ECU Parking & Transportation Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 15, 2014
Mendenhall Student Center – Room 14 at 3:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**
   In attendance were voting members: Donna Roberson, Melinda Kane, Mulatu Wubneh, Bill Edwards, Marcus Silver, Gary Overton, Kim Holley Brian Funsch, and Dieu-Merci Medju (in place of Kaitlyn Dutton); and non-voting members: Bill Koch, Amy Proseus (in place of Wood Davidson), Liz Johnston, Karen Mizelle, and Johnnie Eastwood.

2. **Welcome – Karen Mizelle**
   a. Karen Mizelle welcomed committee and went over the Agenda items to be discussed.
   b. The minutes for the last meeting in October 2013 were reviewed and unanimously approved after Donna Roberson motioned for acceptance.

3. **Reports**
   a. **Transit Report – Amy Proseus**
      i. Amy Proseus said Wood Davidson couldn’t make it and that Seth Rodman was no longer with the university. She also reported that Transit now has two new coach buses and their first trip will be this weekend. Amy also reported that the transit office was still working on gathering the passenger numbers from the fall on a route by route basis.

   b. **Parking Report- Deb Garfi**
      i. Deb Garfi was not in attendance.

4. **New Business – Agenda Items**
   a. **Parking Permit Fees 2014/15**
      i. Karen Mizelle reported that the permit fees would not go up for 2014/15.
      ii. Mulatu Wubneh asked for the reason behind the decision and if it staying the same was in direct collation with project’s halting as well. Bill Koch explained that the exact monetary figures it would take to construct the student union project haven’t been decided on yet. So, he said, since they didn’t know what amount was actually needed for the garage portion without that decision being made first, they didn’t feel comfortable implementing an increase just yet. He added that another reason they didn’t feel comfortable coming up with a new figure was because the funding also still had to be approved through legislation.
b. Closing of Belk Residence Hall Parking – Loss of 256 Spaces
   i. Johnnie Eastwood reported that the fence that was installed prior to January for the demolition of Belk hall caused a loss of 256 A2 zoned spaces. As a result, there have been issues with A2 permit holders finding available spaces due to other unauthorized zoned permit holders, especially D permits, parking in those spaces. In response, the parking office will enforce the area by towing and has sent out warning emails to the D permits as well as posted the warning on their website.
   ii. Johnnie Eastwood also reported that 7 Pay by Space spaces have been converted to A2 spaces to help alleviate some of the demand. He also said that the parking office was also working with Liz Johnston to review the ADA spaces in the A2 area that could also possibly be converted to A2 spaces. Liz Johnston explained that they were able to consider converting those spaces considering the ratio of amount available overly exceeding the amount needed in that area.

c. Health Science Campus
   i. Karen Mizelle explained (referencing a map provided) the three proposed areas that Parking was considering placing Pay by Space stations for visitors at the Health Sciences Campus. The map showed that the areas included: 1 in between Family Medicine and the Heart Institute (lots SM-27 and SM-25), 1 in the lot by the Allied Health Clinic (SM-21), and 1 near the Brody Building (lot SM-1). Karen reported 2 of the 3 proposals will be in place this spring. She also stated that there will still be regular meters in other areas as well.
   ii. Bill Edwards asked what the maximum duration allowed would be to park in the Pay by Spaces and if instructions to use these stations will also be included on the machines. Karen explained that the time duration is programmable in the new machines and that right now they are set in 2 hours blocks but can be changed later if needed. She also confirmed that the instructions would be included on the machines.
   iii. Bill Edwards also asked if they would have to be activated during the weekend considering the amount of Vidant Employees (60 or more) that currently utilize the spaces. Karen clarified that the machines are supposed to be activated anytime the spaces are occupied and that information would be on the machines. She also mentioned that now, if they didn’t have permits, then those Vidant Employees had to purchase a permit in order to be able to legally park in those ECU lots. Karen reported that those types of permits available for Vidant Employees to purchase were not being purchased in
comparison to the reported volume of evident violators Mr. Edwards mentioned that were still parking there without permits.

iv. Donna Roberson asked for an update on whether or not there have been any further considerations for gating in that area. Bill Koch stated that there had not been any further discussions to date.

d. Event Parking

i. Johnnie Eastwood reported that additional revenue was being obtained from event parking, including leasing the former freshman lot off Dickenson Avenue to Miller Motte College on a month to month basis. He also said that the e-Print permit purchase system for guests online was now being used a lot more for Student Affairs’ events.

ii. Karen Mizelle and Johnnie Eastwood also further explained the e-Print process as well as the price of those permits.

iii. The second item under Event Parking on the agenda referring to ‘Requiring Attendants for Core Campus Parking’ was not covered during this meeting. Johnnie Eastwood explained that he had not gotten a complete understanding of what Deb wanted to cover on that topic in order to discuss it further with the committee.

e. ADA/Handicap Parking Application Process – Liz Johnston

i. Liz Johnston provided some of the history of the parking application process to the committee. She said that for the last 6-7 years or so, DSS has required everyone to fill out a 2 page application (1st page filled out by the applicant and the 2nd page by the physician) in addition to providing a handicapped placard. She reported that she believed the culture here has changed in that people now understand that they will not be given HD access without a valid reason. In addition, she stated that she’s found that in comparing the applicant’s status (faculty/staff versus students) that students have a different factor in regards to determining eligibility – their level of access to the transit system. The second page of the application is the page that asks the physician for more in-depth details on how the impairment would affect the applicant’s ability to use the transit system. She said that in her experience she has found that she can find this information out for faculty/staff by talking to them since they don’t have access to the transit system like the students.
ii. Liz then proposed that the application requirement of submitting both pages be reduced to only the first page (the one that only the applicant had to fill out) for the faculty/staff while still requiring the students to submit both pages.

iii. Liz then went on to explain that after the 2010 Amendment Act was passed telling people to be less strict in determining eligibility based on the definition of disability, more emphasis should be placed on the actual impact caused by the impairment versus going straight by the definition of what constitutes a disability. In addition to trying to focus more on determining the impact of the impairment, she reported that she has also not received any complaints where people couldn’t find a handicapped space to park. Therefore, she believed it was further justification to not make faculty and staff jump through the extra hoop of obtaining the 2nd form by the physician, especially when they could show they had already obtained a handicapped placard.

iv. Mulatu Wubneh then asked if asking the addition question about Transit was consistent with ADA requirements. Liz explained that the old requirement used to be that a space had to be within 200 feet of the building but our lots are much farther away from some buildings. So, she said due to those proximity issues, the requirement was changed to the 1st available space versus within 200 feet of a building. Therefore, she said, asking the question does now fall within ADA requirements.

v. Mulatu Wubneh also expressed concern over requiring the two statuses’ to submit different things. He asked if she felt it might bring criticism of discrimination toward the university in the long run. Liz said she did not believe it would because faculty and staff do not have the same access to transit like students do, and we still reserve the right to deny access according to resources and need. She further explained that the university came up with the additional question specifically to address any due diligence concerns for the resources it had available.

5. Open Comments
   a. Donna Roberson asked if there was any new information about whether patient spaces were going to be a part of the HSC deck. Bill Koch stated that nothing definitive has been decided since the need to have a deck on that campus right now is not as immediate as the MSC deck. Although, he added, they were still thinking about the possibility of having one there in the future if demand increases with further campus expansion.
b. Bill Edwards said he had heard about a petition to get a stop light at the entrance to the HSC (close to the Nursing School) and was wondering if the university had a connection to work with the City of Greenville to put that in place. Bill Koch reported that he knew Bill Bagnell has had a lot of conversations with the DOT about also trying to get a walkway put in place, but he felt that it could be an issue putting a stop light there considering one is already in place at the intersection of Moye Blvd and there are standards in place that determine how close two lights can be from each other.

c. Donna Roberson commented that she felt safety concerns in that area would only get worse when the new VA hospital opens across the street.

6. **Adjournment**