

SENATE RESOLUTION #1766

Title: Recommendations for Parking

Date: February 1, 1994

Authors: Consumer Committee

Sponsors: Senators Cawiezel, E. Green, Jarvis, Kristan, Krug,
Mackey, Miller and Ward

1 WHEREAS, it is apparent that there is a lack of adequate,
2 convenient parking on the actual University of Wyoming campus;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, parking areas on campus may not be allocated
5 appropriately under the current permit structure; and

6 WHEREAS, there are many apartment complexes in the area
7 surrounding campus which do not provide adequate off-street
8 parking; and

9 WHEREAS, a large portion of the parking provided by the
10 University is not within a convenient distance for use; and

11 WHEREAS, some of the available parking is not used
12 efficiently; and

13 WHEREAS, there is a noticeable lack of utilization of
14 alternative forms of transportation; and


15 WHEREAS, residential on-street parking is being utilized by
16 commuter University students; and

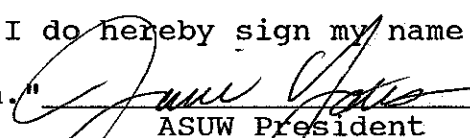
17 WHEREAS, the Laramie Citizen's Parking Task Force researched
18 the parking situation at the University of Wyoming and
19 provided several recommendations;

20 THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Student Senate of the
21 Associated Students of the University of Wyoming that we

22 support the recommendations of the Laramie Citizen's Parking
23 Task Force as discussed in the ASUW Report on Parking (see
24 addendum).

Referred to: Committee of the Whole

Date of Passage: FEBRUARY 15, 1994 Signed: 
ASUW Chairperson

"Being enacted on February 23, 1994, I do hereby sign my name
hereto and approve this Senate action." 
ASUW President

ASUW

Report on Parking

Introduction

In the spring of 1993, the Laramie City Council proposed an ordinance establishing a "permit parking zone" in a three-block area around the University of Wyoming Campus. On April 28, 1993, Mayor Amber Travskey held a public meeting to receive input on both the ordinance and the parking situation in general. Spurred by public reactions at this hearing, the Mayor decided to create the Citizen's Parking Task Force and charged it to study the parking situation surrounding the University of Wyoming. Representatives from the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming were in attendance to provide input and help make recommendations on how to alleviate the existing and potential problems.

Guiding Assumptions

In order to establish a point from which to begin its task and place the members of the Task Force on common ground, the group decided to adopt the following list of guiding assumptions:

1. No solution will be able to achieve complete satisfaction with regard to the issue of parking at and around the University of Wyoming. Any time 12,000 people congregate in a relatively small area, parking congestion will result.
2. All persons involved, including area residents, faculty, staff, and students will be inconvenienced to some extent. A firm commitment to compromise should be established.
3. Both the University of Wyoming and the City of Laramie should be expected to take on some of the financial and other burdens associated with solutions. Certainly it will require both the University and City working together in order to achieve satisfaction. There is a definite symbiotic relationship that exists between the two entities and one could simply not exist without the other.

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4. Definite consideration should be given to the wishes of those involved in the problems and possible solutions incorporated into the issue at hand.
5. Recommendations made by the Citizen's Parking Task Force will be considered very seriously and implemented if possible. Therefore, proposals provided by the committee should be thoughtful, insightful, well-researched, and feasible.

Priority Statement

Believing that establishing the significance of a problem is an essential precursor to the development of solutions, we have attempted to assign a priority value to the issue of parking on and around the University of Wyoming campus. **In general, we have ascertained that the problem of parking around the U.W. campus is an issue of relatively minor inconvenience for the majority of the residents. Further, we feel that the problems associated with this issue do not justify any drastic action on the part of the City of Laramie and/or the University of Wyoming. Rather, it would be best for both entities to explore and implement minor, incremental solutions which seek to ease the existing problems. Further, we recognize that problems associated with the area in and around the University of Wyoming may increase as the University grows. Therefore, we realize that long term solutions should take into consideration an extended level of parking problems that may exist in the future.**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview of Recommendations

After completing an intensive research process, the Task Force began to generate and develop a wide variety of options designed to address the underlying problem and the root causes associated with it. Careful deliberation was given to each of the possibilities and the group then decided on which options to further develop and offer as recommendations.

It was decided not to prioritize the recommendations because they are widely varied in nature and it is anticipated that it will be necessary to implement many, if not all, of the recommendations to alleviate the problem to any degree of significance.

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First, a summary list of recommendations is provided. This is designed to acquaint the reader, briefly, with the final options adopted by the group.

Next is a detailed explanation of our recommendations. Here, the recommendations are explained further and a list of pros and cons associated with each option is provided. We included both the positive and negative aspects of each solution so that the reader would also have the ability to consider the implementation of each recommendation. It is certainly important to recognize that the Task Force gave careful thought to each consideration, and decided that the pros greatly outweighed the cons in each of the final recommendations.

Tremendous amounts of time, energy, and thought have been employed by the group to arrive at these recommendations. We hope that our recommendations are considered carefully, and that our efforts will prove beneficial in addressing the problems associated with parking in and around the University of Wyoming.

Summary of Recommendations

Short Terms Solutions

1. The city should modify the 36 hour ordinance to make it a more effective deterrent to long term parking on residential streets. These modifications could include reduced time period or increased enforcement.
2. The city should ease restrictions or change ordinances which restrict or discourage the development of off street parking.
3. The University should look into the possibility of moving the government and University vehicles to outlying lots in order to provide spaces for faculty, staff, and students.
4. The University should continue reallocating the permit parking spaces on campus.
5. The University, with City aid, should enhance the shuttle bus service to encourage the use of available parking in outlying lots.
6. The University should encourage car-pooling by restricting prime parking areas, such as Prexy's Pasture to those participants in a ride-sharing program.
7. The City should establish a special district around the University of Wyoming in order to focus corrective action and to provide a specific area



for City and University cooperative efforts.

8. The City and University should equalize their parking fine structures.
9. The City and University should cooperate on an education and information program for faculty, staff, students, and residents.
10. The City and University should consider the use of a graduated fine structure.
11. The City should increase its enforcement efforts with regard to parking issues.

Long Term Solutions

1. The City and University should encourage everyone to use alternative forms of transportation.
2. The City should encourage landlords to develop more off street parking for tenants.
3. The City should establish a public transportation system.
4. The University should continue to provide more on campus parking by purchasing additional properties for the purpose of parking.
5. Various forms of restrictive parking should be routinely reviewed in areas surrounding the University of Wyoming campus. However, at this time proposed City Ordinance 1275 should be rejected.

Detailed Explanation of Recommendations

Short Term Solutions

1. The City should modify the 36 hour parking ordinance to make it a more effective deterrent to long term parking on residential streets.

It appears that long term and all day parking are a significant factor in the creation of the overall problem and the generation of resident complaints. Switching to an ordinance with a shorter time span (as students we would suggest 24 hours) would provide residents with more options and swifter action in



regulating parking in front of their homes. The cost of this conversion would be very insignificant and linked to possible greater expenses in enforcement. The costs associated with this should be the responsibility of the City of Laramie.

Pros

1. Provides residents with swifter action with regard to long term parking
2. Would ease the extent to which residential streets are used for the long term storage of vehicles

Cons

1. Does not solve the congestion problem completely
2. Without additional convenient parking being made available, students living on campus could be greatly inconvenienced

2. The City should ease restrictions or change ordinances which restrict or discourage the development of off street parking.

We believe that some of the current City ordinances and restrictions severely discourage the development of off-street parking. Specifically, the regulations which require the landscaping and paving of new lots, and the restrictions which simply do not allow the development of new parking in certain zones, should be revisited and altered. This would allow home owners, landlords, and the University to develop additional lots for convenient use with ease and less expense.

Pros

1. Generation of convenient parking
2. Reduction of expense for home owners and the University

Cons

1. Aesthetic degradation

3. The University should look into the possibility of moving the government and University vehicles to outlying lots in order to provide spaces for faculty, staff, and students.

Another area of development that would be of great aid involves the conversion of already existing lots. Specifically, the pool parking lots used by federal, state, and University vehicles to the North of campus should be converted to general parking lots. The pool vehicles could be moved to some of the parking areas surrounding the baseball and track fields in the Eastern portion of campus. Potentially, this would result in higher administration costs. However, the creation of additional parking could be well worth the expense.

Pros

1. Generation of convenient parking
2. Creates vast potential for reallocation of current permit system
3. Relatively cost effective
4. Addresses the underlying problem directly

Cons

1. Inconvenience for car pool units
2. Potential financial burden for the car pool units

4. The University should continue reallocating the permit parking spaces on campus.

A committee composed of University of Wyoming administrators and students should be formed (perhaps the current parking and circulation committee) and charged to study the current allocation of parking spaces on the University. We suggest that the lots then be reallocated, taking into consideration new parking, with an emphasis on percentile equality among the different groups based upon permits issued vs. available parking. The financial burden for this operation would be minimal and limited to the cost of resigning various lots. The University of Wyoming should assume these costs.

Pros

1. Equality within the permit system
2. Groups that are currently inconvenienced may find themselves less so
3. Relatively inexpensive
4. Possibility of alleviating some of the fundamental problem

Cons

1. May just shift the problem around
2. Groups not currently placed in great inconvenience may find themselves in such a situation

5. The University, with City aid, should enhance the shuttle bus service to encourage the use of available parking in outlying lots.

Unfortunately, the outlying lots to the east of the football stadium and east of the baseball fields are underutilized by the students, faculty, and staff associated with the University. Through providing a frequent and reliable shuttle service to these areas, those associated with the University may be encouraged to take advantage of these parking lots. The cost for such a venture could be very great and represents an annual financial burden. Due to the extent of the cost and the fact that both the University of Wyoming and the City of Laramie would benefit by such a solution, we feel that the fiscal responsibility for this plan of action should be shared by the two entities.

Pros

1. Utilizes already existing parking lots
2. Moves the problem out of the residential district and on to the University campus

Cons

1. Inconvenience to students, faculty and staff
2. Difficult to encourage its usage
3. Cost may be prohibitive
4. Annual rather than one time cost

6. The University should encourage car-pooling by restricting prime parking areas, such as Prexy's Pasture, to those participants in a ride-sharing program.

Although the logistics of coordinating this possibility may be quite

difficult, the potential advantages could be very great indeed. It would not only reduce the number of cars being driven and parking in and around the University of Wyoming, but also benefit the environment by reducing air pollution. A relatively small cost can be assigned to this solution and would result from changing signage and an increase in administration costs.

Pros

1. Reduction in the number of cars parking in and around the University
2. Reduction in air pollution

Cons

1. Difficult to coordinate

7. The City should establish a special district around the University of Wyoming in order to focus corrective action and to provide a specific area for City and University cooperative efforts.

The establishment of a University District surrounding the University of Wyoming campus presents many beneficial opportunities. An established district will identify the areas in the City most affected by the unique parking and traffic situations that surround the University. This district could also provide a focus for addressing the other unique qualities that exist in this area. Further, it provides a wonderful forum for University of Wyoming and City of Laramie cooperative efforts. The cost of establishing this district would be minimal and limited to the monetary support required to draft and enact an ordinance.

Pros

1. Specifically defines the problem area
2. Provides a focus for action
3. Provides a focus for cooperative efforts

Cons

1. May shift the problem to adjacent areas
2. Is not an effective solution in and of itself

8. The City and University should equalize their parking fine structures.

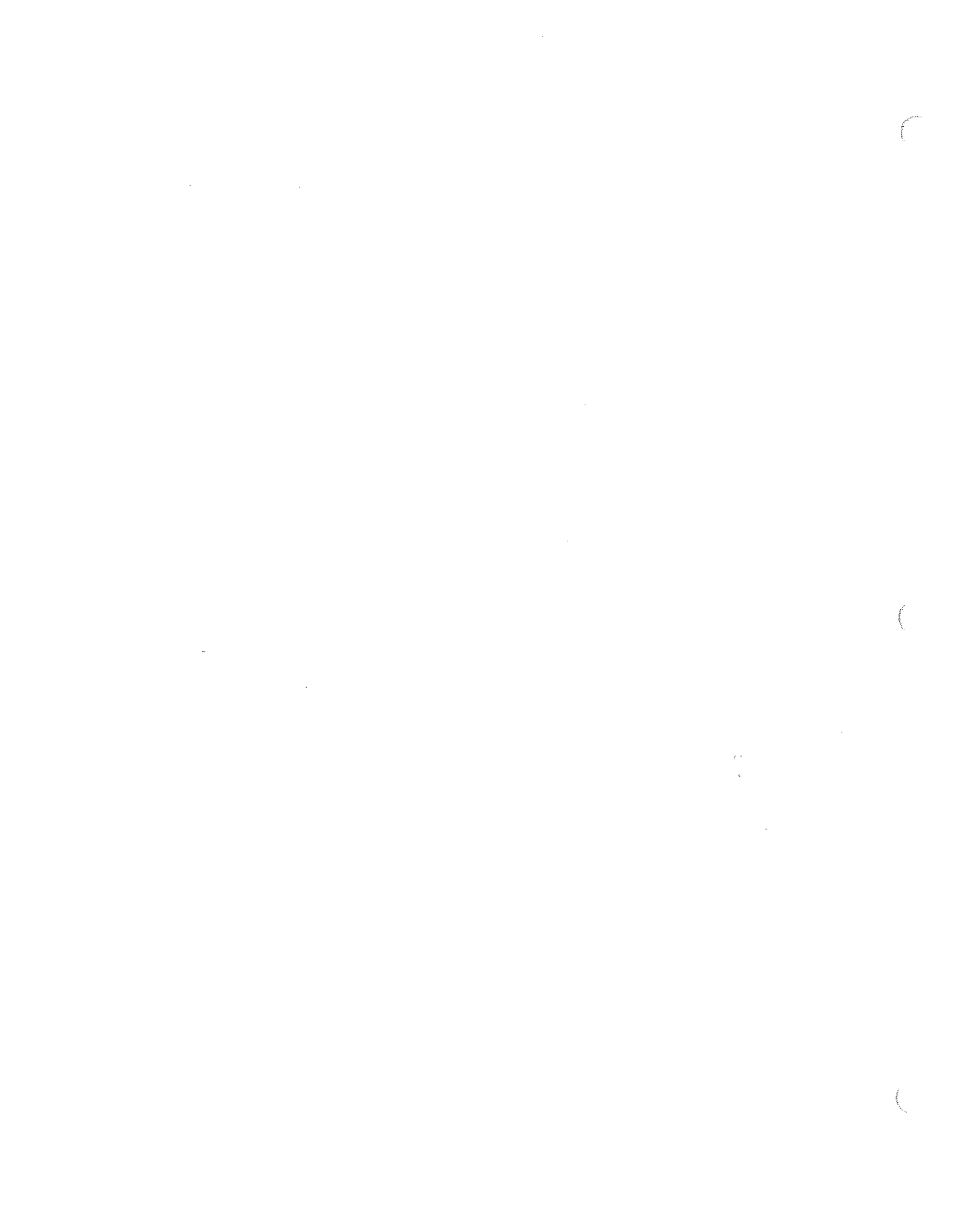
Currently there is a large difference between the fine structures employed by the City of Laramie and the University of Wyoming (the University's fines are much higher than the City's.) This may, in fact, be resulting in a tendency for students, faculty, and staff to risk parking illegally on the city streets rather than risk fines on the University of Wyoming campus. An equitable fine structure could split the burden of "illegal parkers" between the University of Wyoming and City of Laramie. Additionally, this could result in an increase in revenue generation for the City of Laramie that could be used for the development of additional parking.

Pros

1. Increase in revenue generation
2. Equity in terms of dealing with illegal parkers
3. Could decrease the amount of illegal

Cons

1. Financial burden on individuals involved
2. Does not solve the problem, merely shifts it



parking taking place

9. The City and University should cooperate on an education and information program for faculty, staff, students, and residents.

Education is critical in nearly all aspects of life, and parking within the University District is certainly an area where education is needed. Programs tailored specifically to parking that include information on city ordinances involved with the limited time system, areas prohibited for parking such as in front of driveways, fine structures, available parking, alternative forms of transportation, and general courtesy would be of great value. Conveying this knowledge to the involved parties may prevent many of the commonplace problems and inform residents, faculty, staff, and students of the options available to them.

Pros

1. Education could lead to better awareness among everyone involved
2. Knowledge of problem could result in sensitivity between the various parties involved
3. Existing ordinances may be enforced more effectively

Cons

1. Not effective when implemented as the sole solution.

10. The City and University should consider the use of a graduated fine structure.

This solution is targeted specifically at the habitual parking offender. It has come to our attention that there are a significant number of persons disregarding the current parking laws and regulations and simply paying the fines. A graduated fine structure could involve an incremental increase in fines based upon the number of offenses committed by an individual. This would certainly lead to a reduction in the number of habitual offenders, and could possibly result in additional revenue generation for both the City and the University. Administering this law could be very difficult and lead to increased costs; however, we feel that it is well worth exploring.

Pros

1. Deters habitual offenders
2. Increases revenue generation

Cons

1. Difficult to administer

11. The City should increase its enforcement efforts with regard to parking issues.

A law without adequate enforcement is merely a useless piece of paper. We feel that there is certainly room for improvement in the level of

enforcement currently maintained by the City of Laramie with regard to parking issues. Obviously this would result in an increased level of enforcement costs for the City.

Pros

1. More effective deterrent to illegal parking

Cons

1. Increased enforcement costs

Long Term Solutions

1. The City and University should encourage everyone to use alternative forms of transportation.

Encouraging everyone, especially those whose destination is the University of Wyoming, to use alternative forms of transportation would certainly secure many benefits. Reducing the number of people trying to park on or around the University of Wyoming would definitely help relieve many of the parking problems and traffic congestion that is currently being experienced. Additionally, use of alternative forms of transportation, such as walking and bicycling, seeks to reduce the environmental impact associated with cars.

Pros

1. Reduction of the number of cars parking in and around the campus
2. Reduction of traffic congestion around the University of Wyoming
3. Reduction in air pollution
4. Minimal cost

Cons

2. The City should encourage landlords to develop more off street parking for tenants.

We have observed that the parking problems around the University of Wyoming are certainly compounded by a high concentration of apartment complexes that do not provide adequate off street parking for their tenants. If the City could encourage the owners of these complexes to develop adequate parking for their renters, it would certainly reduce the number of parking problems associated with the area under question.

Pros

1. Direct reduction of the parking problem
2. Convenient parking for tenants

Cons

1. Significant cost for the City and apartment owners

3. The City should establish a public transportation system.



Obviously, the fundamental problem associated with the parking and traffic congestion problems around the University of Wyoming arise due to a large number of people attempting to drive and park in a very small area. The establishment of a public transportation system would allow these people to board a bus, within close proximity to their residences, and ride to the University of Wyoming campus. We feel that a venture of this magnitude would be best attempted by cooperative efforts involving the City, the University, Albany County, and perhaps others in the Laramie area who are currently using a bus service such as the Senior Center. Although the cost for a public transportation system could be great, the benefits derived from its implementation would be beyond measure with regard to parking, traffic congestion, and the environment.

Pros

1. Drastic reduction of the parking problem
2. Drastic reduction of the traffic congestion around the University
3. Reduction of the impact on the environment
4. Convenient for those traveling to U.W.

Cons

1. Potentially significant cost

4. The University should continue to provide more on campus parking by purchasing additional properties for the purpose of parking.

Although there are currently enough spaces on the University of Wyoming to handle the number of people traveling there, they are simply not within a convenient distance for use. By developing parking that is within close proximity to the academic core of campus, the University could encourage people to park on the University campus rather than on residential streets. Of course, this would reduce the parking problems associated with these streets and allow students, faculty, and staff parking that is close to their destinations.

Pros

1. Direct reduction of parking problems
2. Creation of convenient parking for faculty, staff, and students

Cons

1. Potentially significant cost
2. Aesthetic degradation

5. Various forms of restrictive parking should be routinely reviewed in areas surrounding campus. However, at this time proposed City Ordinance 1275 should be rejected.

At this time, we feel the proposed City Ordinance 1275 should be rejected by the City Council. However, as times change and the University of Wyoming continues to grow in size and scope, the parking problems associated with it and the area immediately surrounding it may intensify. If other measures do not serve to reduce these problems, it may be necessary to revisit the concept of

restrictive parking and its application to the area around the University of Wyoming.

Pros

1. Convenient parking for residents
2. Controls long term parking on residential streets

Cons

1. May simply shift the parking
2. Majority of residents do not seem to favor these measures

