

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 11, 2023 2:00 pm

206 TAPS/via ZOOM

ATTENDEES:

MEMBERS:, Marty Dempsey, Thomas Hawkins, Emily Hind, Charles Kammin, Carolyn Kelly, Major Bart Knowles, Shelby Schultz, Matthew Terza, Scott Washburn, Matt Williams

LIASONS: Linda Dixon, Scott Fox,

NON-MEMBERS: Kaylee August, Rachel Mandell, Michael Panarisi, Savannah Partridge, Keith Rambo, Nina Shubert (Recording)

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Ann Baird, Emily Bartley, Jennifer Clark, Ifgeneia Giannadaki, Ramzi Salloum,

STUDENT MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Brady Alexander, Noah Fineberg, Emma Towler, Connor Wells

CHAIR: Scott Washburn

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Scott Washburn.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Scott Washburn asked the committee to review and approve of the minutes from February 2023.

- Alex Wong was added as the person who proposed an amendment for motion of approval for UF681.
- The words “as an informal courtesy to the committee” were added to explanation for the additional agenda item, MAE Building project.

The motion to approve with the updates was set by Thomas Hawkins and seconded by Maj. Bart Knowles. The minutes from February 2023 were approved.

TAPS UPDATE

PRESENTING: SCOTT FOX, TAPS

DISCUSSION:

Ongoing Road Closures

- Inner Road closes April 12 for 16 months for the utility work
- Will open as a two-way road
- Sets the scene for auto-free zone providing another way on/off campus.

Stadium Road

- Create service and delivery vehicle parking corridor
 - Two spaces for truck parking
 - Six (6) spaces with 2- hour time limited service and delivery
 - Seven (7) spaces that are not time limited for service vehicles (no Official Business permits)

There was inquiry and discussion regarding:

- Location of spaces configuration of the area. - On Stadium Road by Little Hall
- Effort by Vice president’s office to coordinate maps and identify all service parking area.
- Future auto-free zone and vendor/delivery parking.

Parking by State and Department Vehicles

- Enforcement is still in development.
- Will begin messaging through summer and begin fall semester with new parking culture.

DISCUSSION CONCERNING TEXTING WHILE DRIVING AND EXTENDING PERMIT RESTRICTIONS

HOURS

PRESENTING: EMILY HIND

DISCUSSION:

Emily Hind presented a letter she had written discussing concerns regarding texting while driving on campus. Observed and discussed were incidences of vehicle operators texting and veering into the bike lane. These incidences occurred in the Turlington area and west enroute to exiting campus. Additional points discussed as presented:

- Increased enforcement of no texting while driving (as the culture will not change).
- Volume of traffic on campus in the 6:00-pm-7:00pm hours

Major Knowles offered information and discussed:

- Current citing practices
- Enforcement
 - No standing for drop-off vehicles
 - Statute 316.305 that allows investigation of the stopped vehicle – Ban of texting and driving.
- Campaigns to cease texting while driving
 - Participation in the “Put It Down” campaign.
 - Partner with agencies getting the messaging and education
 - Follow up with an intense period of issuing of citation for texting and driving
- Look into installing a bicycle officer in the west Turlington/Buckman Drive area to assist.
- Benefits and challenges of the auto-free zone.

Linda Dixon talked about the hours of restriction in the auto-free zone and asked about extension of the hours. Scott Fox discussed original campus parking restrictions, 7:30am to 3:30pm. Years of discussion recommended extension to 5:30pm. To accommodate employees exiting and students entering campus a compromise was reached of 4:30pm east of Gale Lemerand Drive.

Continued discussion included:

- Vehicle and traffic noise
- Potentially changing the vehicle restrictions hours
- Michael Panarisi was asked regarding student perspective on parking restrictions
- Scott Fox suggested dialogue with students and feedback on the parking restriction extensions
 - Changing the way and times students get to things on campus
 - Impacts on activities
- Timing of building closures on campus and UF Health.

Thomas Hawkins inquired if there were any study metrics of violations and enforcement needs in areas around campus. Major Knowles stated although there has not been plain clothes officers dispatched it could be considered. Additional discussion points:

- Enforcement works well during the times of enforcement and behavior changes when area is departed.
- Traffic culling measures have greatest impact on traffic outcomes and driver behavior.
- Distracted bicycles and E-scooters and pedestrian traffic
- Vehicle restricted zone –
 - Suggest extending the zone to push vehicles and garages to perimeters
 - Expand bus/shuttle transportation
 - Zone restricted to only specific

There was additional discussion regarding changing the campus culture about vehicles and vehicle movement on campus.

Emily Hind asked about the penalty for texting while driving and something more punitive would be a deterrent. Major Knowles stated that the charge is a non-moving civil infraction with no points assessed. Penalty is probably not enough send a message.

Scott Washburn noted and added a link in the chat for an article in Emily Hind's letter, "Motonormativity: How Social Norms Hide a Major Health Hazard."

ACTION:

This was for discussion by the committee. There was no action.

DISCUSSION ON CURRENT E-SCOOTER STATUS

PRESENTING: SCOTT WASHBURN

DISCUSSION:

(Switched to agenda item 5.)

Scott Washburn introduced discussion of e-scooter issues. Points included:

- Paris, France banned e-scooters from downtown areas.
- E-scooters with mixed traffic areas
- Private e-scooter providers and personal e-scooter owners.

Charles Kammin reported receiving concerns about electric driven vehicles, skateboards and scooters:

- Vehicles are exceeding the 20-mph campus limit
- Catching up to Facilities vehicle and hitching rides

Major Knowles stated that anyone observing the behavior can and should contact the University Police Department and an officer will be sent. If after the fact, an email may be sent stating the time of and location where the activity occurred.

Additional discussion points:

- Thomas Hawkins talked about communication to electric vehicle operators about appropriate way and places to operate – not on sidewalks, adherence to traffic laws.
- Major Knowles stated the challenge is to get information to and getting students to participate in the offered outreach safety programs.
- Scott Fox discussed inception and current status of e-scooters on campus. The City of Gainesville initially rolling out the e-scooter and asking the University to partner.
 - The decision was to allow scooter on campus with regulation.
 - Created rental unit areas
 - Geo-fencing in pedestrian traffic areas – reducing the vehicle speed or stopping altogether
 - Vendors are not allowed to introduce more units without city approval – Must hit rental numbers to justify.
 - Students see the semester bill from the e-scooter rental and decide to purchase rather than rent. Result is an increase of privately owned scooters on campus.
 - Referenced a policy on Environmental Health and Safety website that has an indirect reference to prohibiting e-scooters charging in buildings.
 - Students charging scooters in residence hall rooms, so policy is antiquated.
 - In the works to develop/craft a new e-scooter policy for campus
- Signage around campus directed at e-scooter traffic.
- Thomas Hawkins discussed desire to have streamlined communication on all general transportation issues (Example: navigation of traffic circles).
- Scott Fox stated in support of the e-scooter program, with the auto-free zone and green way they are and will be helpful in getting people around campus in heat and in inclement conditions.
- Discussion regarding promoting better e-scooter tiding behavior.

ACTION:

Committee discussion. No action necessary.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON AUTO RESTRICTED ZONE COMPLIANCE AND PARKING BEHAVIOR

PRESENTING: SCOTT WASHBURN, PATAC CHAIR

DISCUSSION:

(Switched to agenda item 6)

Scott Washburn discussed the auto-free zone, parking behavior around campus. Presented was an email sent from Business Affairs discussing the behavior of temporarily parking/standing in bike lanes, on sidewalks and restricted areas obstructing disability access, pedestrians and bicycles. Scott Fox restated the roll-out the enforcement plan and positive messaging to departments, post-commencement, through summer 2023 regarding the impact of parking in bike lanes and on sidewalks. There will be future messaging requiring compliance, suggesting enforcement.

Scott Washburn presented and the committee discussed:

- Hazard of large-wheeled pick-up trucks
 - Video filmed on a California highway – Jack-up truck’s tire comes off causing a car to flip on the road.
 - Photograph of a jack-up truck on campus.
- Series of photographs of state, department vehicles and vendors vehicles blocking bike lanes and sidewalks
- Events on campus creating the bike lane and sidewalk parking situations and finding a solution to curb the behavior.
 - Suggestion of vehicle weight limits
- Linda Dixon mentioned the trustees’ campus beautification initiative and UF Facilities Grounds department’s focused efforts to keep vehicles off lawn areas:
 - Bollard installations
 - Post and chain installations
- Savannah Partridge discussed the connections on campus between the garages/parking areas and the campus core. The Conservation Land Management Plan talking about connecting the areas through conservation areas creating a peaceful nature walk for people.

ACTION:

No action. For committee discussion.

POSSIBLE DISCUSSION ON STATUS OF SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

PRESENTING: ARIEL POMPUTIOUS, CHAIR, SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE:

DISCUSSION:

Ariel Pomutious was unable to present to the committee. Matt Williams filled in briefly, The Sustainability Committee has been focused on the Champions for Change awards. If there are topics transportation focused, they will be presented at the committee meeting on April 20, 2023.

- Keith Rambo mentioned solar panels on Garage 14.
 - Garage 14 was constructed to be solar power ready
 - Take advantage of federal tax cuts for renewable energy
 - Capacity is for 1.4-megawatt solar installation

OTHER BUSINESS:

PRESENTED BY: SCOTT WASHBURN

The committee welcomed Seth Wood, City of Gainesville. Matt Williams mention that Seth was a Sustainability bike intern and is well-versed on non-fossil transportation.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.