

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 13, 2022 2:00 pm

206 TAPS/via ZOOM

ATTENDEES:

MEMBERS:, Brady Alexander, Emily Bartley, Jennifer Clark, Noah Fineberg, Emily Hind, Thomas Hawkins, Carolyn Kelly, Major Bart Knowles, Shelby Schultz, Matthew Terza, Connor Wells, Scott Washburn, Matt Williams

LIASONS: Eddie Daniels, Linda Dixon, Chad Doering, Brandi Renton, Scott Fox, Scott Wright

NON-MEMBERS: Jacob Adams, Kaylee August, Mairead Baker, Thomas Feather, Ron Fuller, Rachel Mandell, Cydney McGlothlin, Jeremiah McInnis, Allison Moss, Keith Rambo, Milo Zapata, Nina Shubert (Recording)

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Ann Baird, Ramzi Salloum,

STUDENT MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Emma Towler,

CHAIR: Scott Washburn

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by Scott Washburn.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS

PRESENTING: SCOTT WASHBURN

Scott Washburn asked that the new PATAC members and other guests introduce themselves.

- Chris Carlson is the Associate Director of EH&S.
- Carolyn Kelly introduced herself as a new committee member
- Brady Alexander, student member
- Shelby Schultz, student member
- Connor Wells, student member
- Dr. Xiang “Jacob” Yan, Associate Professor and presenter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Scott Washburn asked the committee to review and approve of the minutes from July 2022. Motion to approve was set by Thomas Hawkins and seconded by Major Knowles. The minutes of July 2022 were approved.

TAPS UPDATE

PRESENTING: RON FULLER, TAPS

DISCUSSION:

- New Virtual Permitting
 - Tested virtual permitting with the renewal of Medical Resident permits – on a different renewal cycle.
 - Two vehicles have the readers and drive through the parking areas checking license plates.
 - Possible addition of two vehicles to ensure at least complete campus coverage once per day.
 - Warnings issued for backing into a space.
 - The committee discussed
 - Backing into angled spaces. - Backing in would have the driver facing the wrong direction.
 - Special tags for vehicles for backing into parking spaces.
 - Scott Fox discussed the introduction and workings of the new virtual permitting program with parking for fall semester returning to normal levels on campus.
 - Students/employees backing into spaces to avoid purchasing a permit – No waiting period. Permit/plate active from time of purchase.

- Construction on Campus
 - Tigert and Union Road – Almost completed.
 - Tigert lot entrance and restriping will be finished the end of September.
 - Will begin new design on Criser lot and new gateway in mid-October.
 - Newell gateway has been completed
 - Inner Road project will begin at the end of October/beginning of November.
 - Discussion regarding re-instituting auto-free zones.
 - Museum Road west of Gale Lemerand will remain closed until April 2023
 - Gale Lemerand to Reitz closed again until April 2023
 - Museum Road from Center Drive will open through to 13th Street before end of September.
 - Newell Drive south of Museum will be closed due to utility work.

Keith Rambo presented questions from the Senate Steering committee. There was an inquiry regarding student parking with the new virtual permitting and students taking advantage of no decal displayed. As Scott Fox previously stated this is not occurring, this will no longer be a concern. Another concern was the last part of construction. The roads are incomplete as the pavement has potholes. Chad Doering stated the utility project is still going on and current roadways are temporary. All locations will eventually be resurfaced. There is a delay due to a shortage of asphalt in Gainesville. Project complete in March 2023 and all surfaces will be restored.

Noah Fineberg inquired regarding the road closures on Gale Lemerand and Museum Road. Tom Feather stated the west section is closed and will remain closed until April 2023. The road section between Gale Lemerand and the Reitz Union will reclose for steam piping utility work into the new year 2023.

MICROMOBILITY MANAGEMENT AND CRASH INCIDENT REPORTING DISCUSSION

PRESENTING: DR. XIANG JACOB YAN, CIVIL AND COASTAL ENGINEERING

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Yan presented and study regarding micromobility management and crash incident reporting. This report includes e-bikes, e-scooters and other micromobility devices. Presentation and discussion points included the following:

- Information from a 2016 commuting and parking survey by Dr. Yan while at the University of Michigan.
- Graph showing the increase in micromobility usage, 2010 through 2019.
 - Noted data is pre-COVID-19, however it remains with an upward trend.
- Key issues about shared micromobility
 - Parking violations
 - Competing sidewalk use
 - Safety concerns
 - Interaction with other transit – Working with RTS on this issue
- Share micromobility and open data
 - General Bikeshare Feed Specification (GBFS) - GBFS provides public real-time data feeds
 - Availability of e-scooters at 7:00am, 6/20/2019
 - GPS trajectory of e-scooters, 6/20/2019
- Collective micromobility research program – Research projects
 - Data
 - Processing GBFS data
 - Collecting survey data
 - Research areas
 - Modeling demand
 - Micromobility and public transit
 - Micromobility and social equity
 - Policy/practice

- AI-enabled real time operations
- Planning for mobility hubs
- Regulations and equity programs
- Tech transfer
 - Micromobility management platform – Presented video
 - ✓ Crash incident (near-misses) reporting
 - ✓ Micromobility (real-time) parking management
 - ✓ Micromobility trip pattern analysis
 - ✓ Bike infrastructure request for action
 - ✓ Re-time transit and micromobility information

Chad Doering inquired from campus housing point regarding e-scooter returns.

- Discarded e-scooters in random places – e-scooters on campus and campus perimeter areas, residence hall, street corners, parking areas, etc.
- Returns process to appropriate drop-zones

Scott Fox spoke to this inquiry:

- E-scooter boundaries were selected by the City of Gainesville.
- E-scooter users are required to sign an agreement for use terms and conditions.
 - Some terms and conditions have been implemented; some have not
 - Example - a campus “no-fly” zone – e-scooters are automatically slowed/stopped in these areas.
 - Geo-fencing parking areas - Unreturned e-scooters can continue to be charged for the ride.

Jeremiah McInnis discussed that the City of Gainesville has different parking rules for e-scooters. The city rule is a rider may park anywhere within the city.

The committee additionally discussed:

- Data provided by study – Helpful for determining campus e-scooter parking zones.
- Parking on sidewalks and other areas – Potential hazards, blocking rights-of-way.
- Legislation regarding e-scooter designation similar to bicycles.
- Private e-scooter owner and incident reporting.

ACTION:

This agenda item was for presentation and discussion.

VEHICLE-PEDESTRIAN-CYCLIST SAFETY AND VEHICLE USE SUB-COMMITTEE

PRESENTING: SCOTT WASHBURN

DISCUSSION:

Scott Washburn presented this subject that was discussed at the sub-committee meeting.

- Vehicles (cars, trucks) parked on sidewalks, in bicycle lanes and other places vehicles should not be located.
- Sending memo to Vice-President Reynolds’ office to begin initiative.
- Department vehicle and outside vendor parking concerns.

The committee discussed the subcommittee’s memo and conclusions.

- Keith Rambo discussed the subcommittee’s memo –
 - Current recommendations
 - Appendix with images of the issues
 - Reasons why these behaviors need to be changed.
- Thomas Hawkins and Emily Hind each thanked the subcommittee offered that inertia was a reason why this issue has not been addressed sooner.

- Scott Fox suggested and discussed with the committee a senior leadership message to the greater campus community as to how this affects directly, with an enforcement action to take place. Transportation and Parking Services would field this with other departments regarding their parking behavior. However, the message would be more effective with senior leadership at helm. The memo should request senior leadership request these changes.

ACTION:

For discussion and information purposes.

DISCUSSION ON CHARTER BUS TRAFFIC ON CAMPUS

PRESENTING: SCOTT WASHBURN

DISCUSSION:

Scott Washburn introduced an incident with charter buses destined for the O’Connell Center for a sorority/fraternity event. There were pedestrians in the crosswalk areas between the stadium and the O’Connell Center, bus operators seemingly unaware of the crosswalks in this area rolled through the area at an undetermined speed. It was presented to the committee to consider the following:

- Crosswalk location and visibility
- A mechanism to coordinate charter buses on campus

Major Knowles further discussed the incident.

- The charter buses per the GPS data report were not exceeding the posted campus speed limit.
- There remained some questions regarding safety perspective in the area.
- Some information deferred to Linda Dixon - Future renovations to the stadium and impacts to the roadways.
- Suggested the area be looked at for solutions short and long term (Example: raised crosswalks).

Scott Fox stated that Jay Brown was hired to do a study of the Gale Lemerand corridor, from University Avenue to Archer Road.

- This study included all the crosswalks, with recommendations.
- All the recommendations were implemented between the University, the city and all other involved.
- Recently implemented was a crosswalk on the south side connecting Cancer-Genetics with the Medical Plaza.
- This study was done about 5 years ago and included signage, striping, etc.

Linda Dixon spoke about the following:

- No pedestrian conflict issues during peak hours due to traffic slows and congestion on Gale Lemerand Drive.
- New research project College of Engineering and Florida Department of Transportation – Sign-mounted flashers actuated for crosswalks.

There was additional discussion regarding:

- Pedestrian traffic north Gale Lemerand area and personal responsibility for safety.
- Realignment of Gale Lemerand Drive making road straighter. – In Landscape Master Plan and Parking Strategic Plan.
 - Re-do landscaping and speed tables
 - Sidewalk gap along east side of Gale Lemerand Drive at stadium loading dock area.
 - Awaiting funding
- Palm trees in the north part of Gale Lemerand obscuring of crosswalks.
- Communication with charter bus vendors regarding vehicle movement on the UF campus

ACTION:

For discussion and information purposes.

SAFETY ISSUES RELATED TO CROSSWALK ON GALE LEMERAND BETWEEN SCOC AND BHG STADIUM

PRESENTED BY: SCOTT WASHBURN

DISCUSSION:

Scott Washburn presented a series of photos of parking and traffic concerns

- Crosswalk on Gale Lemerand, between the stadium and the O'Connell Center.
- New parking signs in Garage 7 – Chartwells/Florida Fresh is the new dining provider on campus.
- Golf carts parked on grass at HUB – Golf carts seem to be parking wherever there is space.
- Traffic incident involving a scooter – Possibly involving a truck in bike lane blocking vision,
- Truck in bike lane – Vendor was contacted, shown photo and stated their trucks will not park in bike lanes.

Emily Hind suggested the speed limit on campus should be lowered the 15 mph or less in certain campus areas.

Chad Doering asked that contractors and vendors be reminded about the construction issues on Museum Road and to cease parking in the roadways, blocking traffic and parking in the wrong direction of travel.

OTHER BUSINESS:

PRESENTED BY: SCOTT WASHBURN

Ron Fuller discussed a safety concern submitted by committee member Ann Baird. Submitted was a safety concern from a colleague who rides a bicycle along Mowry Road from 23rd. There is a sidewalk on only one side of the road and pedestrians have no choice but to walk in the bike lane. In addition, the bike lane ends before Gale Lemerand.

- The DOT cross-county greenway project created a wide sidewalk in the north side on Mowry intended for two-way traffic
- Complaints regarding crossing Mowry Road with the heavier traffic volume due to construction.

There was other discussion from Thomas Hawkins and Linda Dixon regarding the following:

- Mowry Road locations without sidewalks.
- Standard design guidelines for roadways during construction projects
- Landscape Master Plan classifies road systems – Recommends typical cross-sections for all roads.
- Design and construction standards – Updating to reflect urban street guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.