Meeting Notes

Attendees: Jennifer Brown, Albert Chen, Caroline Coscia, Shaun Curry, Diane D’Arrigo, Mark Delaney (Sasaki Associates), Christine DePalma, Carol DeSouza, Gail Hobin, Peter Langer, Peter McClure, Anita Miller, Juan Nunez, Ellen O’Connor, Virginia Perelson, Dorothy Renaghan, Julie Sanabria, Amy Smith, Manickam Sugumaran, Holly Sutherland, Kathy Teehan, Jim Velleman (BVH Integrated Services), Susan Wolfson

Christine DePalma convened the meeting. The meeting agenda included a discussion of the following topics:

- Transportation Planning
- ADA Self-Evaluation Study
- Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation Project (University Drive West Options)
- Updates on Master Plan Projects and Permitting Efforts

These notes will present highlights of the meeting organized by agenda item.

Transportation Planning

Diane D’Arrigo provided an update on transportation planning efforts. She began her update by displaying a Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project rendering of the campus that shows two important Master Plan goals that will be achieved in the future – the implementation of a two-way road network system and two parking garages.

Diane reminded the group that a lot of transportation planning research has been completed to date on campus by faculty, students, and staff. The Parking and Transportation Technical Advisory Subcommittee recently completed its final report in Fall 2011 and can be accessed here:

Diane mentioned that Bayside is currently operating as a campus parking lot but that not many individuals are using it at this point in time. She did mention that the lot has been serving as an overflow lot specifically on Tuesdays this semester. On these days, cars (ranging from 15 to 150) have been directed to the Bayside lot for parking as all other campus lots are full.

Through a short PowerPoint presentation, Diane provided the Steering Committee with highlights from several transportation planning focus groups and sessions that were recently held on campus. In addition to summarizing the feedback heard, Diane presented several transportation recommendations and provided Steering Committee members with a handout that provided more detailed information about the transportation planning efforts to date and next steps. The PowerPoint presentation can be accessed here:
http://www.umb.edu/editor uploads/images/university/Transportation_Planning_Update_Master_Plan_Stee
The handout that Diane distributed at the meeting is included at the end of these notes.

Diane also provided the Steering Committee with an update on proposed MBTA changes (including fee increases and service changes). Diane explained that these proposed changes are directly related to UMass Boston’s transportation demand management strategies (strategies to reduce the use of single occupancy vehicles). For example, if the MBTA raises fees, in some cases it may be less expensive for individuals to drive to and park on campus than to take public transportation.

Master Plan Steering Committee members offered several comments and questions, including:

- Have we discussed the issues related to use of Morrissey Boulevard (i.e. flooding, etc.)?
  - The campus continues to work with the Department of Conservation and Recreation on issues (such as flooding) related to Morrissey Boulevard.
- Has the university taken a formal position on MBTA proposals?
  - The Undergraduate Student Government recently passed a resolution opposing the MBTA fare increases and service cuts, and its members did comment in opposition at one of the recent MBTA public hearings.
  - A group of campus staff members have also been working to draft a formal campus response on the MBTA proposals.
- Have we considered using a sliding scale based on salary in relation to parking fees?
  - This idea was recently raised at a recent transportation planning focus group session.
- JFK subsidy for the shuttle service
  - The campus plans on discussing this topic with its institutional neighbors, including the JFK Library.
- Water transportation
  - As the campus works on developing its long term plans for its waterfront properties, water transportation (such as water taxis) will continue to be explored.

Diane mentioned that she would continue to keep the Steering Committee informed about transportation planning efforts and the proposed MBTA changes.

ADA Self-Evaluation Study

Carol DeSouza, UMass Boston’s Director of ADA Compliance, provided an update to the Steering Committee about a campus-wide ADA Self-Evaluation Study. The campus last completed such a study in the early 1990s. Since that time, UMass Boston has made great strides to improve campus wide accessibility. The study provides the campus with an opportunity conduct an ADA-compliance assessment, to evaluate the assessment, and to develop a transition plan in an effort to make accessibility improvements.

Carol mentioned that more than 11% of students on campus have disclosed disabilities. In addition, increased numbers of staff, faculty, and visitors to campus have disclosed disabilities as well.
Carol talked with the Steering Committee about its vision and charge as well as the Master Plan’s guiding principles. She related these topics to ADA and accessibility topics.

A copy of Carol’s presentation can be accessed here:  

**Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation Project (University Drive West Options)**

Dorothy Renaghan provided an update on the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation Project. In December 2011, the UMass Building Authority (UMBA) selected Integrated Services, Inc. (BVH) as the final designer for the Utility Corridor and Roadway Relocation project. Sasaki Associates is working with the BVH team as the project’s landscape architect.

Since December, a lot of design progress has been made. Dorothy specifically wanted to hear from the Master Plan Steering Committee on the options for the location of Parking Garage West. It was explained that the location of the garage impacts the location of the road as well as utilities.

The design team presented 3 options to the Steering Committee (referred to as 1a, 1b, and 2). Two of the options presented the location of Parking Garage West at the location that the Master Plan framework specified (Site PW). The third option presented the location of Parking Garage West adjacent to Boston College High School. Parking capacity in the three options vary (ranging from 1,020 to 1,370 parking spaces). The number of bays (parking zones within the structure) in the garage vary across each of the options as well. The presentation is included at the end of these notes (the options are visually shown within it).

At the end of the presentation and review of each of the options, Dorothy asked Steering Committee members if they had comments and a preference. Many Steering Committee members present expressed preference in Option 2. Some of these members mentioned that the option is particularly appealing to them because it was perceived to be more aesthetically pleasing than the other options (some mentioned that the garage shouldn’t be one of the first structures that a visitor sees when approaching the campus). Some members also mentioned that they would be in favor of Option 2 if there was a catwalk or bridge connection to an existing campus building (such as the Service and Supply Building). One member mentioned that if a catwalk or bride was built on the Option 2 garage that it doesn’t mean that people will use it (they may elect to cross the street). Other members expressed concerns about pedestrian safety and traffic implications if the garage was located on the west side of the road. Other members mentioned that they would be in favor of Option 2 if additional parking spaces could be included within it. Other Steering Committee members expressed interest in Option 1a as the design team believes it will provide the campus with more parking spaces than the other two options. It was also noted by members that Options 1a and 1b respect the Master Plan framework (PW site location).

Dorothy mentioned that the Department of Facilities was in the process of collecting feedback from additional stakeholder groups and that the Chancellor would be making a decision on the location of Parking Garage West in the near future.
Updates on Master Plan Projects
Dorothy Renaghan provided the Steering Committee with updates on various Master Plan projects. Highlights of these updates included:

Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC)
On February 16, the campus celebrated the ISC’s “topping off”. The “topping off” of a construction project is a ceremonial event marking the end of steel construction by putting into place a final, signed beam. The campus community was invited to stop by and sign the steel beam. In the afternoon, Chancellor Motley was joined by Commissioner Carole Cornelison of the Division of Capital Asset Management; state representatives Marty Walsh and Linda Dorcena Forry; Boston City Councilor Frank Baker; and Richard Walsh, president of Walsh Brothers Construction, among other community leaders to mark this milestone in the construction phase of ISC. The beam was then raised and placed on the ISC structure by the project’s ironworkers.

The ISC structure is being enclosed by wrap to prepare for the pouring of concrete floors. The Division of Capital Asset Management is in the process of awarding construction contracts for many of the trades (such as electrical; heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning; and fireproofing).

Edward M. Kennedy Institute
Piles needed to support the Edward M. Kennedy Institute project are currently being driven into bedrock. These piles are much shorter than the ones that were needed to support the Integrated Sciences Complex project. It is anticipated that the piles work will not cause disruption to the campus.

General Academic Building No. 1 (GAB No. 1)
The General Academic Building No. 1 project is currently in conceptual design. The project’s team is working diligently to advance the project while also resolving program and budget issues.

Harborwalk and Shoreline Stabilization Project
The UMass Building Authority in collaboration with the campus recently hired Bourne Consulting Engineering as the project’s architect and engineering team. It is anticipated that the team will share initial design concepts with the campus in early May 2012.

Space Allocation Plan Project
Staff members from Administration and Finance are currently assembling information for a Request for Proposals (RFP) for architectural services for this project. The architectural team hired for this project will develop strategic and phased renovation programs for the abandoned spaces in McCormack and Wheatley Halls upon the opening of the Integrated Sciences Complex (ISC) and General Academic Building No. 1.

Permitting
Staff members from Administration and Finance are currently working on responding to various comment letters that were shared with the campus by external agencies and individuals following its 25-Year Campus Master Plan and Phase 1 Projects Expanded Environmental Notification form submission to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
**Bayside**
The campus continues to study and analyze the conditions of the Bayside property site. Currently the campus is utilizing the Bayside property for parking. The first phase of long-range planning for the property recently concluded and campus administration is currently reviewing the ideas that internal and external community members and groups expressed. Moving forward, planning for the Bayside property will be integrated with the Master Plan.

**Notes**

**Next meeting**
The Master Plan Steering Committee will meet next on Monday, April 23 from 10:00am-12:00pm in the Chancellor’s Conference Room.

**Community Meeting**
UMass Boston’s next Community/Public meeting will be held on Monday, April 9 from 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Campus Center, 3rd floor, Ballroom B. Master Plan Steering Committee members are encouraged to attend.