

Documents Distributed at the
County Facilities Committee Meeting



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

1776 EAST WASHINGTON
URBANA, IL 61802
(217) 384-3776
(217) 384-3765 – PHYSICAL PLANT
(217) 384-3896 – FAX
(217) 384-3864 – TDD
Website: www.co.champaign.il.us

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
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SALARY ADMINISTRATION

To: Denny Inman, County Administrator
From: Ranae Wolken, Building Services Assistant
Date: February 3, 2006

Attached you will find the results of the recently completed parking survey for employees at the Champaign County Courthouse.

Of the approximately 140 employees located at the Courthouse, only 58 responses were received.

After the survey was distributed, I received a message from the new owners of the County Plaza building located on the north side of Main Street from the Courthouse. They were offering to lease spaces to county employees. However, upon my response to their call, they were offering the spaces individually on a month-to-month basis. I did inquire about leasing a block of spaces and they were not open to that. At this time, they said that the building was vacant and as soon as they were able to sign leases for tenants in the building, they would have to eliminate the month-to-month parking leases.

Many employees did indicate on the survey that they have noticed that area vacant and stated their recommendation that the County attempt to lease those spaces. Unfortunately, as stated above, that is not a viable option to the County.

In reading and collecting the data from the survey, I believe that many employees are open to parking at either Lot 24 or Lot 25, as long as the shuttle service continues. However, that service is not operating on a consistent basis, as you will read from many of the responses. Perhaps that service needs to be reviewed with MTD.

I hope that this survey proves to be of some help. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.



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Parking Survey Results

1. How do you get to and from work?

All 58 survey responses indicated they drove a personal vehicle to work.

2. Do you park in Lot 24 (Illinois St)

41 indicated they park in Lot 24
17 indicated they park elsewhere

3. Do you ride the shuttle bus?

40 of the individuals who answered they park in Lot 24 indicated they ride the shuttle

4. How many days a week do you ride the shuttle?

8 individuals indicated they ride the shuttle all five days a week.
The remaining 32 were evenly divided from 1 to 4 days a week on the shuttle.

5. What problems, if any, have you personally experienced with the shuttle?

(Answers on separate sheet)

6. If you do not park in Lot 24, could you please explain why?

(Answers on separate sheet)

7. Where do you park?

8 individuals indicated they rent space from Illini Oil Change

5 indicated they park in the City of Urbana parking garage

The remainder said they park in the County's pay lot adjacent to the Courthouse

8. Would you be willing to park in Lot 25 (Located just north of the building that houses
The Jolly Roger Restaurant?)

35 Yes (most said yes as long as the shuttle runs)

17 No

6 Maybe

9. If not, what recommendation would you have to the County as an alternate to using Lot
25?

(Answers on separate sheet)

What problems, if any, have you personally experienced with the shuttle?

Being left behind when rushing to the bus and too long a wait after work.

I do ride the shuttle to work on bad weather day. I do not ride it after work. I can walk to my car before the shuttle arrives at the lot.

No problems. I prefer to walk unless the weather is extremely bad.

At least half or more, I am getting out of my car and am on the sidewalk waving and the driver passes me by. I have parked and gotten out of my car as the bus pulls up, pauses for 30 seconds and then takes off. This happens at 50% of the time.

They drive off and leave you. They should have two buses because it takes a long time to wait for the next bus.

None.

It takes off as I park sometimes and I have to wait 10-15 minutes before it comes around again.

I don't ride it because a lot of the time it takes too long and I can beat it by walking.

Can only ride it after work if you run from your office or leave early. Takes too long to get to your car – walking is faster.

It takes too long to complete the route.

Driver's don't know the route.

Shuttle being late in the evenings is the only problem I have personally experienced.

I miss the shuttle more times than not so I end up walking. I'd rather walk than wait for the shuttle to make its loop around which generally takes about 15 minutes.

OFTEN Late. Wait 15-20 minutes at times. Last night 1/10/06, several of us were ready for pick up at 4:30 p.m. and the shuttle did not arrive until 4:55 p.m. Richard Feeney, Court Security, actually call MTD for those of us waiting. Very frustrating.

Shuttle has numerous times been sitting at Lot 24 at 4:30, rather than waiting for employees at the courthouse. Shuttle is never consistent in its schedule. There are times we've waited for 20 minutes at Lot 24 for the shuttle to come to us. We also dread having to walk to Lot 24 for lunch, and back. It cuts down our lunch hour significantly.

No problems, just takes a little longer.

Unpredictable schedule; has sometimes pulled away as I'm walking/running towards it.

Most of the problems are in the evening waiting for the shuttle for more than 10 minutes. On more than one occasion the shuttle has been more than 20 minutes late.

I would ride it more, but it's not always reliable to get there on time. I don't always have time to wait. It also isn't available during lunch hours.

Extra long waits at end of day for shuttle to return after 4:30 p.m.

What problems, if any, have you personally experienced with the shuttle? Cont'd.

None, it's a great service!

None, when I use it. Too slow – route makes no sense – I can walk to Lot 24 faster.

The time you have to wait for the shuttle to pick you up and drop you off.

I have been told it is supposed to come every 5 minutes to take people to the courthouse. Sometimes it is on that schedule or close to it. Other times have waited more than ten minutes for the shuttle. I am also concerned about the safety of one of the drivers. The younger male and the female driver I have encountered seem conscientious. However, there is an older man with grey hair whose driving is quite frightening. I have been on the bus when it is easy to see that it is straddling the line between the lane and the center turn lane. He generally drives fast, then brakes suddenly. There is nothing smooth about the transitions. If I notice he is the driver, I walk no matter what the weather. I don't believe he is a safe driver.

Shuttle is never out front at 4:37.

Nothing.

Late, not there when you need it.

The shuttle bus would pull off as I was entering the parking lot.

The driver sees me going into the parking lot. I parked next to the shelter and by the time I am out of the car he is gone.

New drivers don't know the route. I have been left standing at the courthouse after work when the drivers just pass on by.

Sometimes a little slow – but having a shuttle is nice.

Long periods of time between shuttles. I understand that most of the time there is only one shuttle, but there shouldn't be a 20 minutes wait between them just to come from the lot to the courthouse and back.

None.

Waiting long periods for the shuttle to arrive sometimes the bus is too full. They bring one that holds only 8 people. Have waited 20 minutes to be picked up before. Sometimes when they have no one to pick up at the shuttle in the mornings they just keep circling without stopping and waiting for pickup in the morning. We wait in the cars for them to arrive.

The wait of the shuttle to get there and the size of the bus is often too small. We have had to wait 20 to 30 minutes on the shuttle.

If you do not park in Lot 24, could you please explain why?

Too far to walk in the cold and no lunch time shuttle.

Shuttle bus is not consistent, takes too long, doesn't run at lunchtime.

Because I attend meetings during the week away from the courthouse that require me driving my car, and I do not and will not drive any car other than my own.

Too far because I am in and out all day.

Too far to walk at lunchtime. Shuttle takes too long to pick up and drop off in mornings and after work.

Too far from courthouse to leave for lunch or bad weather.

I often run errand on my lunch hour and this lot is too far to walk to and still have adequate time for errands.

I rent space closer to the courthouse for \$25 month.

Shuttle not convenient and does not run at lunch time.

I go out for lunch hours and you lose a lot of the allotted time just getting to and from the shuttle lot. In bad weather, it's too far away.

I frequently make trips to Brookens, shuttle doesn't run during the day and it takes a lot of time to walk to and from parking lot from courthouse.

Too far away, time for shuttle.

It's too far away. It takes way much time to wait for the shuttle bus, and much of this time will be spent in the cold. My hours are often different from the times the bus is running.

It is too far and I don't want to have to rely on the shuttle.

Due to the health of my parent this past year, and losing my father in October, I was having to leave at different times on an emergency. I felt parking closer was more convenient at the time.

It is far away, exposed to rain and snow and delinquent minors who skateboard in the lot. As an ASA, I make people mad as a part of my job description and if I am in the building late or even a little past 4:30 I find this place is a ghost town. Walking alone or waiting alone poses security concerns, as does the mostly deserted lot that is adjacent to a mostly deserted mall. Additionally I have watched the City of Urbana ticket ridiculously and needlessly in this lot for head-in parking and tags that are not "properly" displayed. Also, the shuttle does not run quickly when you are in a hurry.

What recommendation would you have to the county as an alternate to using Lot 25?

Parking is a definite issue. The enforcers DON'T care if you are in court. They cut no slack. They are ticket crazy!! They treat us like cash cow ticket (not sure what word is) rather than county employees.

Work out a deal with the City of Urbana to rent spots in the pay lot adjacent to the courthouse. Parking seems to be a big issue, I feel forced to pay \$30 per month to have the ability to leave for lunch. That is ridiculous!

I recommend that employees be allowed to rent a parking space in the parking lot adjacent to the Courthouse and that the rental fee be similar or compatible to what the Illini Oil Exchange charges for their spaces. Parking is and probably will always be an issue for the courthouse employees. Short of allowing employees to park free in the parking lot adjacent to the courthouse there is always going to be grumbling about parking. There are just some people who will never be happy about anything.

Use the pay lot next to the courthouse or the parking garage under the old Health Alliance building.

Why can we park across street under old Health Alliance and the one next to the courthouse – or top of parking garage?

Any parking needs to be within a reasonable walking distance from the courthouse for employees that need to use their vehicle during their lunch hour. Aren't there some Urbana City lots that are in closer proximity to the courthouse, and get very little use? Perhaps the County could work out an arrangement with Urbana, so employees would have access to some of this parking.

Provide closer free parking, old Health Alliance building perhaps.

Work out some deal with the City of Urbana to allow us to pay monthly and rent lots in the County Courthouse lot OR park at Busey Plaza – rent out spaces there.

There are many City lots closer (by Goodyear, by the City building, by the Civic Center). Could space be rented for employee use at the SaveA Lot parking or Schnuck's (corner of Main and Vine) or Busey Plaza underground or above ground parking or top of City parking garage? Could some type of "hang tag" system be set up to allow employees to park on the side streets without getting ticketed? (As this is only during the day, it would leave parking in the neighborhoods for the evenings) As parking is a big complaint of the public and employees, shouldn't there be an actual solution to the problem such as a parking garage on the county site or a larger city parking garage? Work with the City of Urbana Parking employees as they are RELENTLESS. One of our employees was actually told by a city parking employee that they were told to "target" the County employees. They wait for the meters to click over to "expired" and we receive tickets in the county lot even when we have paid. They said their staff can't read the printouts right and a different system needed to be put in. (There have been many times when I have helped people at the parking station because they don't understand it) If there were more amenities within the courthouse, I probably would not go out at lunch. (and many others have said the same thing). The proposal of a "lunch" selection (either homemade cooking or by canteen service) was looked forward to by employees. I never heard by it didn't come about. I also like to read (and there are many others I know of) and we either go to the park or sit in our cars/as it is difficult to try to read in the breakrooms). Perhaps a quiet room could be established in one of the current breakrooms.

Parking at the county plaza across from the courthouse.

The old Health Alliance parking building.

Lot 25 is also unreasonably far from the courthouse, which would be a problem for many employees- especially those who leave late and would have safety concerns. I would recommend that employees be able to park for free in the pay lot across Broadway from the courthouse as long as they leave after 4:30pm.

What recommendation would you have to the County as an alternate to using Lot 25? Cont'd.

Have free parking for employees adjacent to the courthouse.

Subsidize rates in the two paid lots.

A portion of Lincoln Square Mall parking lot that is never occupied. A portion of Busey Plaza. Crossing walks on Main and/or Vine are always going to be a problem when parking north or east of the courthouse. Free or discounted rate in parking garage top level.

I wish we could have free parking close to the courthouse as the employees do at Brookens.

If using Lot 25, a more consistent bus driver who has been trained to wait at least 1 minute for passengers and who does not hate the route. I seldom see consistent faces. And I refuse to call MTD – I would be calling every day. And my office mates have expressed the same.

The lots are too far away. There are several times a week when I unexpectedly work until after the shuttle is done. This forces me to walk alone at night, in the dark, to the parking lot on Illinois St. the same problem would arise should we have to park near the Jolly Roger. It was much more convenient when the county employees didn't have to pay to park in the courthouse's parking lot.

Parking at the Civic Center would be close for those that work at the courthouse.

I don't think it would make much difference (parking in Lot 25). I would be nice if we could have the lot right next to the building.

What's wrong with Lot 24?

Not much different than parking in Lot 24. Too bad we can't have close parking like Brookens. Lot 24 is a bit far when you have to get to your car in a hurry during the day.

I would recommend the various administrators give more leniency regarding tardiness.

Access or permission to park in Lincoln Square mall with a section set aside for us.

Any parking closer than Lot 24 would be great. With Health Alliance now at Lincoln Square, the parking spots are taken quicker and getting across the street safely has at times proven to be pretty interesting.

Use the lot on the East side of the downtown courthouse building on a first come, first served basis and continue with Lot 24 for any parking overflow. It's a shame the County can provide convenient and close parking for the employees in the Brookens facility, but can not do the same for the employees who work downtown.

Top level of parking garage or discounted rates for County employees.

Lincoln Square, Civic Center, County Plaza, courthouse lot – how about terminating the position of the Urbana Parking Nazi?

As a cooperative venture with the City of Urbana, expand the parking structure immediately west of the Courthouse or build an additional structure immediately east of the courthouse. Contract with the County Plaza building north of the courthouse to use some of their parking spaces (their lot seems to be empty much of the time now that Health Alliance has moved)

What recommendation would you have to the county as an alternate to using Lot 25? Cont'd.

The lot/parking garage at the old Health Alliance building, meter hang-tags (like what the U of I has) continue using Lot 24, but have shuttle run at lunch (11am to 2pm) and have shuttle wait longer at courthouse starting at 4:30pm.

?Juror Parking

Park in Lincoln Square or Jumer's, run shuttle over lunch, park in county plaza or build additional parking. It really isn't convenient to have to park so far away. I live far away and I try and use my lunch hour to run errands. My choice is to park in Lot 24 and waste at least 15 minutes of my lunch going to and from my car or to pay to park in one of the parking areas which we have been told NOT to do.

Monthly rate for east lot at courthouse or meter parking.

My biggest concern recently has been the safety of walking through the parking lot at Lincoln Square during the construction. They have blocked off the sidewalk for an extended time and cars entering the lot from Vine Street do not always give the impression that they are prepared to find pedestrians in their lane or are not prepared for the pedestrians to have nowhere to go to get out of the lane quickly. It is unfortunate that a community of this size does not have adequate parking in the downtown area to easily accommodate the people who work there, but we can't go back in time and turn existing businesses into parking garages. Neither can we decide at this time that maybe a parking garage under the courthouse might have been useful. Whining about parking is not going to change anything. If the space is not there, it is not there. I think the county currently has a useable solution to the problem. The lot near Jolly Roger is also acceptable, in my opinion. If it is possible to add parking that would be more convenient for the employees, maybe exploring putting some sort of garage across Main Street to the west of the jail? I don't know who owns the property or what would be involved in changing that lot to one that would accommodate several tiers of vehicles. Is there an arrangement that could be made regarding the parking garage currently located west of the courthouse? I don't know what capacity it has currently, how full it is daily or whether it can be expanded.

Is there any way the county could lease the parking lot and garage across the street from the courthouse where Health Alliance moved from.

Lot next to Goodyear tire on Vine or lot right across from the Courthouse on Main.

Old Health Alliance Parking Lot or underground garage.

Civic Center or something closer

The underground parking where Health Alliance was.

Leave it like it is with Lot 24.



CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS DOWNTOWN PARKING LOTS

- ON-STREET PARKING SPACES
- ON-STREET ACCESSIBLE PARKING
- PUBLIC PARKING LOTS
- PRIVATE PARKING LOTS

HOURS OF ENFORCEMENT		
ON STREET METERS	7AM-6PM	M-F
LOT 16 RENTAL/METERS	7AM-6PM	M-F
LOT 17 METERS	7AM-6PM	M-F
LOT 21 RENTAL	7AM-6PM	M-F
LOT 22 METERS	7AM-6PM	M-F
LOT 23 RENTAL	24 HOURS	
LOT 24 SHUTTLE LOT	7AM-6PM	M-F



