



THE OCTOBER COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING WAS CANCELED.

Our next meeting will be the annual meeting on Thursday, Jan 28 at 4:30 p.m. in the Development Office, 2nd floor conference room, 540 Arapeen Drive in Research Park.

Postcard reminders with agenda items will be mailed out in advance of the meeting. If there are any agenda items you would like included, please contact Kate Ferebee at kate@ucomm.utah.edu.

ITEMS DISCUSSED AND QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE AUGUST COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING

TRAFFIC UPDATE – NORM CHAMBERS, COMMUTER SERVICES

Commuter Services is again focusing on its “Go Green/Save Green” campaign for the start of the school year. Last year, the price of gas encouraged more ridership on public transportation, and it was up by 36%. The University does not expect to get to that number again this fall, but we do expect to exceed 33% due to some improvements made by UTA, including adding direct TRAX service to and from Sandy every ½ hour, adding a new bus route from SL Central to University Hospital from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., and increasing the FrontRunner from Ogden.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS – JOHN MCNARY, CAMPUS DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

John McNary presented the new Web site designed to help the campus community and visitors navigate during construction, <http://constructionimpacts.utah.edu>.

A lot of the campus construction projects affecting traffic were completed by the first day of school this fall. A major project that will likely impact traffic for the next two months is the closure of the “Business Loop” next to the Utah Museum of Fine Arts and David Eccles School of Business. Crews have run into some delays with drilling for the sanitary sewer line to the USTAR site, namely there are car-sized boulders through which holes must be bored. The University has arranged for the special equipment needed, and the process is expected to be completed within a month. While the Business Loop is closed, UTA will use the South Campus Drive stops on the 1700 East entrance to the Business Loop.

The new Athletic track is currently being constructed and is projected for substantial completion before the end of the calendar year. Some parking in the area has been relocated to other areas on campus. These areas include two temporary parking lots that have opened next to the USTAR site. Construction crews are contracted to use parking within the construction site fencing where they may be working or at the location of the old tennis courts. They are not to use student, staff, or faculty parking lots at any time.

The construction site fencing for the USTAR project is set until construction is completed. It will not change. Access to one of the temporary parking lots is at Wasatch Drive, and another access road will be completed by mid-October. Eventually, a road will lead from Mario Capecchi Drive to Central Campus Drive. This is expected to be completed by late 2009 or early 2010.

Some construction projects that are coming up are not expected to have a lot of major impact to traffic. These are the College of Nursing remodel and Huntsman Cancer Institute expansion. The roads to the hospital will always be kept open during these projects.



How many parking spots have been lost and how many have been gained?

During the past four months approximately 1,100 parking spaces were lost due to building and infrastructure construction projects. More than 75% of the spaces were replaced prior to the start of fall semester. The remaining spaces that haven’t been replaced, approximately 278, will be replaced during the next year as infrastructure projects wrap up and the expansion of the East Merrill Engineering lot is completed. There are still vacant parking spaces on campus during peak demand periods, mostly located in the Guardsman Way parking lot.



For past newsletters from Community Forum meetings, go to <http://unews.utah.edu/?action=neighbors>.

For more information or to be added to or deleted from our mailing list, call 801-585-9244.



How will the parking slots that have been lost be replaced in the future?

Through parking structures, lots, and other items on the Campus Master Plan. Of course, the parking needs of the University will be largely influenced by the success of mass transit. We are still assessing that, and want to encourage the campus community to use mass transit whenever possible.



What is the property east of the Huntsman Cancer Institute (HCI) development?

This is Heritage Preserve and US Forest Service property. Of course, the HCI expansion will not encroach on these areas and does not currently sit on these areas, despite how it may show on some campus maps.



How are the lane closures on 100 South by the reservoir project going to work?

Salt Lake City does not plan to completely close lanes during the reservoir construction on 100 South. One-lane traffic in each direction will continue to flow, although people should expect traffic delays until the project is completed. Trucks have started hauling dirt to fill the large hole at the reservoir. Filling the hole should not take long. Once it is filled the remaining work will be landscaping and clean-up that should not impede traffic flow. Incidentally, the soil that will be used to fill the hole is coming from the University's USTAR (north campus) construction site, which benefits both the city and the university.



How do Salt Lake City and the University determine haul routes?

State law requires that trucks only haul on state highways unless there is no other route available. In that case, the haul route must be approved. The University of Utah uses 500 South and Foothill for hauling. Salt Lake City has chosen to use 100 South as its haul route. If neighbors are aware of violations of this law, they are encouraged to record the name of the company (usually marked on the trucks) and license plates of the vehicle, and contact either Salt Lake City or the University of Utah. Usually drivers of the vehicles do not carry the permits.

UNIVERSITY NEUROPSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE (UNI) EXPANSION – ROSS VAN VRANKEN

The UNI expansion will add approximately 68 in-patient, higher functioning patient beds. There is a great need for this expansion, as they currently must turn people away due to lack of accommodations. The expansion will be a four-story structure that will “fit” into the hillside. The front of the building will look to be three stories because of the slope. The existing Sycamore stand and historic stone wall on the site will remain. It will be two stories higher than the existing building.

Patients at UNI stay an average of nine days. The addition will enable another two admissions per day each year. It is designed to make as little visible impact on the landscape as possible. On any given night, there is a waitlist of about 40 people who need help. Most end up either going to the emergency room or to jail, simply because there is nowhere else for them to go. This expansion would help ease the burden on these people, the public, and the area emergency rooms and public safety facilities.



Are neighbors just now hearing about the UNI expansion?

No, The University presented this project in previous Community Forum meetings.

SIDEWALKS IN RESEARCH PARK

At the two most recent Community Forum meetings, attendees expressed concerns about the lack of sidewalks in Research Park. Campus Design and Construction has hired an architect to develop a master plan to increase the number and improve the quality of sidewalks in the area. A sidewalk from the bus stop at Wakara to the foothills will be completed this calendar year.



Who will maintain the sidewalks?

The individual property owners in Research Park maintain their own sidewalks. The University will continue to work with the city and property owners on issues, such as pedestrian right-of-ways, to ensure continued access.

UNIVERSE PROJECT

The Universe Project is a multi-use development for the area next to the stadium TRAX stop in the western part of the Rice-Eccles parking lot. The University and Inland American, the selected developer, have determined that this project will be delayed until such time that economic conditions change to allow for a successful project. The U will keep the public informed of any changes in this process through Community Forum meetings and Web site updates. If anyone has any questions about the Universe Project, they are encouraged to call Deborah Alto at (801) 585-7154 to get an update. As always, the University welcomes public input and has taken the feedback from many public sessions and Community Forum meetings into consideration when making these decisions.



How is the neighborhood west of University Street going to be integrated with the Universe Project?

That is private property under the municipal jurisdiction of Salt Lake City. The U. will continue to meet with the joint task force composed of invited university, SLC and community participants.

NEW STUDENT HOUSING – JERRY BASFORD

The University has purchased two apartment buildings that were formerly dorms for LDS Business College. They are currently full except for five beds. The new apartments present a great opportunity to offer housing for international students. They house 60 beds for undergraduate sophomores, juniors, and seniors at the 400 East location, and 28 beds for graduate students at the 1st Avenue location. Both buildings have their own parking.

As for on-campus housing, there are few married students in the Heritage Commons at Fort Douglas. When married students leave, the University replaces them with single students. Heritage Commons is full to capacity and the new downtown apartments will provide overflow housing until the University builds the Legacy Honors housing where the annex buildings currently stand. It is expected that married student housing will be redone long-term, but it will be very expensive to renovate the East and West Villages. The University keeps the option of removing East Village open, but it is only an option at this stage. The Legacy Honors housing is expected to house 310 beds and will be similar to the Benchmark housing area.



Is the Kennecott Building going to be torn down?

The University currently has no plans to demolish the Kennecott Building. In fact, the 2009 legislative session approved a much-needed remodel to this facility. The building is used by the College of Engineering for faculty offices and program spaces. It was remodeled as recently as 2001, and will receive additional upgrades that will include interior carpet and ceiling tile replacement, bathroom remodeling, ADA upgrades, fire life safety upgrades and stair code compliance.



Can the Campus Master Plan be amended?

Yes; the Campus Master Plan is considered a fluid document and, as such, changes with the needs of the university community. It is important to consider that any changes to the document require an approval process, ultimately ending in a decision by the University's Board of Trustees.

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH WOULD LIKE TO INVITE NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US ON

★ **VETERANS DAY** ★

On November 11, 2009, we will honor the profound contributions of our Veterans in our 12th annual full-dress military ceremony and cannon salute at 11 a.m. in the Union Ballroom.

Many of our past honorees and their families join us for this tribute. You may also be interested in a panel discussion that morning at 9:45 a.m. in the Union Theatre:

“After the Battlefield: Advances in medical and psychological treatments of veterans today and tomorrow.”

Please join us as we salute our nation's heroes.

For more information about the U's Veterans Day events, go to: <http://www.veteransday.utah.edu>