

Traffic and Transportation Committee Meeting
Summary of Meeting Notes
July 14, 2006- 1:30 PM 6th Floor Rice-Eccles Stadium

In Attendance:

Alex Ikefuna	Salt Lake City, Planning Division
Ron Milburn	LDS Institute of Religion
Alma Allred	U of U/ Commuter Services
Kristy Mapen	Jewish Community Center
Charles Evans	U of U/ Research Park
Christine Johnson	East Central Community Council
Dave Huber	Utah Transit Authority
Ellen Reddick	Bonneville Hills Community Council
Eric Browning	U of U/ Facilities Planning
Hal Johnson	Utah Transit Authority
Jim Jenkin	Howard Hughes Medical Institute @ U of U
Joe Perrin	Salt Lake City, Transportation Advisory Board
Kevin Young	Salt Lake City, Transportation Division
Kris Peterson	Utah Department of Transportation, Traffic Operations
Norm Chambers	U of U/ Auxiliary Services
Robin Carbaugh	Yalecrest Community Council
Scott Lloyd	Primary Children's Medical Center
Shaina Miron	Utah Transit Authority, Rideshare
Steve Alder	Sunnyside East Community Council
Tami Cleveland	U of U/ Facilities Planning
Tim Harpst	Salt Lake City, Transportation Division
Ray McCandless	Salt Lake City, Planning Division
Kurt Forsyth	U of U /Administrative Support

I. Norm Chambers welcomed everyone. Each person introduced him/herself to the group. Norm reported that Mike Perez and Jennifer Reed were both out of town. Norm asked if everyone had the chance to review the May 19 meeting notes. One comment was received regarding one of the member's name.

II. Alma Allred, U of U, briefed the committee on the U of U Fall Semester 2006 Commuter Service update. Alma reported that ridership on UTA Bus and Trax continues to grow. This past year more than one-third of all U of U Commuters used UTA as their primary mode of transportation to campus. He reported that shuttle ridership also continues to grow, with an average of 35,000 to 37,000 people riding the campus shuttle system each week. Alma also talked about that temporary overflow parking that was being built on the site of the old resident halls. He also mentioned that people are now able to pay their parking tickets online through the Commuter Service's website www.parking.utah.edu.

III. Kris Peterson, UDOT, gave a PowerPoint presentation that included various graphs of traffic patterns along key traffic corridors to and from the University. Average daily Traffic along Foothill has decreased in the last six years, while traffic on Sunnyside, east of Foothill, has increased. He explained the grading scale that UDOT uses to evaluate the level of service (LOS) on roadways. Based on the LOS grading scale of A through F, A through D indicates an acceptable level of service, with D indicating that traffic levels are approaching an unstable flow. Levels E and F indicate that serious traffic flow problems exist. None of the routes to or near the U of U were rated below a D. Kris fielded several questions regarding expansion and peak traffic congestion. He explained that UDOT plans to begin a feasibility study along Foothill. However, budget constraints will probably not allow immediate solutions because the roadways around the University have an LOS of D grade or higher. UDOT has been installing additional CCTV (Closed Circuit TV) in high traffic areas to enable UDOT's intelligent transportation system to adjust the traffic signals as needed to improve traffic flow. New projects will be done based on priority and available funds. Several committee members recommended that UDOT coordinate its planning efforts with Salt Lake City, UTA and the University of Utah. Norm Chambers mentioned that this fall the University will begin the process of developing a comprehensive master plan/long range development plan, including traffic and transportation. Several committee members mentioned that this would provide an opportunity for the U of U, UTA, Salt Lake City, UDOT, WFRC (Wasatch Front Regional Council) to work together.

IV. Charles Evans gave an update on Research Park, Myriad Genetics and ARUP. Myriad Genetics plans to take over 1½ acres of Williams property. Myriad is beginning phase 5 of building and expects to no longer have cars parked along the roadway. ARUP does not have sufficient parking to accommodate its staff during shift overlap periods and has to rent parking spaces from neighboring firms. Just recently ARUP informed Charles that they would like to build a 1,000 car parking structure on one of its existing surface parking lots. ARUP would like to begin construction in 2007. ARUP will still have to request approval from Salt Lake City and the University. Charles reported that he has not been notified of any plans to expand UNI. However, he did mention that there are 5 acres behind UNI that are being held for the future expansion of UNI. Many questions and suggestions were raised regarding the traffic signals on Foothill, Sunnyside, and Wakara at peak times.

V. During an open discussion, committee members were asked to list critical issues. After some discussion, the list was prioritized as outlined below:

IDEAS July 14, 2006:

1. It was recommended that the University coordinate its upcoming Master Plan with UTA, SLC (traffic, planning and utilities), UDOT, UTA and WFRC.
2. Although funding remains an issue, it was recommended that Salt Lake update its East Bench Master Plan in coordination with the University's Master Plan.
3. To encourage more people to exit Research Park via Wakara, it was recommended that a traffic signal be installed at the intersection of Arapeen and Wakara. Currently, people usually exit via southbound Arapeen onto Sunnyside because northbound Arapeen is backed up at Wakara.

4. It was recommended that the University and UTA work together to improve the congestion at the bus transit center in front of the University Hospital. Alma Allred reported that he is aware that the shuttles may be contributing to the congestion because the use that stop for a restroom break. He indicated that they are looking for an alternative location for the restroom break.

5. It was recommended something be done to the signal intersection at Arapeen and Sunnyside to discourage people from exiting Research Park on Sunnyside. If that is not feasible, perhaps medians could be installed on Sunnyside. Salt Lake City Transportation Division plans to install two additional crosswalks on Sunnyside, one at 1900 East and one at Diestel Road.

6. It was suggested that the Committee study ways to remove any impediments to bicycling that may exist. Norm Chambers reported that the University's Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee has a bicycle sub-committee. The latest report from the committee will be shared at the next meeting.

7. The group discussed how UTA, the University of Utah, Salt Lake City and UDOT, (and possibly others), could investigate funding a study of transit improvements along the Foothill Blvd. corridor. UDOT has some funding to analyze Foothill and the U has funding to do a campus master plan including transportation. Some of those funds might be used for such a study. UTA will draft a scope of services for the group to review at the next meeting. Once a scope and cost estimate is agreed upon, agencies will seek funding for it.

The following Link gives a visual map of some areas discussed:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?formtype=address&addtohistory=&address=%5b2056%2d2099%5d%20Sunnyside%20Ave&city=Salt%20Lake%20City&state=UT&zipcode=84108&country=US&location=K1EeX%2bhbvrDD1jrKqk5jD7xKfYvF0%2f%2fFwqbiTc1ubO%2bBc%2fBcpTjzdh5ldC8LNID1XnK6tw80kL5HQYs%2blhUnGUp9SqltE1CC59WS3wardL2AOlxYETpwTQZ6llvQzleN1jimhYsOOfqNcJHZDXlvoHhJE1ZazRaAVYta8B8%3d&ambiguity=1>

VI. Norm Chambers thanked everyone for coming. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30 PM Friday, September 15, 2006 at the 6th floor Rice-Eccles Stadium Tower. The next and last meeting for 2006 is also scheduled for November 17, 2006.