

Campus Plan Meeting Notes  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2010**  
Mary Graydon Center – Rooms 3 & 4

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Transportation Study Results
3. Other Business

The Power Point presentation on Transportation Study Results was distributed to meeting attendees and posted on the AU Campus Plan Web site at [www.american.edu/finance/fas/campus-plan.cfm](http://www.american.edu/finance/fas/campus-plan.cfm)

A review of the Transportation Study Results was presented by Robert B. Schiesel, Project Manager for Gorove/Slade Associates, Inc., Transportation Planners and Engineers, that are consultants to American University on its new campus plan. Contact information for Mr. Schiesel -- Phone: (202)-296-8625); Email: [robert.schiesel@goroveslatde.com](mailto:robert.schiesel@goroveslatde.com). The firm's Web site is [www.goroveslade.com](http://www.goroveslade.com)

Mr. Schiesel said the data for this transportation study was conducted in October/November 2008. The presentation included:

- Background on the Process
- Trends including data collected for the Prior Campus Plan (2000) and data collected in 2008, and projected conditions for 2020
- Analysis results
- Summary of Impact
- Ward Circle thoughts – “Big Ideas” – Long-term and Short-term

Mr. Schiesel explained the methodologies that engineers use to measure traffic and the number of cycles that it takes for cars to go through intersections, as well as measuring aspects of the roadway and turning movements. The goal of the study is to determine the impact of when the addition of traffic generated by the proposal pushes traffic levels beyond acceptable thresholds during peak times on typical weekdays.

Peak periods cover three to four hours. Mr. Schiesel said the data collection tubes were placed between Ward Circle and New Mexico Avenue and a few other locations, and said he could provide a list of specific locations.

Asked about measurements of traffic coming up Massachusetts Avenue from Wisconsin Avenue toward Ward Circle, he said that based on discussions with District officials that it was not included.

Level of Service is a Metric used to measure traffic.

Traffic Trends since 2000 showed the following:

- The overall amount of traffic is relatively the same, with an increase on some streets like Nebraska Avenue and a decrease on others including Massachusetts Avenue.

--There appears to be more variability in traffic – compared to 200 when they were more consistent day-to-day.

--Commuter traffic is increasing its percentage over local traffic.

--AU generated parking and traffic is trending down because of sustained growth in the use of public transit, and its shuttle buses that run between the campus and the Tenleytown Metro station and now carry 1.8 million riders annually.

He said that changes in traffic generated by AU's new Campus Plan are slight. The impact of the plan – that includes building residence halls on the current 8 acre Nebraska parking lot – is concentrated at several crosswalks. Mitigation measures already incorporated into the new Campus Plan would eliminate the driveway on Nebraska Avenue from this parking lot; altering signal timings at key crossways to help separate pedestrians and vehicles, and channeling pedestrians to signalized crosswalks.

A number of ideas were presented for discussion on possible short-term and long-term options to help manage the traffic flow around Ward Circle with the need for pedestrians to cross the circle. AU officials said the university is willing to take the initiative to host a meeting about the bigger, long-term issues involving Ward Circle that would involve neighbors, the National Park Service, the Department of Homeland Security and city transportation officials.

Campus Plan Task Force members raised concerns about whether measurements in peak hour where cars are gridlocked and not moving through intersections could mean that traffic is actually worse; how traffic might be impacted by new master plan at the Department of Homeland Security.

Asked about updating the data base, Mr. Schiesel said they need to recount Ward Circle and possibly several other locations. .

Final copies of the Transportation Study results will be submitted to the DC Department of Transportation as part of the Campus Plan process.

AU officials also said they are open to assisting with improvements in traffic.

#### Review of Proposed New Housing Numbers

Jorge Abud reviewed the need to replace existing beds as part of the new Campus Plan

Existing beds that would need to be replaced as part of the new Campus Plan include:

Reducing Triples	300 beds
Discontinuing AU rentals in the Berkshire	200 beds
Discontinuing housing on the Tenley Campus	497 beds
Discontinuing housing at Roper/Clark	116 beds
Total replacement beds needed	1,113 beds

David Taylor discussed plans for the next meeting on Tuesday, August 24 at 7 p.m.

Suggested topics are: (1) to take a look at the issues responses and areas of concerns and areas of agreement, and (2) to introduce a facilitator for upcoming meetings.

Asked about the university's timeline for filing its Campus Plan, David Taylor said we are still looking at some time in late autumn.

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT