

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (ACT)
Annual Report: 2014/15 Academic Year

July 2015

Prepared by: Cheryl Stout (Director, Transportation & Parking), Chair

Executive Summary

The Advisory Committee on Transportation (ACT) of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has completed its work for the 2014/15 academic year. The Committee is charged by the Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration with advising on strategies for convenient, easy-to-use and safe transportation to and around the University, and responding to the ever changing access needs of faculty, staff, students, patients and visitors to the University and UNC Hospitals.

ACT held its first 2014/15 meeting on November 19, 2014 and met throughout the academic year, concluding business on April 15, 2015. At the initial meeting, Cheryl Stout discussed the reorganization of the Department of Public Safety which resulted in the creation of Transportation & Parking. As Director of Transportation & Parking, Cheryl would also assume duties as Chair of ACT. The complete membership roster of ACT is found in the final section of this report. A meeting schedule was established and agreed upon for the rest of the academic year.

At subsequent meetings, the Committee received updates and provided input on a variety of subjects, including: notice and review of a new Transportation & Parking website, changes to the traffic and parking ordinance, the Campus Bicycle Master Plan, a new ACT Charter, scooter parking requirements, the light rail planning project conducted by Triangle Transit, and a financial sustainability study and bus rapid transit study by Chapel Hill Transit.

Summary of Discussions

The Committee discussed a variety of issues throughout the year, which are highlighted in this section. A complete summary of each meeting can be found in the ACT meeting minutes on the Transportation & Parking website (<http://move.unc.edu/policy/act/minutes/>).

Upcoming Update to the 5-Year Plan

The Committee discussed the upcoming update to the current 5-Year Plan, scheduled to begin in 2015. The 5-Year Plan supports the transportation and parking system and is a comprehensive process and will include significant ACT involvement.

ACT Charter

Vice Chancellor Matt Fajack developed a new Advisory Committee Charter with expanded representation for the 5-Year planning process that includes a refined scope of responsibilities and an Executive Sponsor Group responsible for approving and determining policy decisions for the University. Letters will go out to appropriate leadership in represented areas to develop Committee membership.

Student Hardship Parking Process

Cheryl Stout informed the committee that work is ongoing with student government representatives regarding an update to the Hardship Parking application process for students. The Hardship Parking process distributes parking permits to student applicants requesting proximate parking based on qualifying circumstances which require them to maintain proximate access to their vehicle.

New Transportation & Parking Website

Transportation & Parking developed a team of internal staff to develop and launch a new website (<http://move.unc.edu>) in January 2015. The new website is separate from the Department of Public Safety website and includes information on all transportation and parking services and is the online home for ACT information.

Campus Bicycle Master Plan

The University completed its first Campus Bicycle Master Plan (<http://move.unc.edu/bike/bike-plan/>). The bike plan identifies projects and priorities for improving bicycle facilities, amenities, and programs on campus to enhance safety and access for bicyclists. Than Austin collaborated with graduate students in the Department of City and Regional Planning to collect data and submit an application to the League of American Bicyclists to have UNC recognized as a bicycle friendly campus. UNC was awarded the Silver designation as a Bicycle Friendly University.

P2P Working Group

The P2P working group, comprised of representatives from the student body, student affairs, and Transportation & Parking staff, met twice a month during the academic year to discuss ways to improve the P2P service provided to the campus community. Topics addressed by the working group included: fleet replacement options, technology improvements (e.g., onboard cameras, automatic passenger counters, GPS, and a new reservation system), and the evaluation and implementation of route and service modifications that include a new fixed-route summer school service and route improvements for the academic service. The work of the group was reported back to ACT.

Scooter Parking

The North Carolina General Assembly passed a new law requiring motor scooters to be registered with the NCDMV as of July 1, 2015. While UNC required scooters to obtain a parking permit prior to adoption of the new law, the changes to state law have heightened the need for better defined scooter policies and practices on campus to promote safety and security. Transportation & Parking staff identified new locations for scooter parking in existing parking lots and decks that will be marked and signed before the Fall 2015 semester begins. Scooters will not be permitted to park at bike racks, on sidewalks, or at building entrances and are not allowed to operate on sidewalks. More details on scooter parking can be found at <http://move.unc.edu/parking/motorcycle-scooter/>.

Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations

The student-run Renewable Energy Special Project Committee (RESPC) worked with T&P staff through the academic year to identify potential locations for new electric vehicle charging stations. RESPC agreed to fund EV charging stations located at the Craige Deck (1) and on Stadium Drive (1).

Ordinance Changes

ACT reviewed changes to the 2014-15 Traffic and Parking Ordinance. The changes were discussed by ACT and subsequently presented to and approved by the Board of Trustees.

Student Fee Schedule

Student transportation fees are approved through 2016/17. Fee requests for 2017/18 and 2018/19 will be submitted in September 2016. The next 5-Year Plan will help guide and develop funding recommendations for the transit system. The CHT Financial Sustainability Study will provide data to project the 5-year operational and capital needs for the local transit system. Students will be represented by the presidents and treasurers of the student body throughout the 5-year planning process and report and solicit approval for fee increases through the Student Fee Advisory Subcommittee (SFAS). The structure for fee approval is outlined in the minutes of the [2014-15 SFAS Committee minutes](#).

Transit Study Updates

The University is participating in a number of significant regional and local transit studies that will have an impact on the campus. ACT was regularly updated on these three studies:

- *Durham-Orange Light Rail Transit Project (Triangle Transit)*: Triangle Transit is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to study the impacts of a 17-mile light rail transit corridor connecting UNC Hospitals to East Durham. Three of the proposed stations are on University property (UNC Hospitals, Mason Farm, and Friday Center). The University and UNC Health Care are represented on the Project Steering Committee and the Technical Committee and have coordinated with the Triangle Transit team throughout the study. The DEIS is scheduled to be submitted to the FTA in Fall 2015.
- *North-South Corridor Study (Chapel Hill Transit)*: Chapel Hill Transit is conducting the North-South Corridor Study which is analyzing transit improvements along the Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard/US 15-501 South corridor. The evaluation process has concluded that bus rapid transit (BRT) should be studied in more detail as the most appropriate form of mass transit for this corridor. The study is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2015.
- *Long-range Financial Sustainability Study (Chapel Hill Transit)*: Chapel Hill Transit is conducting a financial sustainability study to look at the long-term capital and operating needs of the transit system and recommend options for future financing. Of critical importance is replacement of the aging fleet of buses. The study is scheduled for completion by the end of 2015.

Project Updates

ACT was updated on a number of major construction and transportation improvement projects, including:

- *Craige Deck Expansion:* the expansion of the Craige Deck will add four levels and over 900 new parking spaces. The deck is scheduled to be complete by August 2015 and in use for Fall semester.
- *Skipper Bowles Repaving:* Skipper Bowles Drive will be repaved during Summer 2015. The repaving project includes a complete renovation of the subsurface, utility improvements, new sidewalks and bus stops, the addition of shared bicycle lane markings, and over 30 new handicap-accessible ramps at the intersections of sidewalks and driveways and roads. The University has been planning the project in conjunction with the Town of Chapel Hill, the NCDOT, Chapel Hill Transit, and University neighbors since Fall 2014.
- *Dogwood Deck Lighting:* New lighting and a complete electrical upgrade for the Dogwood Deck will begin in 2015 and end in Spring 2016. The contractors are working in phases to minimize disruptions to visitor parking for the hospitals.

ACT Membership Roster (2014/15)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION (ACT) 2014-2015		
REPRESENTING	NAME / TITLE	TERM
Chair	Cheryl Stout Director, Transportation and Parking	
Vice-Chair	Dr. Christopher Payne Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs	
Academic Affairs	Tom Thornburg Sr. Associate Dean School of Government	
Athletics	Richie Grimsley Adm. Asst. for Facilities Management	
Chapel Hill Transit	Brian Litchfield Director, Chapel Hill Transit	
Employee Forum	Jackie Overton Chair Emeritus, Employee Forum	
Faculty Council	Prof. Peter Gilligan Pathology and Laboratory Medicine	
GPSF	Jesse Cohn Graduate Student	Expires May 2015
Health Affairs	Rob Kark University Program Manager	
Student Government	Sam Prantikoff Undergraduate Student	Expires May 2015
Transportation and Parking	Than Austin Associate Director, Transportation and Parking	
Triangle Transit	John Tallmadge Director of Regional Services Development	
UNC Hospitals	Mel Hurston Sr. Vice President, Professional Services Jeff Watson Photo ID, Parking & Transportation Manager Lisa Terry Director, Hospital Police Department	

Updated 2/25/15