

## **Traffic and Parking Standing Committee Zoom Meeting Monday, November 14, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.**

### **Attended:**

Samuel Patterson, Hal Robinson, Dr. Greg Snyder, Dr. John Lobur, Lauren Bergholz, Jakob Gammons, David Whitcomb, Dean Hansen, Maya Langendoen, Andre Liebenberg; and Cassidy Savage, non-committee member, transcribing minutes

### **Discussion:**

- **Agenda**

Sam Patterson welcomed those in attendance and went over the agenda.

- **Law School Parking Issues Discussion (Maya Langendoen, Jakob Gammons)**

Jakob Gammons started the discussion with a bit of background and explained there had been a lot of talk with the student body about the parking situation at the law school regarding not being able to find available parking spaces. He went on to state that this issue has been brought up to the Associated Student Body, and a presentation is being presented now with possible solutions.

Maya Langendoen began and explained that this is mostly just for discussion to get more information for other students and classmates.

Maya stated that many students have complained about being late to class or missing a class because of parking. She explained that law school class schedules are usually not optional, they are still experiencing issues at the 8 am time mark, and professors no longer record classes. She stated that even if you are sick, only Covid-related illness allows you to get feedback about missed classes.

Maya then discussed how fraternity parking was causing issues for the Law School and that fraternity pledges were taking up parking in the bigger part of the lot behind the law school and in the married student housing (Village) parking lot. She stressed that with law students paying double in tuition compared to undergrads, finding a solution to parking is important.

Maya inquired about a time frame for a parking guidance system. Sam responded that the department will put out an RFP to get information, meet with different vendors and put a proposal together for the VC of Administration and Finance. He explained that this is still new to us but that we are beginning those conversations with vendors.

Maya then asked about the long-term campus plan because of the UM master plan, including a garage for the law school. She inquired about that timeline.

Sam stated that he does not know about a timeline, but that leadership at the University would have to determine the priority level on those garages. He went on to explain that because of the record enrollment increase, there are parking garage possibilities being discussed.

Jakob stated that he is keeping in mind the maintenance needs of the current garages we have, as well.

Maya spoke of another possible solution getting rid of the married student housing buildings and building more parking.

Lauren Bergholz confirmed that Student Housing is currently using two buildings for temporary housing reasons. She added that Student Housing has ownership of the buildings and offered that she would find out more regarding future plans for the buildings in a coming meeting.

Sam asked Maya if there had been any discussions involving other solutions other than parking directly outside the Law School. He discussed the South Campus Recreation Center OUT bus schedule and Jackson Avenue Center and discussed ways to market to target law students.

Maya then explained a map she shared with the board members, asking about adding spaces where the green area is on the south side of the law school building. Sam mentioned that there would be pushback when you start taking away green space on campus. He added that the long-term plan is to build up with the master plan and keep the character of the landscape and trees.

Maya then inquired about deeming lots around the law school for law students only and adding a premium, higher cost for the permit.

Jakob asked if there was currently a policy for booting repeat offenders. At that point, Hal Robinson explained the process of immobilizing vehicles for the reason of receiving “excessive citations,” which we started doing this year. Jakob also proposed a solution to add crosswalks on the road that runs along the backside of the law school. He said that this is a safety concern and could be easily implemented.

Dean Hansen offered to look more into this request.

John Lobur inquired about the class schedules for first-year law students. Maya confirmed, explaining odd class schedules.

- **Park Zen Parking Guidance Solution (Manos Chatzopoulos, Sam Allen)**

Manos introduced himself to the committee, explaining that he is an astrophysicist at LSU and that, to him, parking is a fun problem to solve.

He explained that parking is the first and last experience for people on campus and went through the PowerPoint presentation (see attached) explaining how Park Zen analyzes sensory data from a smartphone device. He added information about the option of a free trial.

He explained further, stating that for the system to be effective, you need to have a big enough user base. He mentioned that the students are currently pleased with the Park Zen experience at LSU. He added that the best solution is integrating with other service providers, such as working through the official Ole Miss app.

He discussed smartphone device users needing to allow location services for the app to work accurately with the sensor data. He added that this allowance does not track location history.

Manos then explained that data presented through the app service could lead to the projection of future parking occupancies and that the department could analyze the data for future parking lot needs. He added that this solution is inexpensive because you do not have to deal with hardware like cameras.

Manos pulled up the app and map for LSU (in real-time) on his shared screen for the committee and watched and explained icons on the map that indicate when (3 minutes ago, for example) someone left a parking space.

- **SPIN (Lankford, Derek Stehlin)**

Derek Stehlin introduced himself to the committee, explaining his title of Manager for Campus Success. He discussed SPIN being founded in 2016 and operating in 80 cities/campuses. He shared that SPIN is very focused on maintaining responsible programs and that he has found that the model of working with university and city partners is what tends to work best for all and that when all are aligned together, they can offer the best experience. He also added these results in the best format for the riders.

Derek then presented a case study at Penn State, an all spin e-bike program launched in 2021. He added that Penn State has worked on micro-mobility for many years, and the bike ridership is through the roof.

**How it works:**

Derek explained that there are designated parking zones for the bikes, and sometimes these are only virtual within the app. The app tells you where you can park the bike. He stated that they allow parking at existing bike racks and do their best to provide visual cues for the riders.

Derek discussed how SPIN got students into the right mindset to act appropriately with bikes. He stated that the batteries on bikes are swappable, so they do not remove the actual bikes from campus unless repairs are needed.

Derek added that at Penn State on Friday and Saturday nights and all day on Sunday, anyone with a campus email could ride the bikes for free.

Sam asked Derek if there was a way to deduct what percentage of riders at Penn State were using the bikes to go to class from their parking lot or to ride the bike leisurely.

Derek stated that it would be hard to tell at Penn State and added that 500 bikes are operated on Penn State's campus with 700 trips per day.

Sam asked if SPIN would hire students or other staff to help relocate bikes to the proper zones. Derek explained that they are primarily students hired part-time, such as student safety ambassadors.

Sam inquired about the bikes being prohibited on football game days, which Derek confirmed is possible and is the case for some universities.

John asked Derek if the university community that is interested in the bikes would receive a SPIN bike helmet, at which point Derek explained that they give away helmets at tabling events and hand out links to order the helmet for free.

John asked if helmets are required to ride the bicycles. Derek stated that helmets are suggested but not required.

Greg inquired about the number of bikes we would deploy on campus. Sam answered that we would work with the provider and might be only 75 bikes, to begin with. Sam stated that the good thing is that with data, you can determine if there is a demand for more. Sam stated that for us to grow the bike program on campus and in Oxford, due to the hills, e-bikes like Spin are positioned for more ridership than we currently have.

David inquired about why the program would not be successful, at which point Derek explained that a lot of things could point to that, the number one being ridership. Derek went further, stating other reasons could be related to infrastructure, not enough promotion of the program, smaller campus, cultural reasons, etc.

Derek ended the discussion by emphasizing the importance of marketing and promoting the program, stating that it is essential for the program to be successful.