Construction Update

ADA Compliance Changes

As the campus continues to adjust and navigate through the utility corridor and roadway relocation construction work, individuals with disabilities especially UMass Boston faculty, staff, and students have been presented with new challenges. During the fall semester the ADA Compliance Officer, Department of Parking and Transportation, and Public Safety have been collaborating with a cohort of faculty, staff, and students with disabilities to address these challenges. Several changes have been instituted:

Drop-off/Pick-up Areas for individuals with disabilities:

At the Campus Center and Clark circles, Public Safety has increased enforcement to support drop off/pick up areas allowing accessibility especially during peak times. Buses and the RIDE need to drive directly to the curb or to the curb cut ramps to allow lifts to work properly.

Illegal parking in ADA parking spots:

Several times this fall, people have parked illegally in a handicapped placard parking space or next to an ADA space which is blocked with lines to ensure that a van with a lift can operate properly. Later in January fines will increase and other additional changes will take place to deter this behavior.

Allotting for additional ADA parking across the full campus:

Six permanent spaces were added to the Campus Center garage for handicapped placard parking.

Five permanent spaces were added to the Beacon Lot to provide access parking for individuals to access the other side of campus.

Contracted Shuttle Buses: ADA training and ADA lifts

The shuttle bus companies require all drivers to attend an ADA training orientation with four quarterly updates. The training materials have been reviewed and provided to the University. The trainings includes customer service specific to individuals with different types of disabilities, the review of the laws, “hands-on” training with all the various ADA equipment. The driver must demonstrate the operation of the equipment to complete the training.

The university requested to have all bus lifts inspected to make sure they were working properly. All lifts are working and have been signed off by the companies.

UMass Boston is committed to providing an accessible campus. Staff, faculty, and students have provided valuable feedback, which resulted in implementing solutions. If anyone has any additional questions or concerns regarding ADA Compliance, please connect with the ADA Compliance Officer Dr. Lori Corcoran Phone by phone 617-287-6587, videophone: 617-379-2343 or Email: Lori.corcoran@umb.edu

Other transportation questions or concerns can be sent to Customer Service at 617-287-4800 or email construction@umb.edu.