

Transportation Services Advisory Board
UPASS Proposals, Voting, Drafting of M.O.U.
February 23rd, 2017
12:30 – 1:30 PM

Present:

Heather Rawley, Velofemmes of Tacoma/UW Tacoma on the Go
Blake Stagner, ASUWT Legislative Affairs
Zachary Foster, ASUWT Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences
TJ Estes, ASUWT, student representative
James Sinding, Auxiliary Services Manager and Transportation Services representative
Caitlin Johnson, GIS Coordinator and Finance and Administration liaison

Meeting begins, 12:36

- I. James recapped last meetings conversation. Asked for questions or thoughts regarding last meeting's discussion.
- II. Blake: Last time we discussed a percent of the UPASS cost going towards a fee. Two things I want to bring up: The Green fee and the ST3 increase for renewing vehicle tabs. My thing is now that we have all of these fees increasing, I don't want to see another fee. I don't think we should put this on drivers.
- III. Heather: But we need to, we're a commuter campus.
- IV. James: Depending on what is decided, in order to move forward with the next steps, Transportation Services will draft a memorandum of understanding (MOU), which will then need to be approved by this board, then will be need to be approved by Jan and the chancellor. Then we need to have the students vote are receive their vote of approval and then present that to the board of regents.
- V. TJ: I have a question about the universal benefit, what about those students who live in Thurston county?
- VI. Heather: They'll have to pay for their bus system separately, and then will have access to the bus system here because of the universal benefit.
- VII. James: Addressing the students who live in Thurston County brings up a good point and is something we need to address. We will need to build out a campaign for this particular vote and the more participation is better. We may want to have a student from Thurston attend these conversations. For the first 15 minutes of each meeting, we should make it open to the public for public comment. Issues may rise from this but it is up to this group to come to solutions for those that would surface.
- VIII. TJ: What is our timeline?
- IX. James: Two months, roughly, before we would need to submit our proposal to the board.
- X. TJ: The student health services issues that came up were handled rapidly so two months to do all of this sounds like a good amount of time.
- XI. James: So if anyone doesn't agree with the universal benefit, we should discuss those concerns.
- XII. TJ: How does UWB and UWS break even with their current UPASS programs?
- XIII. James: UWS is currently in the red with the link increase and UWB is in the red but not as bad as us, but they also have the highest UPASS fee.
- XIV. TJ: I'm for whatever is self-sustaining. If we go with the universal benefit, it should be eased in and the fee not increased while it becomes a universal benefit.
- XV. James: As far as transportation services goes, I agree with you, TJ. I would propose it wouldn't increase for 2 years, unless ridership jumps significantly, then it would be readdressed. But ridership increasing would be a good thing.
- XVI. Zach: This is something that we will need to address in coming years anyways with the link charge and the expansion, so our decision here isn't permanent.
- XVII. James: UWS UPASS advisory board meets every year to discuss the fee. They receive a budget, and revisit it each year.

- XVIII. TJ: Other areas are currently building out the husky card, so having the bus pass all in one is a great gateway service for students, that all of these services are offered in one place. The gym card should be the same way. We can use this all synergized services in one card.
- XIX. James: Yeah, it will be a great addition to the husky card program.
- XX. TJ: For comparisons, we should show what the costs just for the Orca Card is compared to the UPASS. It's ridiculously cheap compared to the Orca card and parking.
- XXI. Zach: I participate in lots of classes and clubs and everyone who I encounter, which is just percent of course, is for the universal benefit. Many people who use it, need it. Everybody I've encountered is for it, and the few who aren't weren't angry about the idea.
- XXII. TJ: I have a friend who's a mom and lives in Graham and has to leave from campus to pick up her kid. So it wouldn't work for her, for some demographics it's too hard to use, but others depend on it.
- XXIII. James: When talking about the fee and the Green fee, I wouldn't want to compete for that source. I think that maybe it's not the right year to introduce a fee.
- XXIV. TJ: They're talking about lowering it.
- XXV. Heather: Lowering the Y student fee would help.
- XXVI. James: What I'm hearing from you is that it sounds like students are open and support the idea of a universal benefit.
- XXVII. Zach: Well at least those in the Psychology department.
- XXVIII. James: So we do have a quorum. Are we in agreement on the \$45 universal benefit?
- XXIX. Blake: Wait, \$45 and everyone pays that? No, I'm not ok with that, it seems high. I like the additional \$10 fee and no universal benefit.
- XXX. TJ: The fee would go to paying off the deficit?
- XXXI. James: Yes, initially. And then afterwards could potentially go to other transportation services. The fee proposal acts like a Band-Aid, it would be a temporary solution, and would continue to increase in the future.
- XXXII. Zach: I think that if we short change ourselves now, I think if we want to be close to the curve, we need to take affective action now, not marginal ones over the course of time.
- XXXIII. Blake: The students will still get to vote on this?
- XXXIV. TJ: Yeah, there will be a survey.
- XXXV. Heather: Can we incentivize the survey so more people vote?
- XXXVI. James: Building out the campaign with this is the most important thing we can do.
- XXXVII. Zach: How was the transportation fair on the 13th?
- XXXVIII. Heather: No one really turned out.
- XXXIX. James: Caitlin can you get the student count for Thurston County?
- XL. Caitlin: Yes, I have the autumn 2016 count.
- XLI. Heather: We can't penalize all students because of where some live and can't use the system.
- XLII. James: It may be useful to have a Thurston student be involved and explain that they're system isn't compatible with ours because they don't have to same scanning technology.
- XLIII. Heather: Could we offer to pay a flat rate for those students to provide a service for them?
- XLIV. James: That's a good point to bring up. It's something we should look at.
- XLV. James: I'm getting the sense that we won't vote today. Do we want to vote by email or at the next meeting?
- XLVI. Blake: We should probably wait.
- XLVII. James: I'll send out two versions of the MOU, one for each proposal, two day prior to our next meeting so you can have time to review them.
- XLVIII. Zach: That would be the best route.
- XLIX. James: The city of Tacoma did a feasibility study on a similar program and it was decided that capital should go towards infrastructure improvements before a program like this could succeed. This company used smart bikes so there was no need for the docking pods. They can be locked up anywhere, are tracked by GPS, and are smartphone compatible so you can see where they are.
- L. Heather: I like the idea. Western does this and they found it works. I think its run by one student, I can get her contact information.
- LI. James: We could potentially do a campus pilot. It would be a small program and I wanted your opinion.
- LII. Blake: We should talk to the Court 17 residence for interest.
- LIII. Heather: Well it should be campus wide. We don't have a lot of restaurant options on campus, we have Jimmy Johns and Subway. If we had bikes, students could go off campus to get lunch, run to the post office. In previous conversations we've had, funding was an issue and so was the helmet law.

- LIV. James: A pilot may be something to look into.
- LV. Zach: With the bike share, until we have better infrastructure, it's hard and frustrating to ride a bike. Streets are narrow and there are so many blind spots.
- LVI. Heather: For most of the streets, the city is in charge of making new streets bike compliant. But with existing roads, they don't have to. But the city is trying.
- LVII. Zach: That's why it's problematic for the school.
- LVIII. Blake: What I want to know is what will this cost students?
- LIX. James: The cost would be to the user, not all students. The initial set up costs would come from transportation services.
- LX. TJ: Would costs for the infrastructure to house bikes be less than the cost to pull bikes up for maintenance?
- LXI. James: That's a good point. The smart bikes would cost more, but the pod system would eventually wear out and need maintenance or repair. It's around \$4K per bike, so they're expensive. The non-pod bikes are electric and would be nice for terrain like ours.
- LXII. Heather: That was the main feedback I heard, people don't want to use bikes on hills unless they're electric.
- LXIII. James: To wrap up, I will email you the two MOU documents before our next meeting and then we will vote.

Adjourned 1:36 p.m.