

## **Blueprint for a Green Campus**

### **Progress Report on Campus Transportation-related Practices**

Prepared by David Cook  
Parking and Transportation Services Division  
Public Safety Department  
University of Colorado - Boulder  
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Progress in campus-related transportation issues since the spring 2002 report includes several significant steps. The largest and most visible change was the August, 2002 start-up of the STAMPEDE bus route operating between Broadway and Foothills Parkway along Colorado Avenue with loops on the Main Campus and the East Campus/Research Park. In addition, we have seen:

- The start of a year-long, first-ever, campus-wide master planning process for parking and transportation,
- The 227 bus route to Louisville and Lafayette upgraded to the high-frequency DASH service,
- a major upgrade to the bike parking east of the Ketchum Building;
- the establishment of a fleet of CU Buff Bikes,
- a new no-interest bike loan at the U of C Federal Credit Union,
- a west bound bike lane on Colorado between 28<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Streets,
- north and south bound bike lanes on the 28<sup>th</sup> Street frontage Road,
- improvements to the east entrance of the College Avenue underpass beneath 28<sup>th</sup> Street,
- retrofitting one of Transportation Service's Buff Buses to operate on biodiesel fuel,
- development of a facility to process oil and grease from Housing kitchens into biodiesel fuel,
- purchase of three new natural gas fueled Buff Buses by Transportation Services,
- the addition of three hybrid electric Toyota Prius cars to the campus fleet,
- the addition of an electric GEM panel truck to the fleet at Environmental Health and Safety,
- the addition of two electric GEM cars to the Transportation Services fleet,
- the hire of a new Transportation Outreach Coordinator for the campus,
- the defeat of SB03-74 that would have diverted RTD funds to roadway improvements,
- the defeat of an RTD proposal to eliminate the employee and neighborhood Eco Pass programs,
- the addition of new, campus oriented housing on Taft Avenue,
- CU participation in the advisory committee to the city's Transportation Master Plan Update, as well as in the financing and bike/ped sub-committees,
- First annual "Bike Bash" spring biking event,
- Addition of a "Do you really need a car on campus?" page to the student parking permit sale web site,
- Continuation of alternate modes information outreach at parking permit sales, new student orientations, new faculty orientations and new employee orientations,
- Transportation issue area incorporated into the Campus Resource Conservation

Committee,

- Addition of commuter rail between Boulder and Longmont to the Locally Preferred Alternative package of recommendations for the US 36 corridor,
- the sixth faculty/staff Eco Pass program tracking survey was conducted in fall of 2002; showing:
  - The proportion of faculty and staff commuting to campus via transit full-time has more than doubled, increasing by a factor of 2.4 - up from 8.7% in 1997 before the Eco Pass to 21% in late fall of 2002.
  - The proportion of faculty and staff commuting to campus via transit at least one day a week has nearly doubled, up from 17% in 1997 before the Eco Pass to 33% in late fall of 2002; a 194 % increase.
  - A drop in the average number of days/week faculty and staff parked a vehicle on campus, from 2.8 before Eco Pass to 2.4 in fall of 2002, resulting in 536 fewer vehicles coming to campus each day.
  - A drop in the proportion of faculty and staff who park on campus at least one day a week from 64% before the Eco Pass (1997) to 56% in the fall of 2002.

On the down side, we have seen:

- RTD approve the cutting of approximately 20% of the bus service in Boulder,
- RTD propose the elimination of the employee and Neighborhood Eco Pass programs,
- A Colorado Senate proposal to divert some of the RTD sales tax funds to roadway improvements,
- Another Colorado Senate proposal to either reduce RTD funding or divert it to roadway improvements,
- A significant strike threat from RTD,

Up and coming we have:

- New campus housing at Williams Village,
- Bike parking upgrades at several campus housing facilities,
- Bike racks to be installed at a number of campus-area bus stops,
- Bike racks to be upgraded at a number of existing bike lots,
- The creation and promotion of a vanpooling program,
- Integration of "Commuter Choice" information with Human Resources outreach,
- Plans for a high-frequency transit service, the DART, between Boulder & Longmont
- The start of the \$15 million environmental impact study for the US 36 improvements, jointly funded by RTD and CDOT
- Completion of a landmark CU Parking and Transportation Micro-master Plan by mid-2004.

Emerging opportunities include:

- Promotion of Eco Pass use for local/regional campus business travel as part of the effort to conserve campus dollars and resources for education,
- Creation of a regional/Front Range campus bicycle program manager's group,
- Taking a new look at creating an east-west bike route across campus.