University Transportation Committee  
January 24, 2011

Present:
Scott Baebler, Intercollegiate Athletics
Landon Bosisio, GPSS Representative
Peter Dewey, Facilities Services
Jan Fahey, Commuter Services (for Sara Brydges)
Ann Gigli, Housing & Food Services (guest)
Celeste Gilman, Commuter Services
Josh Kavanagh, Transportation Services
Steve Kennard, Real Estate Office
Miranda Leidich, South Lake Union CTR Site
Andrew Lewis, Student Transportation Task Force (guest)
Luther Martin, WFSE Union Representative
Colin Morgan-Cross, GPSS Representative
Stephanie Parkins, Transportation Services (guest)
Patty Riley, UWMC
Scot Rastelli, GPSS Representative
John Schaufelberger, Faculty Senate
Alex Soldano, Transportation Services (guest)
Chuck Tresser, Faculty Council on Univ. Facilities & Services
John Vinson, UW Police
Matt Weatherford, PSO Representative

Absent:
Rebecca Barnes, Planning and Budgeting
Sara Brydges, Commuter Services
Laura Davenport, SEIU 925 Representative
Jean Garber, Member-At-Large
Jeanette Henderson, Real Estate Office
Charles Kennedy, Associate Vice President of Facilities Services
Daniel Kraus, Member-At-Large
Madeleine McKenna, ASUW Representative, Ex Officio
April R. Millar, WSNA Representative
Mark Stanley, Student Life & HFS
Anneke Szyperski, Disability Services Office

Minutes accepted, not approved by the UTC
WAC Update

Mr. Kavanagh updated the group on the effort to update the parking and other transportation sections of the WAC. Mr. Kavanagh said that there has been a substantive change in the timing of the rulemaking process. Gov. Gregoire has signed an Executive Order temporarily suspending new rule development and adoption until January 1, 2012. Although the Executive Order does not apply to higher education institutions, the Governor has invited higher education institutions to comply with the Executive Order voluntarily. Mr. Kavanagh said that he will know within a week whether we will be moving forward with the WAC changes in the next two to three months or if we will be deferring until 2012. If the changes do move forward now, Mr. Kavanagh said that we would likely bring the matter before the Regents no sooner than March 2011.

ORCA Update

Ms. Parkins reported that the transition to ORCA is proceeding on schedule, with the faculty/staff launch scheduled for July 1 and the student launch scheduled for the start of Autumn Quarter 2011. Early Fall Start and summer quarter students will continue to use the sticker. Ms. Parkins said that TS is working on mitigating activation/deactivation issues and developing a triage plan to troubleshoot questions that customers may have with the new system. As the team finalizes its communication plan, they are working with the transit agencies; due to their experience base, the transit agencies have had helpful input to offer. Ms. Parkins said that communications materials will be distributed widely close to the time of the launch, providing accurate information as it is needed. Communications will emphasize that the U-PASS benefits will remain the same, only the fare media is changing from a sticker to RFID. For now the message is that Dubs leads the way—nothing will happen until Dubs says “go”.

Husky Card Re-card Project

Ms. Gigli, Administrator for Planning & Purchasing (HFS), who is managing the re-card project, provided the committee with an overview of the re-card process.

Ms. Gigli said that one of the first steps in moving to ORCA was accomplished about six years ago when multiple campus offices involved in issuing Husky Cards were consolidated into a single ID Card Center located in OUGL. Now we are close to the start of the re-card process.

The new Husky Cards will be visually different from our current cards. Cards will have an embedded RFID chip provided by the transit agencies that will contain our U-PASS product and allow the bus card reader to read the chip via an electronic signal. Similar to the current Husky Cards, the new cards will have a magnetic stripe providing the same functions as the magnetic
Ms. Gigli said that work is still in progress on providing CAMMS central door access with the new cards via a universal ID number.

Ms. Gigli said that, to produce the cards, we will pull a data file with name, photo, and EID or SID, and ship it to a printer who will batch print the cards with the appropriate information. The mechanism for card distribution will be different for students and employees. Students will pick up their new cards in person during a week at the end of spring quarter at advertised distribution locations at OUGL or south campus. If a student misses the distribution fairs, he or she will go to the ID Center for pick up. When students pick up their new card, the new card will be activated and their old card will be deactivated. Employee cards will obtain their new cards through distribution by payroll unit coordinators and will subsequently need to go online individually to activate their new card.

Student cards will be made for all students with a photo on file who are enrolled for Spring Quarter 2011 and have not applied for Spring or Summer graduation. Cards for employees will first be made and distributed to U-PASS holders only. To obtain a card, the employee must have a photo on file. Employees who do not currently have a photo on file will be invited by postcard to photo fairs at seven campus locations, to be held between February 14 and 28. Employees must bring a photo ID, such as a drivers license or passport, to the photo fair.

Ms. Gigli said that our communication efforts will provide accurate information on the re-card process as the information is needed. Look for communication pieces beginning in April and May in “UW Today” and “The Daily”, and via posters, banners, newsletters and listservs.

Mr. Rastelli asked several questions: Is it alright to get a new photo to update the one you already have on file? How will re-carding work for people who are in both faculty/staff and student status? Will the RFID chip damage your cell phone or your credit cards? Ms. Gigli said it is fine to get a new updated photo taken if you wish, and that individuals in joint status will be considered a student first; they will not be getting two cards. Ms. Parkins said that the RFID chip is dormant in your wallet (it only emits a signal when near the card reader). Mr. Kavanagh said that we will get confirmation from the transit agencies on that point to convey to the Committee at its next meeting.

Ms. Gigli said that the ID Center will sell sleeves (pockets) for the new cards for those who have privacy concerns. Mr. Kavanagh noted that the group had discussed privacy concerns extensively at a previous meeting.

**Rates Process Preview**

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Minutes accepted, not approved by the UTC
Mr. Kavanagh said that Transportation Services is currently doing financial planning that will provide the foundation for proposing changes to parking and other transportation fees to the Regents. He said that he expects timing for UTC review of proposed rate changes will be similar to last year and that the matter will be put before the Regents in June.

Mr. Kavanagh said that Transportation Services’ preparatory financial work is looking at where we are and where we expect to be in the next two years. Mr. Kavanagh said that we are trying to narrow our assumptions for the future and he believes that TS will only ask the UTC for modest rate increases this year. Student efforts have been very helpful in our probable move to a Universal U-PASS, which will help bring solvency to the U-PASS program. Balancing the budget for the faculty/staff U-PASS will be a challenge; it won’t be accomplished by heavy subsidization by parking fees. Mr. Kavanagh said that there will be structural tweaks to parking and a contingency plan in case the Universal U-PASS does not go forward.

**Student Transportation Task Force Update**

Andrew Lewis (ASUW Office of Government Relations Assistant Director; head of the Student Transportation Task Force) told the committee that, in addition to helping shepherd the change to the Universal U-PASS, the Student Transportation Task Force is currently working in a variety of areas, including the following: (1) Expansion of the Burke Gilman Trail to compensate for increased traffic due to Sound Transit; (2) Night Ride; (3) bike safety; (4) hosting of a town hall for students on transportation options (late February); (5) and lobbying in Olympia for funding sources for U-PASS. Mr. Kavanagh commented that the labor representatives on the UTC may wish to speak with the students so as to speak with one voice.

**Universal U-PASS Update**

Mr. Kavanagh told the group that work on the Universal U-PASS is going well and we hope for implementation in Fall 2011, which is also the 20th anniversary of the U-PASS program. Mr. Kavanagh said that we aim to get the matter before the Regents in February for their action in March. Currently there is an absence of policy guidance on the move to a Universal U-PASS. We envision a Memorandum of Understanding between Student Life, ASUW, GPSS and Transportation Services, and policy guidance issued out of the Office of Student Life to be in place prior to the change. Mr. Kavanagh said that he is meeting with Student Life tomorrow to discuss details of implementation.

Mr. Dewey noted that other universities have used this WAC. Mr. Kavanagh confirmed that to be true and said that WSU currently has a Universal U-PASS.
Legislative Update

Mr. Kavanagh reported that the legislative session has been a busy one. Legislation under consideration that we would favor includes a bill on local revenue options for transit that would amend the Commercial Parking Tax (CPT) and a bill that would exempt UW and similar institutions from the CPT.

Mr. Kavanagh said that we just went to the Seattle City Council, which is considering supporting the recommendations of the King County Regional Transit Task Force, which were recently adopted by the King County Council. An email link to the Executive Summary and full report of the Task Force’s recommendations will be sent to committee members after today’s meeting. Mr. Kavanagh said that Task Force recommendations include abandoning the 40/40/20 service hour allocation formula for a more balanced approach, increasing transparency, adopting performance measures, increasing efficiency and decreasing costs. It is hoped that implementation of the recommendations will enable KC Metro and coalition of parties to secure state funding for the transit system to offset the impact of the recession on the system’s budget.

Ms. Leidich asked if there is any role for the UTC to play in this process, such as submitting a formal letter of support. Mr. Kavanagh wondered how many voices UW wishes to have; he said he would speak with Theresa Doherty about this and perhaps get back to the committee with a draft letter if the Office of Regional Affairs thinks it is a good idea.

Transportation Improvement Program

15th Avenue Reconstruction Project
Mr. Dewey reported that the first phase of the project (work from Pacific to 45th) began in early January and some concrete has already been poured. The second phase will encompass the stretch between 45th and 50th, followed by the final phase for the roadway between 50th and 55th. The completed project will include pedestrian and transit enhancements such as sidewalk expansion and bus bulbs. As an add-on project (which has some supplemental funding from the City of Seattle and Metro), UW will build a new bus stop at 42nd, replacing two existing nearby bus stops.

Pend Oreille/Burke Gilman Trail Intersection
Mr. Dewey reported that our consultants have almost completed their predesign document. There is lack of consensus on the preliminary design, which proposes an S-curve. We will probably want some separation between pedestrians and bicyclists at this complex intersection which presents many challenges. Mr. Dewey said that, when the preliminary design is complete, we will review it, engage Sound Transit for their feedback, identify the cost of the improvements, and seek funding.
Rainier Vista Overpass Project

Mr. Dewey told the group that the Rainier Vista Overpass predesign proposal calls for re-grading Pacific Place and building a bridge over it to better connect Sound Transit’s light rail station with the campus. Because the guidelines in the Rainier Vista Overpass Project predesign proposal impact the Burke Gilman Trail (the issue of widening the trail and how bike and pedestrian thruways mesh), Mr. Dewey said that we provide guidance on this as part of the Burke Gilman Trail Project.

Ms. Leidich commented that heavy traffic on the BGT requires signage and asked if the scope of the project includes signage. Mr. Dewey said that the predesign does not cover signage but signage planning will be done later in the process.

Mr. Rastelli asked if we are coordinating with SDOT. Mr. Dewey said yes, the City will need to be engaged. It is our property, but the City has standards that apply, for example in relation to right-of-way assignment issues. UW has an interest in how such issues are resolved. Mr. Dewey said that he thinks uniform standards should replace the inconsistent right-away standards along the length of the BGT. Mr. Dewey expressed agreement with Mr. Tresser comment supporting the separation of bicyclists and pedestrians on the trail. Mr. Weatherford called the BGT a crown jewel and expressed the hope that the standards in our own redesign will serve as a model for the improvement of other parts of the trail in the future.

Faculty/Staff U-PASS Affordability

Ms. Riley asked what the issues are—portability? Are some areas underserved? Mr. Weatherford commented that any fee increases will meet opposition; there are rumors among professional and classified staff that salaries are going to be cut by 3-4%, so U-PASS fee increases will look like a further salary cut. Mr. Kavanagh said that there is confusion about whether the U-PASS is an auxillary or a benefit.

Mr. Kavanagh suggested that discussion on this topic be postponed until a future meeting because Ms. Davenport, who suggested this agenda item, was not present at today’s meeting.

Additional Items

None

Meeting Adjourned