

Transportation Advisory Committee  
Minutes from Friday, October 23, 2009  
12:00 PM – 1:15 PM, B12 Day Hall

Present:	<u>Members</u>	<u>Ex-Officio</u>	<u>Guests</u>
	Marin Clarkberg	Judy Eckard	Inda Mahler
	Oliver Gao	David Lieb	
	Jim Gibbs	Helen Steh	
	Marisa LaFalce		
	Martin Leung		
	Leon Schneider		
	Timon Stasko		

M. LaFalce welcomed the committee and asked each person to introduce themselves.

I. Mahler indicated that she was no longer the Employee Assembly representative, but would apply for the vacant Employee seat on TAC.

**Selection of Committee Chair**

M. LaFalce said she could not continue as chair and opened the floor for nominations. L. Schneider nominated himself and the committee voted to make him the new chair.

**Transportation Policy Overview**

D. Lieb reviewed the composition of the TAC and its charge. A membership list and the charge were distributed.

Also distributed was the "Rules and Regulations for the Control of Traffic and Parking on the Grounds of Cornell University". This document sites campus boundaries, speed limits, intersection control as well as regulations on Transportation programs. D. Lieb also distributed the mission statement for Commuter and Parking Services. The guiding principles for Transportation are delineated in the Transportation Impact Mitigation Strategies (TIMS) and the main objective is to reduce single occupant vehicle commuters.

L. Schneider asked if that includes students bringing cars to Ithaca or just on campus. D. Lieb said we discourage new students from bringing cars to Ithaca. Transportation Services starts very early with new students to communicate the issues around parking which is priced high to discourage cars. Free transit is offered for the first year. M. Leung asked how many freshmen bring cars. D. Lieb said of the 3,000 freshman about 130 – 140. Banning cars often has the reverse effect and telling people they can't, makes them ask for special treatment so they can.

D. Lieb noted that people want access and mobility – not just parking. Transportation builds choices into programs. The TIMS is a 10 year strategic plan but is a living document and can and will change. He distributed a summary of the TIMS.

### **Bright Horizons Childcare Center Parking for its Employees**

H. Steh indicated that Bright Horizons runs the childcare facility and employs all the staff. Transportation Services offered those employees parking in A Lot at the student rate. The rate is the same for all campus-based non-university employees. Staff did not want to pay for parking and wanted to be treated like Cornell staff (free parking). A parent committee drafted some solutions. Cornell and Bright Horizons have come together to solve the issue. The resolution is that parking will be paid for by Bright Horizons as part of their benefit package.

There were some safety issues that we are addressing – speed in the parking lot, etc. We will be putting up signs that denotes children in area as well as flashing lights. H. Steh distributed the parent's letter to TAC and asked that Marisa respond for the committee.

### **Visitor Parking**

D. Lieb said there are different kinds of transient visitors to campus – community members as well as true visitors. Transportation converted some visitor spaces to flex spaces for business needs (2 hour parking) and designated signed visitor spaces for true visitors. The meters on campus are another way for short-term visitor parking. Transportation has had issues with corrupt credit card transactions, basically because of the transmission of the data through wireless. We have not been able to work through the problems with the vendor. Therefore, we are replacing the meters. A Request for Proposal (RFP) is due by the end of October. It will cost us \$100K to replace all meter stations in seven (7) lots. J. Gibbs said to check with Facilities Services' disability coordinator to make sure the meters are accessible.

D. Lieb noted that the Peterson Lot meter has been disabled and people can purchase a visitor permit for the lot at a nearby Information Booth. H. Steh said that we grouped most of the visitor parking by the Garage which is a highly visible landmark. This has worked well. J. Gibbs asked what we are doing with visitor spaces in the MVR garage. H. Steh said that it will be managed but we haven't got to that point yet.

### **Other Parking**

H. Steh said that parking around Sibley and Tjaden was closed due to the Milstein project. Transportation Services has created 'Y' spaces across the bridge at Risley and Anna Comstock as well as on West Avenue. Our observations show that West Avenue is not being utilized so we are going to make those 2-Hour Flex spaces.

M. LaFalce asked what will happen to parking when the Milstein project is done. H. Steh said we will reclaim about forty-five (45) of the original ninety (90) spaces. I. Mahler asked if there is any thought at putting garages in the outer areas of the campus. O. Gao said if you put garages in those locations the frequency of TCAT buses from perimeter or outer areas will need to be increased. D. Lieb said we are working on park and ride lots to intercept traffic before it comes into the urban areas and reduce traffic in surrounding neighborhoods. H. Steh noted that the park and ride lots would also benefit the community not just Cornell. O. Gao said that it would also promote a healthier campus without the vehicle emissions. He asked if the TIMS addresses carbon neutrality. D. Lieb said TIMS predates the Climate Action Plan.

M. LaFalce told the committee to check the web for the Climate Action Plan, the Cornell Campus Master Plan, and the Transportation Environmental Impact Statement.

**On-Campus Bus Service**

M. Leung said student reps would like to post the bus stop shelters with time schedules. T. Stasko offered to help them with contacts at TCAT (Mike McLellan is in charge of bus stop amenities) as he worked with them last year.

M. Leung asked if faculty/staff get free parking. D. Lieb said only in A Lot, parking rates range from \$309 - \$681. M. Leung continued that since the meters are problematic, you should put a sign on the meters to warn visitors about issues with credit cards.

M. LaFalce said meetings would be held on the third Friday of each month from 12:00 PM – 1:15 PM.

Future agenda items include:

- TCAT route changes for January 2010
- New fuel technologies
- Climate Action Plan
- Graduate/Professional Student Transportation System

This meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM.