Institutional Response to Rising Transportation Costs

The initial meeting was held on July 10, 2008. A second meeting held on July 17, 2008. Team members contributed the following ideas online and at in-person meetings.

Those present at the initial meeting were:
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Notes:
Provost Khawaja proposed a two week turn around time for this committee to compose a list of ways in which the university can respond to the rising cost of fuel.

Results of our “brainstorming” follow. The results were arbitrarily categorized using the following categories:

- Transportation
- Class Scheduling
- Work Schedules
- Facilities Related
- Distance Learning
- Other
Transportation

• More 8-5 students: More students will share transportation as more student have the same (8-5) schedules on campus (see scheduling below). The more students are here for full days the easier it may be for them to share rides.
• Emergency rides: Create a program for individuals to go back home when an emergency arises and they are without their personal car.
• Ride Share: Use the MyYSU Portal to link to YSU and regional Rideshare programs to promote employee and/or student ride sharing.

Note: The University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) has instituted a carshare program. "Once on campus, ... may need to get somewhere off campus during the workday, say to a doctor's appointment. A carshare program is being established to meet this occasional need. By using a special site on the Internet, one of three Toyota Prius hybrids can be reserved "from one minute to one year in advance," depending on availability... One of the biggest obstacles to people leaving their cars at homes is their fear of needing to get off campus during the day for an errand and being ale to do so, ... Carshare solves this." --Copyright 2004 Board of Regents of the University of California / News for the Faculty and Staff of UCSB
• Vanpool: Explore YSU and Youngstown sponsored vanpool programs.
• Park & Ride: Work with YSU sponsored and WRTA bus transportation to designate local parking lots with express bus transportation to YSU and downtown Youngstown.
  o Insurance: Hold sessions on liability insurance for individuals who ride others in their personal cars.
• Cycling: Work with local governments to increase and maintain a regional network of bicycle lanes. Modify campus bicycle rules to allow bikes on campus.
  o Cycle Parking: Increase the number and quality of sheltered parking spots for bicycles and motorized cycles.
• Trips to Columbus: Work with State agencies to reduce and streamline the number of required trips to and from Columbus. Make it possible for more people to go and return together. Use virtual meeting technologies.
• University vehicles replaced with all electric fuel cells.
• Create employee, faculty and student demographic maps that show individuals near you who could be contacted for rideshare opportunities. Make participation optional (opt-in) and make access to the maps password protected via the YSU common log-in procedure.
Class Scheduling

- Create schedules whereby most students could have fewer but more intense days on campus. Focus on M, T, W & Th for the majority of classes. Use Friday for daylong sessions (intense labs, classes that meet once a week for three hrs, etc). Some weekend programs may be required to accommodate students' work schedules (example: our current Master of Public Health Program).

- Different class scheduling. Look at all models for "intensive classes" including more hours per day, all day classes, weekend intensive, evening intensive and all other models that minimize travel to campus.

- Hybrid Classes - look at models that reduce the number of class hours that require meeting in person. Incorporate service learning models but be careful that the service component does not require significant travel.

- Web supported physical classes: Consider the use of desktop video and audio conferencing (like Webinars) to accompany physical classes, so that students could participate in physical classes from home or other remote locations such as satellite locations. Participation from home would require participants to have a high speed data connection at home.
**Work Schedules**

- **Four day work week:** Move as many staff as possible to a four day/40 hour work week. May not be able to standardize the four days and not all staff may be able to participate due to the nature of their jobs.
- **Flexible work week:** Make as many work hours as possible flexible so that employees can adjust work hours to ride-share opportunity times (OR)
- **Rigid work week:** Standardize all University hours of operation so that all employees came and went at the same time thus making alternative transportation times more predictable.
- **Minimize off hour events.** Have as many programs as possible directly connected in time to the work day. Discourage employees and students from going home only to return for a program.
- **Telecommuting:** Where possible, permit employees to work from home for a part of the work week. Recognize that only those employees who can do their work from home can participate.
- **Minimize physical meetings.** Consider using our current video conferencing classrooms for meetings/interviews, etc. Also consider the use of synchronous communication technologies that allow for audio and slide communication to facilitate meetings (also called webinars or virtual meetings) at the participant's desktop computer, so travel to the University or special facilities is not required. This requires a high speed data connection.
Facilities Related

- Close facilities for some scheduled time during breaks (perhaps Winter and Spring Break).
- More inexpensive local housing.
- Better less expensive parking for motorbikes.
- Moderate building temperatures
- Turn off lights-more zone lighting
- Reduce ambient electronic power usage.
- Plug in spots for electric vehicles.
- University vehicles replaced with all electric fuel cells.
- Some buildings closed on some days
- Thermal window coverings. UV filtering.
- Better lights-LED?
Distance Learning

- Online and Distance Learning
- More on-line course – GER courses, minors and degree programs are needed.
- Utilize online learning for faculty training (example Banner training) as much as possible. Providing options to train online for those who can do so will reduce travel and may save participants (especially part-time faculty) some time.
- Consider the use of synchronous communication technologies that allow for audio and slide communication to facilitate meetings (also called webinars or virtual meetings) at the participant's desktop computer, so travel to the University or special facilities is not required. This requires a high speed data connection.
Other

• Minimize off hour events that require a trip back to campus after end-of-day departure.
• Reduce mailing costs. Suggest sending notifications via YSU student email.
• Synch traffic lights
• More flashing lights/yields.