

Traffic and Parking Standing Committee Zoom Meeting

Monday, March 27, 2023 – 1:30 p.m.

Attended:

Sam Patterson, Hal Robinson, Matt Davis, Elisabeth Alexander, Paul Caferra, Coleman Grimmatt, David Whitcomb, Jane Mahan, Michelle Jennings, Dean Hansen, Ivonne Liebenberg; and Cassidy Savage, non-committee member, transcribing minutes

Discussion:

- **Welcome and Update**

Sam Patterson began the conversation by stating that he had some dates everyone needed to be aware of and that the Save the Date flyer would be final once approved by Marketing and Communications. He gave already-confirmed dates for Faculty/Staff permits, on sale July 3rd, and Residential student permits, on sale the week of July 10-14, and stated that Commuter permit sales would follow.

- **Residential Vehicle Storage Lot**

Sam went on to state that the University is moving forward with a new residence hall, and as part of that planning and preparation, a surface parking lot will be taken down this summer, resulting in the loss of about 200 spaces. To help with the situation, Sam stated that we are looking at a low-cost residential vehicle storage option. The lot will be at the South Campus Recreation Center and cost about \$50 per year. He explained that Residential Vehicle Storage is a low-cost, remote vehicle storage option designed for full-time, residential students who do not rely on personal transportation during the school week. Vehicles with this permit option are able to park at a secure location near the South Campus Recreation Center. The lot will be accessible starting Fridays at noon and ending Mondays at 10:00 AM. There will be different access fees when students request the vehicle in advance between Monday and Friday.

Hal Robinson explained that we would be losing the lot next to Kincannon Hall, which encompasses the West Residential zone next to the Residential Garage. The Residential Storage option is an alternative solution, Hal stated and added that the lot had previously only been used on game days for RVs. In addition, the lot is already fenced on three sides; therefore, the only need would be a front fence, installed gates, and the addition of more cameras.

Elisabeth Alexander inquired about the consideration of restricting freshmen from bringing vehicles. Sam explained that campus leadership is not at a point where a freshman parking ban would ever happen.

Elisabeth then asked if vehicles would have to be removed from the storage lot on the weekends, how that would operate for football game days, and if the vehicle operators could access their vehicles at other times if needed. Matt Davis answered that for emergencies, vehicle access would be granted without a charge and would have access during football game days, but could not enter where athletics had campus controlled.

Paul Caferra posed the question of whether the spaces being taken away would be available again after the construction of the new residence hall.

Sam explained that the new building is not set to open until 2026 and that campus leadership wants a new garage to open in accordance with the new facility. He added that while still determining the location of the new garage, we could expect they should open at the same time.

- **Public Interest Utilizing UM Parking Facilities and Policy (Grimmett)**

Coleman Grimmett initiated the discussion, stating that over eight months or so, local organizations have inquired about using the University's parking facilities. Coleman went on, adding that the Oxford Food Pantry presented another inquiry due to renovations at their facility that would take 4-6 months, and the JAC parking lot was another potential location to help distribute food for their organization. Coleman explained that the University wants to be mission-centric and offer support.

He stated, at a minimum, there would be a request form, a recommendation by the committee on a path forward, and ultimately a workflow to the Chancellor for final decision.

Elisabeth stated that she is all for supporting the community. Still, there should be a caution to prevent it from becoming a slippery slope in terms of who is granted the opportunity versus who is not.

Sam stated that the approval process would be stringent and added that timing during the year would be a factor.

David Whitcomb offered that there could be potential issues around this and voiced that he would like the General Counsel office to be a little more involved in the vetting.

- **Enight Technologies Parking Guidance (Oakes)**

Steven Oakes, Business Development Manager for Enight Technologies, presented to the committee. He began explaining that the company has unique modules in parking technology ecosystems rolled out throughout the United States and internationally. The aim is to make parking simpler and scalable. Steven added that the company prides itself in bringing the best accuracy from small surface lots to massive garages.

Steven added that Ensign does traffic studies and event management, as well. In addition, the company personalizes solutions to each client's specific needs, while ensuring the best data is supplied for the lowest dollar amount. This is a camera-based system, using cameras and machine learning to train a database to count and scan license plates accurately. If something doesn't scan correctly, the movement is still detected, and Ensign goes back and retrains the equipment.

Steven then showed a live camera feed of a garage's entry and exit, stating that the company will train these to make them smarter over time. All of the data gets pushed to the dashboard, which encompasses multiple reporting features.

Sam asked whether Ensign has the ability to tie into our current camera system. Steven answered that Avigilon (the current system used by UM) is the preferred camera manufacturer and is definitely possible to tie into the department's current camera system.