus commitment to make University Avenue safe, doing thing to make a positive difference quickly. Dr. Lane and Dr. Mull issued an email (2/3) to UF employees that articulated short term and long-term steps in this process. The UF Police Department has implemented STEP, Special Traffic Enforcement Program. This program concentrates the four major roadways that ring the UF campus – University Avenue, Archer Road, 13<sup>th</sup> Street and 34<sup>th</sup> Street. This program has good education, lots of warnings, traffic stops and some citations as well.

The committee discussed extensively some the following points:

- Data and tracking for crashes/accidents on campus and around the University – Major Barber spoke regarding information, tracking, procedures, assessments, etc. Concerns expressed for unreported accidents.
- Prevention and actions.
- Collaborating the crash/accident data collected among the FDOT, the City of Gainesville and the University.
- Linda Dixon stated the Campus Master Plan looks at traffic and crash data. She discussed:
  - Accidents due to operator judgment errors which are not subject to engineering solutions.
  - Campus wide 20 mph – Lower incidence of injury or extensive damage
  - Community Traffic Safety Team – Inter-agency group which examines crash data and prioritizes projects for funding with FDOT safety funds.
- Role and participation of PATAC in roadway safety. Scott Fox stated the committee is advisory and makes recommendations to the Vice President. Vice president would have to consider the recommendations or not. Keith Rambo stated that a safety component could be an agenda item for each meeting. Several members spoke in agreement to making this an agenda item.
- UF Police Department’s STEP initiative – Major Barber offered an overview, outline and goals of the program.

**ACTION:**

For committee discussion.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

**PRESENTED BY: KEITH RAMBO**

No other business was presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:22 p.m.