The direction of the University’s transportation program is shaped by the SBU Transportation & Parking Advisory Group, which is a group of students who meet monthly during the academic year to provide feedback on transit, parking, and biking initiatives. SBU Transit continues to improve transportation services in many ways.

In order to increase the capacity and reliability of our transit fleet, last fiscal year we made a major vehicle investment with the purchase of three new buses. And this coming fiscal year we are budgeted for the purchase of another.

For infrastructure preservation, we made substantial improvements to the SBU Transit Facility in South P Lot. These enhancements included expanding the SBU Transit facility parking lot in order to facilitate the safe and secure parking of the University buses. In addition, the SBU Transit lot was repaved and relined, lighting was upgraded to LED technology, and the deteriorating fence was replaced and upgraded in order to safely secure the University bus yard. These improvements, as well as, the widening of the gated entrances, have significantly reduced the number of accidents and mishaps in our yard which, in turn, has reduced the amount of money spent on repairs.

To enrich passenger convenience, we continue to adjust transit schedules. For example, as a result of student feedback provided by the Chapin Apartments Resident Association or (CARA), we added another bus to the Hospital-Chapin bus route. The CARA group expressed concern that the buses arriving at a frequency of about every 15 minutes was insufficient. A third Hospital-Chapin bus was added to the schedule from 8:40 am to 9:00 pm, improving the arrival frequency to about every 10 minutes during that time.

Additionally, feedback from our commuter student groups expressed concern over extended wait times in the morning at South P lot brought on by earlier class schedules. In response to this congestion, the Monday thru Friday, Express Route sequence # 5 start time, was moved up a half hour, from 8:16 am to
7:36 am. And Express Route # 6, which operates Monday thru Thursday, was moved up one hour, from 9:00 am to 8:00 am. These adjustments provided an additional hour and a half of service and significantly reduced the morning wait times at South P lot’s Wolfie’s Hut.

SBU Transit, in conjunction with Suffolk Transit, provides access to local shopping on weekends. This arrangement allows SBU students to ride on Suffolk Transit buses on Saturdays and Sundays by providing access to the S60/69 and 3D routes. These routes provide more service times to more local shopping destinations than Stony Brook was previously able to provide. These changes came about entirely as a result of student feedback through a Transportation & Parking survey.

In addition, our SBU Smart Transit system, developed through a partnership with the Center of Excellence in Wireless & Information Technology and the Department of Computer Sciences, uses live GPS technology to communicate vehicle locations. The locations of our buses can be viewed; in select bus stops, via the web, and through iPhone and Android mobile apps. SBU Transit has recently added an additional viewing screen at the Engineering Circle Bus Shelter. This addition was also a direct result of student feedback received through our Transportation & Parking Advisory Group meetings.

Furthermore, SBU Wolf Ride, our innovative solar-powered bike-share program was expanded and now numbers twelve conveniently located stations which contain almost eighty bicycles. To secure the use of a bicycle, students need only swipe their SBU ID card. Since its inception in April of 2013, SBU Wolf Ride has registered over 16,500 rides and we continue to see the number of rides grow every semester. For the 14/15 academic year, the average daily rides numbered about 60 per day. We continue to receive positive feedback regarding SBU’s Wolf Ride Bike Share, and, as a consequence, we plan to continue expanding the number of stations on campus.

Finally, once again at the request of students, SBU Transit installed two new larger bus shelters, one at the LIRR rail station and the other at the Engineering quad. These shelters were made larger in order to hold more students during inclement weather events. The new shelters were also outfitted with LED Solar powered lights to increase safety for nighttime users. The shelters that were removed from the LIRR and Engineering locations were relocated to the Gym Road West bus stop and the RSS bus stop, both locations which did not previously have shelters.

All these service enhancements and improvements, enacted primarily because of student participation and feedback, are funded by the transportation fee, which is slated to increase by only $2.50 per semester.

Questions and Answers

Below are a series of questions regarding transportation and parking that have been posed to us over the last few weeks.

Question - How many buses pick up/drop off at south P lot and how many rounds do they make daily?
Answer - There are 2 routes that pick up in South P:
1. The Hospital/Chapin Route runs 3 buses that pick up every 10 minutes, M-F 5:30am - 11:10pm, and Sat-Sun 7:00am - 7:30pm,
2. The Express Route runs 4 to 6 buses that pick-up approx. every 7 minutes, M-F 7:00am - 10:50pm

Question - How many parking spots does south p have?
Answer - There are approximately 2,552 spaces in the South P lot.

How many spots does north P have?
Answer - There are approximately 130 spaces in the North P lot.

Question - How quickly does South P get cleared out after a snowfall?
Answer - It depends. If the school is open, this lot is a top priority and is cleared of snow immediately as the snow is falling. If the school is closed and classes are cancelled the roads are cleared first and then this lot is cleared immediately after the roads are passable.

Question - How quickly does North P get cleared out after a snowfall?
Answer - This lot is a top priority and is cleared of snow immediately as the snow is falling.

Question - What time do you begin plowing campus roads/parking lots after a snowfall?
Answer - Immediately, during the storm. The roads and parking lots are being cleared as the snow is falling. Roads are normally cleared first and then parking lots.

Question - Would you know how many car accidents occur in south P? (daily? yearly?)
Answer - The University Police would have this information. You can call Call Eric Olsen at 631-632-7786.

Question - Why does South P not have bathrooms? And would there be a possibility to include bathrooms to Wolfie's Hut?
Answer - We do not know why there were no restrooms installed at the South P lot when it was first constructed. The question of restrooms has come up in past, but no decision has even been made to move forward with having them installed. As for whether or not having restrooms built at Wolfie's Hut is feasible, it is possible, but cost would absolutely be a determining factor.

Question - What year was South P built? Did it always contain the same number of parking spaces?
Answer - Although we do not have the actual date of the construction of the lot, according to our Campus Planning Design & Construction department, the South P Lot was built between 1969 - 1972, and the original lot consisted of 800 parking stalls. Throughout the years, the South P Lot has gone through a number of upgrades, the most recent being in 2014 when we increased the number of spaces by 240. Today, the total number of parking stalls in the South P lot is 2552.

Date of Next Meeting: April 6, 2016
Time of Next Meeting: 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Location of Next Meeting: SAC, Room 311