

University of Washington
Faculty Council on University Facilities and Services

April 14th, 2016
10:00am - 11:30am
Gerberding 26

Meeting Synopsis:

1. Call to Order
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Andy Casillas – Sound Transit update
 4. Good of the Order
 5. Adjourn
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1) Call to Order

Rorabaugh called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He explained he is serving as proxy chair in Christie's absence. Quorum was not reached at the outset of the meeting. The members present chose to continue the meeting without formal business.

2) Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

3) Andy Casillas – Sound Transit update

Andy Casillas (Project Manager, Capital Projects Office) was present to give a construction progress update on the workings of Sound Transit relating to the new UW Seattle Light Rail Station (located at 3720 Montlake Blvd NE).

There was some preliminary discussion of "kiss and ride" transit behavior at the new Light Rail Station (opened March 19, 2016). Kiss and ride refers to the dropping off and picking up passengers at a car park, railway station, airport, etc. A few popular areas used as drop off points for riders were noted, including an area under a pedestrian bridge in close proximity to the station. It was noted that a few cut-outs in the street used in the past for taxi drop-offs may serve well as official drop-off points. It was noted that heavy traffic in the area during morning and evening rush hour complicates kiss and ride, and cars stopping off the road to make drop-offs further burden traffic. Casillas clarified that the area southeast of the Montlake Triangle (near the pedestrian bridge) is owned and managed by Sound Transit and not by the University of Washington. It was noted the kiss and ride situation needs to be watched as it evolves. It was noted there seems to be less car traffic around the region since the launch of the new Light Rail Station.

Casillas explained 4-car light rail trains are the largest that can be accommodated. Due to heavy initial ridership, many trains are being upgraded to the 4-car max passenger configuration.

Tunnel alignment under UW Seattle campus

Casillas explained that all the underground tunneling from Northgate to Brooklyn street is finished in preparation for new train lines and stations. He explained the boring machines are being prepared for the area from Brooklyn Street to the newly opened UW Station, and the tunnel should be finished in August, 2016. The complete Northgate Link will be finished in 2021. He explained the process for the boring of the tunnels and construction of stations is extremely linear, which results in the project's schedule elongation.

Casillas noted that a boring machine imported from Singapore will be retired as it did not perform as well as was hoped. The problem is due largely to the refurbished machine having been designed for another type of soil, which was accounted for during refurbishing, but ultimately the machine is not performing well enough for continued use.

Vibration

Casillas explained that there are six vibration monitors (one temporary) on or around the UW campus to test and protect against high intensity vibrations generated in the region. Casillas explained to date, there have been no tunneling vibration issues with research conducted on the UW Seattle campus. He noted there are varying types of vibration which have to be accounted for, and in the three weeks of train operations, there have been several suspected non-transit related vibration exceedances. Montlake Bridge resonance is the suspected culprit, where vibration is generated by traffic moving across the bridge. Casillas explained this bridge is managed by Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). Overall, vibration is healthy in the region.

Casillas noted there is an online resource to see vibration data which is publically available through the UW website. He explained he would provide this website URL to the council outside of the meeting.

Neighborhood parking and ridership data

Balick noted that no change has occurred in neighborhood parking in close proximity to the new Light Rail Station at UW (near East Shelby Street). Maitland noted he would like to review some ridership numbers for various bus routes around the UW Seattle campus. *Seattletransitblog.org* was mentioned as a potential hub for this data.

Bike parking near UW Station

Casillas explained the UW Station was designed 5 years in the past and the amount of bikers at the UW and in the region has risen considerably since that time, resulting in insufficient bike parking in the area. It was noted more time is needed to gather data and review it in order to make improvements to bike

parking in the area. There is an added complexity as bicyclist numbers are expected to rise to an unknown degree in the future.

Council members thanked Casillas for his update on the workings of Sound Transit.

4) Good of the Order

Kennedy noted the first UW Husky home football game is scheduled for Saturday September 3rd, 2016. He noted this event will rigorously test the new transit systems in place around the university, especially as kick-off is scheduled for 6 p.m. (rush hour).

Kennedy explained Josh Kavanagh (Director, UW Transportation Services) has resigned and is no longer working with the UW. He explained James Angelosante is currently the Interim Director of Transportation Services until a permanent replacement is hired.

Kennedy mentioned that stabilization of the Faculty and Staff U-Pass program is a main goal of the university to be completed before the end of this fiscal year. He noted the program has been unstable for a number of years, but the recent tax levied on the UW Transportation Demand Management (TDM) fee has expended the program's reserves, as it is subsidized by parking fees. He noted UW Board of Regents (BoR) have mandated that there be a 0% increase in fees for the Faculty and Staff U-Pass for the next academic year. Rorabaugh mentioned that the U-Pass used to be a universal faculty and staff service in the past, but it was found the cost of providing service for that amount of transit users was more expensive than implementing an opt-in system (the current system for Faculty and Staff U-Pass). Discussion subsided.

5) Adjourn

Rorabaugh adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes by Joey Burgess, jmbg@uw.edu, council support analyst

Present: **Faculty:** Bruce Balick, Murray Maitland, Ann Mescher, Bill Rorabaugh
Ex-officio reps: N/A
President's designee: Charles Kennedy
Guests: Andy Casillas

Absent: **Faculty:** Rich Christie (chair), Laura Little, Giovanni Migliaccio, Christopher Ozubko, Gundula Proksch
Ex-officio reps: Chris Byrne, John Carroll, Steve Goldblatt