



MEMORANDUM

TO: Bruce Walden
William Gray
FROM: Patrick Pioletti
DATE: October 18, 2001
RE: West Urbana Commuter Parking

Issue

In July, the Urbana City Council reviewed a proposed plan to address resident concerns with commuter parking in West Urbana. The direction at the time was to hold a public meeting to gain resident input, make desired alterations to that plan, and then implement it in January to coincide with the semester break.

Background

The proposed plan was to limit daytime parking to resident only via extension of the existing parking restriction. Currently, resident only permits are required to park a car on the street between the hours of 3:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The proposed plan would extend this restriction until 3:30 PM, making it inconvenient for commuters to use the neighborhood streets for parking during the day.

The public meeting was held in the Urbana Civic Center on Wednesday October 3rd at 7:00 PM. Several staff members, one elected official, and 24 residents were in attendance. Most of the residents were concerned with neighborhood parking issues other than those represented by commuters. There was some discussion of the proposed plan, however most of the discussion centered on other parking complaints. Comments ranged from a suggestion that fines are too low, to outrage at the high cost of permits, to the suggestion that non-homeowners be restricted in their ability to use the streets, expand the daytime restriction across the entire area, and several others. There was a consensus of sorts that parking problems exist, that the University is largely responsible, but no agreement on how best to proceed.

Alternatives

1. Implement the plan as proposed this January and evaluate its effectiveness.
2. Continue to study alternatives, including those employed by other communities, and attempt to provide a plan that addresses more of the resident concerns. Such action will result in the status quo for the next several months because of lead time required for delivery of signage (3-4 weeks) and permits, installation in the field, notification of residents prior to the semester break, and the upcoming holidays.