Parking Issues Sent to Staff Council

Received on January 9th:

The UTSA Today story about the new roundabout that will create a park and eliminate another surface parking lot is very disturbing and should be addressed by staff council. Fewer A and B parking spots necessitate consideration of expensive parking in the garages on salaries that have not seen a measureable increase in several years.

Received on January 11th:

In the UTSA Today article on the Roundabout, it states "there will be 1,800 garage parking spaces in the area when the Bauerle Road Garage opens in August," but construction will already begin in March. Will there be enough spaces to accommodate those displaced from Lot 3 between March and August?
I am excited to have more green space on campus; however, it seems that if there will not be enough spaces during this timeframe, the new construction could wait until the garage construction is completed.
I also have an overhanging concern that once all of the parking construction is completed, the only permit option available will cost well beyond what is feasible for many to pay.

Received on January 11th:

Re: the elimination of surface parking and the transition to parking garages. I can appreciate both the aesthetic and the environmental advantages of the overall parking strategy, but someone needs to consider the economic realities as well: not everyone can afford to pay $60+ per month to park in a garage. The best solution would be to reduce the parking rates in at least some of the garages to something close to current Fac/Staff A or B rates. An alternative would be to build more remote surface lots with shuttle service, but that negates the environmental advantages of the plan.

Received on January 12th:

Would greatly appreciate feedback from the Staff Council regarding the lack of prior communication and staff consideration when parking lot changes are made and implemented on campus. Today we received an email about the imminent closure of Lot 3 adjacent to the Business Building. This email was the 1st we in our office heard about that happening. 3 people including myself have handicap placards. One person was getting to work before 7 am to get to use one of the spaces in front of the business building; those were taken away without
any prior notice. New design includes handicapped spaces to be added by the North Paseo Building which make for a longer walk for those with challenges. What will the University do to improve accommodation to handicapped employees? Providing a golf cart ride from the other side of campus in my opinion is not accommodation. My 1st thought is shouldn't the University attempt to assess how many employees need better handicapped parking? Perhaps an anonymous survey would have been in order, before making permanent changes. Also no information has been given to us about parking rates for the new garage being built off John Peace. Will permit pricing be the same as for those garages already available? Communication is certainly lacking in all of this.

Received on January 13th:

I have been told to issue my complaint concerning parking for staff with my Staff Council representative and I thought I would also copy the Chair and Vice Chair. I appreciate your time in advance. I just wanted to say that UTSA should work harder to provide reasonable parking accommodations for staff. I currently pay for an A parking pass and work in the NPB. Once the lot closes in March for the Roundabout construction, I will have to enter campus using the UTSA Blvd access, which can add up to 20 minutes for commute time, not to mention the additional time to walk from the south end of campus to the north end. If I had a personal emergency to attend to, it would take me close to 25 minutes just to get off campus. Parking in a garage is not an option for me as I cannot afford to pay near $400 to be able to park to attend work. In addition, even if a garage was an option, parking tells me there is a waiting list for the North Garage, which has lots of unused spaces on a daily basis. My suggestion would be designated staff commuter lot with shuttles that run every 15 minutes for staff to use or allow staff have discounted parking in a garage. Many of us make less than $30k a year, and for us, parking takes a bite out of our budget.

Received on January 19th:

I am requesting the council take to University administration the following concerns, comments and recommendations regarding the elimination of surface parking and the forced use of garage parking:

- Request that Lot 3 not be closed until the new garage is completed and open; there already exists a competition and scramble for open parking spaces, cars literally try to outrun each other in Lot 3.
- Request that the fee for garage parking be reduced to better fit the salary levels of the average University personnel.
• Request that garage parking passes permit parking in any of the campus garages to accommodate personnel who move among buildings to conduct their work.
• Request that the University administration make stronger efforts to show support and concern for personnel and afford ease in getting to our jobs.

Received on January 19th:

RE: parking. I have been parking in the same spot in lot 3 for the last 11+ years. My parking spot has gone from a designation of B to A to 24 hour reserved. I have reluctantly paid the increase each time for the convenience to my office. The latest info now is that the whole parking lot will be demolished for green space and I should consider either garage or south campus parking. The walk from the UTSA Blvd side of campus to my office is a little much for this old lady (63) to do twice a day in whatever weather we tend to have in San Antonio. If I want to go off campus for lunch I would not have time to eat because of the time it takes to make the hike in each direction. So the North campus garage makes sense, but the cost is a little constraining on my paycheck. And now we hear that garage parking cost will be increased again next fiscal year. Do we really have a choice? If everyone is encouraged to use the garages, how about a break on the cost of garage parking?

Received on January 20th:

Hi Joleen,

Since you are on the parking committee, I would like to express my deep concern with the upcoming closure of lot 3 and the associate loss of what I believe is 14 ADA spaces. Although I know the University is in “technical compliance” with the law, there is a deep rooted issue that continues to be a problem on this campus with accessibility and parking for individuals with disabilities (students, staff, visitors, etc.). I hope the parking committee will make a concerted effort to relook at the situation involving ADA parking and help solve what I believe is going to be an issue that will deny the inclusion of individuals with disabilities on this campus. Thank you for taking the time to hear this concern. Have a great weekend!