

SAMOHI PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION TASK FORCE
Meeting – April 21, 2004

MINUTES

Attending: Andrew Agle, Barbara Filet, Randi Hutchinson, Kathryn Morea, Greg Runyon,
Christian Boyce

The first topic for this meeting: Find immediate (&/or short-term) solutions to the parking shortage for students.

We agreed that "immediate" solutions would be those which can be implemented by fall 2004 (since only 6 weeks remain of school this year).

Immediate solutions for parking shortage:

1. Restriping the existing on-campus parking lots to accommodate more cars
2. Replacing the lottery used for assigning parking spaces with needs based assessment
3. Assigning and enforcing use of on-campus spaces
4. West side of 7th St as a parking option for teachers

1. Restriping: We discussed restriping the lots to fit more cars, especially the large flat north-east lot, and the lots next to tennis courts. Paving the median and relocating the 10 trash bins from the north-east lot to the alley could free up more parking space. All lots could be restriped. Current measurements show spaces are averaging 9 feet wide, yet spaces of 8.5, 8, & 7.5 (compact) feet are standard sized and will allow more cars to fit. Barbara suggested having a parking consultant take a look at these parking lots & make suggestions for how to make them more efficient. Christian offered to approach UCLA to see if students might be interested in doing a parking evaluation. Greg will follow up with city on getting a parking site evaluation.

Greg offered to make the main parking lot available for city functions on weekends and summer vacations in exchange for city help with restriping and other transportation issues. The amphitheatre could also be used by the city.

2. Replacing lottery: Problems with lottery not matching available spaces with those students of greatest need. Providing on-campus spots to students based on a set criteria does not increase the amount of spaces, but does better accommodate students with special circumstances. No detail specifics decided as to what criteria would be, but agreed that spaces should be assigned based on need.

3. Assigning & Enforcement of on-campus spaces: Briefly discussed on-campus parking spots. Greg said these are numbered and assigned to specific individuals. Currently, visiting cars entering after lunch may park in north-east lot. Highest demand for parking is in morning.

4. 7th Street

Randi suggested that west side of 7th Street could be used for parking. Currently west side of 7th has a drop-off zone and 2 hour parking during school hours. Greg explained that previously west side of 7th was entirely red (no stopping anytime). However, during recent construction, teachers were allowed to park there, and given special permits. Security and safety issues prevent allowing students to park on 7th, however Greg suggested that if teachers were given special permits for street parking on west side of 7th, then 10-20 spots could be freed on campus for student use.

Other issues

Blue Bus:

We discussed use of Blue Bus. Andy shared copies of City Information Item dated 4/5/2002, detailing bus schedules & other bus information pertaining to SAMO. Greg mentioned buses passing instead of stopping for students after bell rings. Randi raised concerns over bus passes not being for sale at school.

Greg offered to check on this. Greg also discussed a previous blue bus event which educated students & got them involved in riding the bus. He offered to look into getting a similar event scheduled in future.

Transportation Survey

It's unclear how students currently get to school. Estimates based on free parking streets in neighborhood and parking counts suggest about 150-200 students drive. Randi suggested that surveying students at time of registration could be used to evaluate methods of travel in conjunction with student's place of residence. Randi will work with PTSA to get transportation questions into the registration packet. Kathryn will send Greg Runyon the questionnaire from the Safe Routes to School handbook. Andy will send Greg Runyon the AQMD transportation questionnaire businesses are required to fill out annually.

Civic Center Parking Lot

Andrew Agle brought huge maps and overhead photographs of the SAMO campus & surrounding area. He explained some of the history & future plans with civic center parking. Briefly discussed using limited number of spots on civic center lot for students at discounted rate. Must be offset by protection for neighborhoods currently providing "free parking". Concerned that actions taken might increase demand or bring additional cars into area. Possible solution: 4 hour meters. Coastal Commission was consulted, and is not adverse to metered parking. Civic center parking location is desirable for students if charged a reasonable rate. Concern over financially disadvantaged students could be addressed by the needs based assessment replacing lottery for on-campus parking. Task force will discuss more in-depth at next meeting

Task List

For the next meeting, Christian will check if UCLA students may be able to help with restriping; Greg will check with City (Transportation Mgmt) regarding restriping. Randi will work with PTSA to integrate a traffic survey into the fall registration packet. Kathryn & Andy will fax Greg samples of traffic surveys. Greg will check with Blue Bus about potential bus education event for SAMO. Greg will check student store to find out if bus passes are kept in stock, he will also confirm if blue buses are on schedule at end of school day. Jeanne will speak to Will Carey about creating a Task Force listserv

NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28
6:30 - 7:30

TOPIC: Explore Civic Center parking at discounted student rate while simultaneously protecting nearby residential streets.
Drop-offs & pick-ups (ingress / egress) and how to mitigate neighborhood hardships.