**Planning and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Spotlight Room**

**Call to Order 6:01pm**

**Roll Call,**

**Present:** Senator Helms, Senator Holmes, Dan Elkins, Senator Valentin, Senator Palmer, Amanda Hendrix, Wendy Polifka, Senator Cline, Senator Midha

**Absent:** Senator Hofstetter

**Public Comment**

* None

**Approval of Committee Minutes**

* All approved unanimously.

**Chairperson’s Remarks**

* Senator Valentin: Next meeting there will be members of the strategic plan steering committee, their draft will be sent out before the next meeting. We have some guests from administration, to discuss the pedestrian and vehicular safety priority briefs.

**Order of Business:**

1. Administrative update on Pedestrian and Vehicular Safety Priority Brief  
   Guests:
   * Mike Gebeke - Associate Vice President of Facilities Services
   * Eric Hodges - Director of Emergency Management
   * David Marple - Director of Risk Management
   * Adam McCrary - Director Environmental Health and Safety
   * Aaron Woodruff – Chief of University Police

* Senator Valentin: Going through the recommendations outlined in the brief.
* Senator Valentin: First recommendation is the update on pedestrian and vehicular safety master plan.
  + Angela Engel has mentioned revisiting the master plan since it is 2010 to 2030, as it does not go in depth to the impact on new construction such as the new development on campus. Especially with the south campus housing project.
* Adam: Regarding the south campus housing project there has been some discussion regarding the site and how they plan to set it up regarding pedestrians and the main Street corner.
* Senator Valentin: Would this have an impact on parking?
  + Adam: No, as this involves students living there, especially since there are less beds, and it is not academic building which requires more parking for commuters.
* Senator Valentin: Would this cause an increase in pedestrian traffic?
  + Yes, we expect that as it will be like it was before, when there was a dorm in the past.
* Senator Holmes: Do we expect the college of engineering to have improvements in the sidewalks to the place there.
  + Mike: They are looking at it, but the redbird express heads there, additionally, there is parking near it already, close to where the storage parking is. We will also be installing the bridge near the creek back tomorrow.
  + This bridge has been approved by the core of engineering and took a long time to develop and guarantee safety and approval.
  + Additionally, there is also a bridge on the north side of Cardinal court which will make it easier.
* Senator Midha: Will the bus route be updated?
  + We will work with connect transit on the issue.
* Eric Hodges: They did just fund a transportation study by IDOT.
* Senator Valentin: It seems like these projects get developed, but they never get implemented as these studies seem to be more informal.
  + Eric: IDOT does multiple traffic studies that we were not familiar with, and they are doing studies often.
  + Senator Valentin: If there is an update to the master plan, will I-DOT be able to help us integrate the information in the future? As of right now out master plan has issues in that it has information that has not been implemented yet such as south campus.
* Public Awareness Campaign
  + Senator Valentin: The awareness campaign about safety and the dismount zones, has there been promotion?
    - Adam: Yes, outside of the signs, we have done new faculty orientation and promoted through welcome week and festival ISU. We also visited the sugar creek art ballet and educated people on the idea of dismount zones. Reaching out to the external biking community. We have worked hard with university marketing and communications to see what the campaign will look like going forward. Such as seeing if we need to make changes to the signage during the winter. We also want to look at out impact with social media and monitor the feedback coming from the public. We want to gather feedback regarding concerns. We are also now promoting the safe redbirds act which has information regarding dismount zones, such as a map of them, and an opportunity to report safety concerns such as a person violating them and almost hitting someone.
  + Senator Valentin: Checks the app and sees the section.
    - Eric: We have also installed a QR code on the signs which show the map, we have also seen a significant increase in the download in the safe redbirds app.
  + Senator Holmes: What do you guys do with the information on when someone violates a dismount zone?
    - Adam: we currently keep the information, we also have safe redbird ambassadors who are assigned to different areas of the quad to observe dismount zones to see if people are complying with it, and if they are operating in a safe manor. We are logging this information, and the safe redbird ambassadors are allowed to say something to violators.
    - Additionally, we have 5-dollar vouchers for EMDH for people who are complying with the policy. We then post this on social media to promote it further.
* Motorized Vehicle Ban
  + Mike: We are doing the dismount zone with voluntary compliance; we have to gently move towards the direction. When we talk about a ban we have to enforce, how should we enforce?
  + Senator Valentin: We do not necessarily have to enforce; it can just be a suggestion and a thing where we give information and suggestions to students.
  + Mike: We do not want to make a big overarching decision before we get data, we are seeing how voluntary compliance is going down as people are seeing other people not comply and then decide to not comply themselves. We then have to wonder how we can enforce.
  + The one campus which had a ban had to walk it back.
  + Regarding compliance, there was a student with a skateboard who people have complained about, and we have found it a challenge to get him to stop. Enforcement is a significant challenge. Enforcement is a difficult issue with these policies.
  + Senator Valentin: Expanding dismount zones has been talked about, if it is successful is their other areas on campus?
    - Mike: We have looked at other areas including the tunnel.
    - Adam: We know there are other problem areas that we are looking at, in those cases they are preliminary as the observations are continuing, and these people who are riding, 75% are in a controlled manor, 25% are either speeding or distracted.
  + Senator Helms: If everyone decides to operate in a safe manor, do we eliminate dismount zones?
    - Adam: This is just some data, to see if people are riding in a controlled manor, also seeing the types of things people are riding.
  + Senator Holmes: With the positive reinforcement, 5-dollar EMDH coupons does this work?
  + Mike: we do not have a budget, so we are using budgets from other areas trying to save money. As this was never planned for.
  + Senator Valentin: One of the things we could advocate for is having a budget for this. Not a fan of unfunded mandates.
  + Senator Midha: Have we tried looking at corporate sponsors to see if they have vouchers? Another question, these vehicles, are they allowed on the regular roads?
    - Yes, they are, they just have to comply with the laws normal vehicles follow.
* **Strict Authorized vehicle use in pedestrian areas:**
  + Senator Valentin: This is about reducing the number of vehicles used on campus(cars), we saw a vehicle being used during family weekend near the center for performing arts.
    - Mike: We have reduced it quite a bit, especially around Waterson, unless it is an emergency. We have also started getting gators as they are smaller and better for maintenance. If you have to go on the quad now you have to get a permit, EMDH, and the mail still use sidewalks.
    - Eric: Mail services has also got a small electric vehicle.
  + Senator Holmes: I know you said you were monitoring social media posts, there was a post commenting on a university van and poking fun at it in reference to the dismount zone.
    - Adam: without all the information people can spin it, but we will be attempting to lower the number of vehicles on the quad.
  + Senator Cline: Have you thought about putting flashing lights on the vehicles that are on the quad, as students can be hard of hearing or distracted. Having flashing lights could make them seem more official.
    - Eric: The facilities vans have amber lights on them, all of the parking ones do as well.
* **Unified consistent signage**
  + Senator Valentin: Signage acknowledging exemptions for ADA, as there is no signage across campus. The university last year stated that they are against uniformed signage, similar to the signage on the constitution trail. Even the sidewalk markings seem inadequate. Is there any possibility to allow for signage that is more visible.
    - Mike: You will have to talk to the friends of the constitution trail
  + Senator Valentin: Any other questions?
  + Senator Valentin: There are so many entrances it makes it difficult to tell when you enter a dismount zone.
    - Adam: We are talking with marketing about this, this is difficult, especially, with living in Illinois and the effects of the winter.

**General Safety**

* Eric: We have done a couple of things lately; last we did the night walk which is an event for students and administrators to walk around the campus at night and look at possible safety issues. Last, we did it at the northwestern part of the campus and looked at possible safety issues. We had our safe redbird ambassadors who took notes on safety issues. A lot of the ideas and questions that were brought up were things that were already in progress or are on the road.
* Senator Roy: The night walk was interesting and useful.
* Eric: We had information suggestions made by students and faculty, our next area is going to be on the intersections and looking at them with our safe redbird ambassadors, making sure to give information students on safety. This is an important area for us.
  + It is very much about collecting and learning.
  + The other thing to add with IDOT as part of their analysis with the main street corridor, is that there will be opportunities for feedback from the public where people from the public can provide feedback at an open house. The communities feedback on what they think about these things can help them make determinations on topics. We have also had discussions about another cross walk on campus.
* Eric: The IDOT people who are working on this here have worked on this in Urbana, and did some things that they have referenced, bringing with the expertise on the topic.

Senator Valentin: Looking for an update to the requests, and as it said if there are any rejections of some of the requests, which we have seen. The next step by Feb 1st is to have a follow up report to the academic senate, where we will have more data on the dismount zones. I will look to all of you in after the 1st of the year to come in and give a quick report to the senate.

* Some of this data will be changed by the weather changes, especially the snow causing less people to violate.

**Adjourn 6:47pm**

* **All in favor.**