

Transportation Services Advisory Board
UPASS Proposals, Education & Outreach
February 9th, 2017
12:30 – 1:30 PM

Present:

Berkan Koroglu, ASUWT President
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
Aleece Rose, student representative
Maggie Gonzalez, student representative
Lisa Christensen, student representative
James Sinding, Auxiliary Services Manager and Transportation Services representative
Caitlin Johnson, GIS Coordinator and Finance and Administration liaison

- I. James begins introductions, current state of the UPASS program and presentation of proposals.
- II. Berkan asks where future parking lot will be located. He just got out meeting discussing this.
- III. James: the Old Spaghetti factory parking lot will be a short term lot over the next ~3-4 years. The next building to be built could have potential parking built in that may connect with Court 17 parking, however, I am not in the planning department, so I can't say much on that topic.
- IV. Berkan: How much will that development cost?
- V. James: Roughly ~350K to pave the lot, as gravel lots aren't allowed in Pierce County.
- VI. James: Getting back to the UPASS, the most important thing is that we can't afford these things right now (current operating costs of the UPASS at UW Tacoma and new parking lots).
- VII. James: UW Seattle had the same issues were facing a few years back and they too started a committee like this one, to do what we're currently trying to do. We would like to create a "Save the UPASS campaign". They found the best option was to make it a universal benefit. If we go this route, we would keep the UPASS cost the same for the next two years. What are your thoughts?
- VIII. Heather: We should keep in mind that ridership went up once the UWS UPASS became a universal benefit. I think this is a great option and will give students a backup option if their first mode of transportation fails.
- IX. TJ: I have a question, when will we start paying for the Link?
- X. James: When the Link extension is completed, probably 2-3 years.
- XI. Blake: The 2-3 year timeframe for keeping the UPASS costs the same will be a good timeline for that change then.
- XII. Heather: I am 100% for the universal benefit option.
- XIII. Blake: I live 3 miles from campus and don't use it [the UPASS]. There are no stops. This is like the student Y, students who don't use it are upset.
- XIV. Heather: There are more routes being added in March.
- XV. James: What I'm hearing is that there is an issue in knowing about the information out there.
- XVI. Zach: The Orca option is \$70 per month. As far as transportation services, this is the biggest access service for students. For low income students, this is their only option.
- XVII. Berkan: 73% of students receive financial aid.
- XVIII. Zach: There are lots of students who still don't use it.
- XIX. Heather: That's where awareness need to come in.

- XX. James: If and when parking lots are built, it's going to depend on whether parking revenue is funding UPASS.
- XXI. Heather: We don't have to do just one of these options, we can use a combination.
- XXII. James: She's right. There are different options. You can raise parking fees to offset costs and make driving to campus less desirable. Parking rates can be used as a TDM (transportation demand management). Currently, the drive alone rate on our campus is 68%. I have a personal goal of reaching that 60% by spring of 2018.
- XXIII. TJ: What is the UPASS cost at other campuses? UWS is \$84, UWB is \$91. So we have the lowest price?
- XXIV. James, Yes. Lightrail extensions will most likely increase those rates moving forward.
- XXV. TJ: What would the price need to be to break even?
- XXVI. James: It would need to increase to \$75 this year, \$85 next year. This proposal tends not to be approved by the board of regents. This isn't a long term fix.
- XXVII. Berkan: Most students are working and it is necessary for them to drive. How do we create awareness that they can park their car somewhere and then use transit so they can have their car?
- XXVIII. Heather: We have to increase awareness.
- XXIX. Berkan: It's hard to get students attention. I don't know how many emails I've sent out, but few reply.
- XXX. Heather and James: We will be working with Alta to implement transportation awareness. We have ~\$50K grant funds to help with this.
- XXXI. James: But I totally agree, its awareness.
- XXXII. Heather: We can't do it by email. You are bombarded with emails throughout the day, I don't want to read all of these emails. It should be more on campus and at orientations.
- XXXIII. TJ: I agree. Orientations would be huge.
- XXXIV. James: We could call it the transportation "benefit" rather than fee and the program could be used across multiple transit areas. Over time, that money could fund other things.
- XXXV. TJ: In conjunction with the health fees, if you can't afford a UPASS to get there [to student health services], if they have a universal UPASS, then they would have access.
- XXXVI. Blake: You said the UPASS would stay an option with the fee. Could this be made as one universal fee, so like add \$10 to the UPASS rate, then put that to the transportation fee? Then that could be used to pay for other things.
- XXXVII. TJ: That would be combining parts of all 3. I think having it mandatory is just what we need to do.
- XXXVIII. Heather: I agree. Ridership will go up automatically that way.
- XXXIX. Zach: Any idea what will be charged for the fee in proposal #3?
- XL. James: It would be a smaller fee. The UPASS wouldn't change and you would still need to opt-in, but they would automatically be paying the fee.
- XLI. Berkan: I'm still confused. Can you clarify the UPASS and fee proposal?
- XLII. James: The fee would be able to be used for other transportation services down the road, but initially it would go towards paying the deficit.
- XLIII. Berkan: Can we increase the UPASS fee to \$55 and make it universal? Then use the fee to pay for other things?
- XLIV. TJ: Making it universal at that price will make a dent in the deficit.
- XLV. James: If you wanted to make it universal, it's possible the fee wouldn't increase for 2 years. And the more ridership we have, the better.
- XLVI. Blake: Let's do it. I want the universal. Should we vote?
- XLVII. James: No, let's think on the proposals and discuss it next time. I would like this monthly, if not twice a month, to make recommendation and work on other transportation things. Do Thursdays at 12:30 – 1:30 work for everyone?
- XLVIII. Zach: The 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month?
- XLIX. James: So the next meeting would be the last week of February, 23rd, same time.

- L. James: Tomorrow, UWT on the Go is hosting a transportation fair. You all should go and express how you feel about transportation services.
- LI. James: At the next meeting, we'll discuss the proposal and we're currently drafting a study with parking. We'll discuss that next time.
- LII. TJ: What about the staff UPASS rate?
- LIII. James: It'll most likely have an increase.
- LIV. James: Well thanks everyone for coming.

(Adjourned 1:26 pm)