

**Parking and Transportation Standing Committee Meeting**  
**Lyceum Room 100 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Monday – February 12, 2018**

**Attended:**

Harriman Abernathy, Paul Caffera, Donna Gurley, Mike Harris, Maria Mulrooney, Lisa Park (attended for Linda Christian), and Steven Ridout; and Drew Perry, special guest

**Discussion:**

- Minutes from the last meeting (January 8, 2018) were not approved and will be presented at the March 12, 2018 meeting due to lack of a quorum of committee members present.
- Following the meeting agenda – *Old Business – Construction & Parking/Transit Updates*
  - Mike referenced a photo in the meeting agenda packet that depicted 2 new parking spaces that have been developed for short-term parking (up to 30 minutes) for the benefit of residents of the new residence halls, RH2 and RH3, off Rebel Drive. These spaces were created to help with a continual problem of motorists double-parking behind the handicapped designated parking spaces in the very small parking area at RH3. These motorists received parking tickets for obstructing access to handicapped parking spaces that involved a \$200 fine.
  - Purple Heart Parking – the site of the Purple Heart Reserved Parking Space will be in front of Peabody on the Lyceum Circle. A work order has been filed to get the pole/sign positioned at this location. The Department of Parking and Transportation (DPT) has ordered the necessary Purple Heart Parking Permits. Upon receipt of these, DPT will work with the UM Office of Veteran and Military Services (VMS) office to initiate this program. A formal dedication ceremony will be planned; the Oxford Exchange Club has asked that they be included in this (the club has pledged to provide some financial assistance with this program). According to the written Purple Heart Parking Program procedures we have shared previously with the committee, UM faculty/staff, students or UM retirees who have been awarded a Purple Heart are to contact the VMS office with proper documentation. Once approved by the VMS office, the Purple Heart recipient is to go to DPT to be issued the Purple Heart Parking Permit. It is hoped this program will be initiated in the next month or two.
- Following the meeting agenda - *New Business*
  - *Parking Zone Signs* – Drew Perry, with UM Associated Study Body, appeared before the committee to advise that some students have raised concerns with posted parking signs on our campus – in particular the size of the signs, the font size of the lettering, and the color of the signs. He said the signs are green and asked whether they could be made easier to see by a change in the color. Mike responded that the signs are currently green and they do tend to blend in with the greenery on campus.

He acknowledged that he could see how there could be issues with this. However, he also stated there could be hurdles with this such as aesthetics and cost. Mike explained that there would be costs associated with each posted sign. Paul Caffera suggested maybe a survey could be conducted to determine which signs would be easiest to see. Speculating how this might work if authorized - Mike suggested a white background with blue lettering. Mike stated he would want to get all the signs done at one time. Drew stated that students suggested a white background, red border and blue lettering. Steven Ridout suggested maybe one color could be used for faculty/staff, one color for commuter students, another color for residential, etc. Mike explained how our parking permit colors currently coordinate with designated parking zones. Drew suggested a new parking permit design. Mike replied that would take a long time. Drew stated the parking lots by the Coliseum are confusing in that one lot designated for faculty/staff is right beside a commuter designated lot. Mike explained how he has tried to eliminate split parking lots on campus – where some aisles in a lot were designated for one permit type and other aisles in the same lot were designated for a different permit type. Drew suggested maybe if the signs were different colors for each classification that would help with the confusion. The current signs do not involve different colors displayed on the signs, rather they state the permit type designated to park (i.e., East Residential, Central Residential, West Residential, South Residential, Faculty/Staff, etc.). Mike said he would keep this on the agenda for the next meeting of the committee when hopefully there will be a quorum in attendance. Mike suggested that if Drew had any photos of signage of other universities he is interested in, to send them to him.

- *Old Hospital Progress* – the old hospital complex will be officially turned over to the University on March 1, 2018. Conversations are ongoing as to which departments/offices may relocate to that location. There is a University committee that meets once a week to deliberate on the future use of this facility.
- *New Round-About at South Lamar and Belk Boulevard* (by Phillips Grocery) – Mike referenced in the meeting agenda packet a map that depicted the location of this new round-about to be developed in the City of Oxford. This round-about is to merge the old streets with the new street leading to the new hospital. It is anticipated this will be a 90-day project starting around the first of March 2018. The City of Oxford is not actually doing this project but rather it is being funded by the Baptist Hospital. During this project they expect to have through-traffic at all times to allow vehicles to traverse South Lamar north and south. Later this spring a North Mississippi Golf Competition is to be hosted at the Oxford Country Club, and they would like to use the old hospital parking garage to park attendees. Mike said overall the old hospital complex offers a lot of available space and will be a great opportunity for the University to utilize it. Mike also referenced another drawing in the meeting agenda packet to illustrate what area of the first floor of the existing hospital building will be utilized first. It is anticipated that once UM departments/offices are relocated to the old hospital, DPT will start operation of a transportation connection service that will run every 30 minutes between main

campus and the old hospital complex starting in August 2018. This will likely involve 15-seat passenger vans. Later in the spring of 2019 this will involve shuttle buses. This was not budgeted in the current OUT budget in order to start the shuttle buses in the fall of 2018.

- Harriman Abernathy asked about the possibility of adding carpool parking spaces in commuter lots, in particular the Ford Center area. Mike explained that we could put this on the agenda for the next monthly meeting of the committee so it could be voted on with a quorum. Mike further explained that carpooling spaces need to be in areas where we have surveillance camera coverage because DPT monitors these spaces via cameras. Mike said this is feasible and asked how many additional spaces would be desired and their location which can be discussed at the committee's next meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be March 12, 2018.