



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

June 20, 2002

Candace R. Corvey
Vice President for Finance and Administration and
Chair, Transportation Policy Committee
207 Thompson Hall
Campus

Dear Candace:

On behalf of the University community, I want to thank you and the members of the Transportation Policy Committee for your hard work over the past year. The Committee has dealt with one of the University's most difficult issues in an impressive way that has included the University community. I appreciate that you have taken the community reaction into consideration in the development of the plan outlined in your May 31, 2002 memorandum.

I believe it is important for the Committee to develop more detailed proposals during the FY02-03 academic year for review and approval by President Hart. The University community must continue to struggle with the difficult issues around the continuing parking and transportation problems on campus, including the impact our decisions have on the Town of Durham. The preliminary report of your Committee is an excellent beginning and your proposed action plan provides a practical way of moving forward. I endorse both the plan and timetable as recommended and wish the Committee every success as you continue your important work.

Thank you for your commitment to finding ways to improve our operations.

Sincerely,

Joan R. Leitzel
President

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Members of the Transportation Policy Committee
President's Staff
Dean's Council
Chair of the Faculty Senate
Chairs of the PAT, OS, and EE Councils
Student Senate

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Memorandum To: Joan R. Leitzel

From: Candace R. Corvey

Re: Transportation Committee Report – FY02

Date: May 31, 2002

In March of this year, the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) issued its Preliminary Report for the purpose of inviting community input. Since then, representatives of the TPC have met with the President's Staff, Staff Councils, Faculty Senate, Dean's Council, and Student Senate. We have held two Open Forums and received numerous letters, emails, and petitions. I am writing now on behalf of the TPC to summarize community reaction and to offer a plan for your review and approval. Please consider this memorandum to be an official addendum to the Preliminary Report.

University Community Reaction

In general, the community reaction to the Preliminary Report was positive with respect to the comprehensive identification of weaknesses in the current system, as well as the thorough and integrated nature of the recommendations. There was support for additional services, including a parking facility and greater investment in public transit, but reluctance to have the full cost borne by employees and students. There was extremely negative reaction to the proposed new parking permit pricing model, particularly to the magnitude of the price increases.

While there are plainly differences of opinion on nearly every aspect of the details of the report, I offer below a more specific summary of the primary messages we received. The order of these roughly coincides to the consistency and strength of the message from faculty, staff, and students:

The proposed parking permit prices are too high and would require too dramatic an increase in cost to users. (A vocal minority assert that parking should be free as a condition of employment, and others think that where a specific job has extraordinary parking/transportation requirements the University should cover those costs.) In addition, questions were raised about pricing for second and third shifts and summer session and the possibility of scaling permit prices to salary levels.

The University must move forward to construct a parking facility in a location consistent with the Campus Master Plan.

The tiered aspect of the parking permit price proposal places lower-paid employees at a disadvantage and places employees whose offices are not on the core campus at an advantage.

There is a high degree of skepticism relative to reliable shuttle and bus service, as well as the newer concepts such as emergency rides. There is a willingness to pay somewhat more for a system that works better, but an expectation that the capacity to improve service be demonstrated first.

The current model of lot designations, as well as the perceived proliferation of individual and departmental reserved spaces, needs to be reviewed and rationalized to increase fairness and mobility/accessibility.

There is a high degree of frustration with the frequency of, and associated communication regarding, episodic lot closings due to special events. There is frustration that parking revenues from Whittemore Center and Athletic events do not flow to Transportation Services and hence do not compliment the investment of employees and students in the transportation system.

Parking enforcement practices must be consistent and fair.
Security must be enhanced at night in the remote lots.
Capital construction projects should include planning and funds to mitigate transportation impacts.
Some want more data about parking prices and practices of other organizations, while others regard comparative data from similar institutions as not applicable to UNH.

TPC Response and Plan

The TPC has carefully reviewed and discussed the above issues. We ask for your approval to proceed as detailed below:

By December 1, 2002 the TPC will complete and make public a revised proposal with respect to parking permit pricing and tiering. We will also propose a specific implementation plan that may involve phasing. It is our intent to be responsive to community reaction consistent with the principles of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) that form the basis of our Preliminary Report.

By August 1, 2002 we will complete an initial feasibility study for a parking facility, which will include data from other organizations that have recently constructed similar facilities. Based upon that analysis we will determine if it is appropriate to proceed with a comprehensive feasibility study, including financial analysis, site options analysis and preliminary design. If so, we expect to complete a Request for Proposal (RFP) process for these consulting services during the fall semester.

During FY03, we will implement as many immediate improvements as funding constraints will allow. For example, through a partnership between the institution and Student Government, we hope to increase and improve the reliability of shuttle service; expand the number of parking spaces in C Lot; operate pilot programs for emergency rides, carpooling, and vanpooling; increase the number of staff dedicated to enforcement; improve bicycle infrastructure; and improve traffic mobility at the intersection of College Road and Main Street. Some of these initiatives are subject to approval by the Town.

By December 1, 2002 the TPC will complete and make public a detailed plan for lot designations, criteria and management plan for the allocation of reserved and specialized spaces of all types (service vehicles, meters, ADA...).

By December 1, 2002 the TPC will complete and make public a policy proposal regarding special events parking, including Athletic and Whittemore events.

By October 1, 2002 the Chief of UNH Police will present a plan to the TPC for enhanced security in remote lots.

By August 1, 2002 the Campus Planner and the Director of Facilities Design and Construction will formalize a process to integrate transportation planning into all capital construction projects.

In an early fall issue of the Campus Journal, the TPC will publish this memorandum and your response along with a summary of comparative data from other relevant organizations.

Conclusion

Naturally, the detailed proposals scheduled for completion during the FY02-03 academic year will be subject to review and approval by President Hart, as we all know the devil is in the details. But, the TPC is eager to receive your feedback on the Preliminary Report and the above action plan for the next phase before you retire. We have appreciated your support for our hard work in this complex and controversial area.

cc: Members of the TPC
President's Staff
Dean's Council
Chairs of the Faculty Senate and PAT/OS/EE Councils
Student Senate