

December 28, 2022

**VIA E-Mail and U.S. Mail**

Ms. Anna Chamberlin  
Manager, Project Review  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street, SE, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Ms. Chamberlin:

The purpose of this letter is to provide your office with parking space utilization information for American University (AU) in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia, as well as provide an update regarding additional transportation demand management (TDM) measures that the American University has undertaken since the approval of the 2021 Campus Plan.

The Zoning Commission for the District of Columbia approved the American University 2021 Campus Plan in Zoning Order No. 20-31 with certain conditions. Specifically, Condition 44(a) states:

“On an annual basis, the University shall provide DDOT with a Transportation Performance Monitoring Plan Report which separately details the transportation mode split of University staff and faculty and the transportation mode split of students. Through the continued implementation of the TDM measures, the University will aim to meet the City’s goals as outlined in MoveDC and the City’s Comprehensive Plan for non-auto mode share for both the student and staff/faculty populations”

American University currently maintains an inventory of approximately 2,591 parking spaces which includes Main Campus, East Campus, Spring Valley Building, and the Washington College of Law (WCL) only. On a typical semester weekday, AU’s parking demand is approximately 46% of the available parking inventory. During peak demand, parking surveys have indicated that AU has approximately 1,202 spaces available for use.

In addition to the aforementioned parking locations identified in the Zoning Order, AU maintains parking inventory at the following AU-owned locations: 4200 Wisconsin Avenue, NW; 4401 Connecticut Avenue, NW; and 3201 New Mexico Avenue, NW. AU will continue to monitor parking availability and provide updated utilization rates in future reports.

As of December 2022, American University has a total of 2,683 full-time equivalent employees (FTE). The total number of employees who are enrolled in the parking permit program through payroll deduction each month is 741, of which 57 work at WCL. Please note that this number includes employees who park at all AU-owned parking facilities.

Condition No. 43 through Condition No. 47 of Zoning Commission Order No. 20-31 describes the TDM measures that American University agreed to implement during the 2021 Campus Plan. The University is in compliance with all noted Conditions.

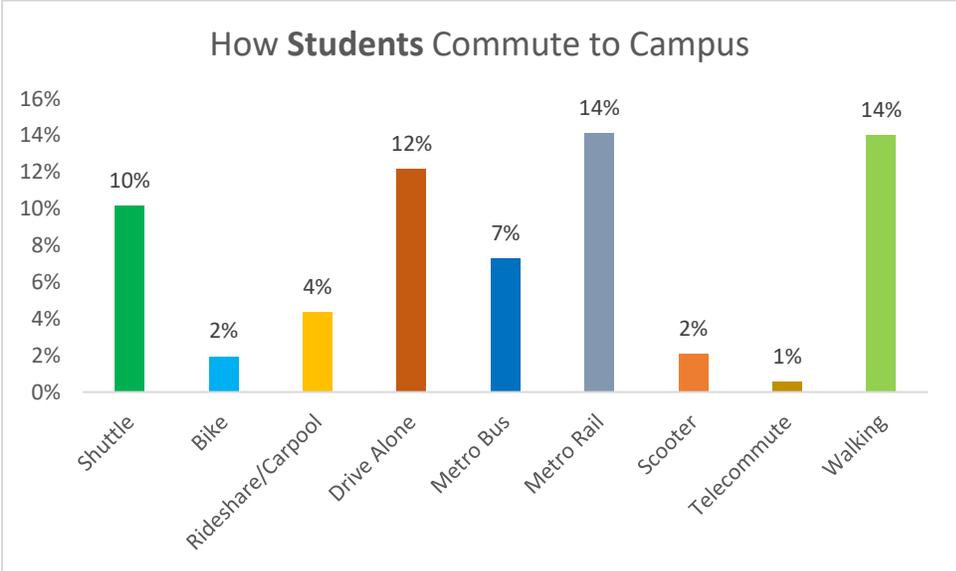
The following information reflects the elements of the Transportation Performance Monitoring Plan Report:

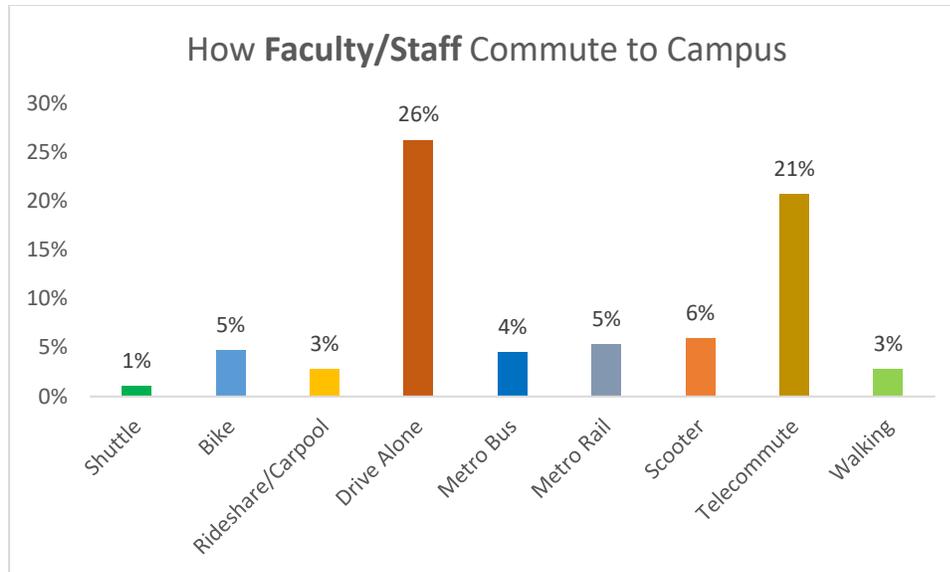
- 1) **Pay-As-You-Go Parking Program:** AU community members are eligible to sign up for a discount code to be utilized with the Pay-By-Phone application to park in general parking areas on campus. The program is intended to supplant the monthly fixed rate fee option by providing community members with greater flexibility in planning their commute, allowing them to only pay for the amount of time they will be on campus, and incentivizing them to drive only when needed.
- 2) **On Demand Corporate Ride Service:** A survey found that faculty, staff, and non-resident students were driving personal vehicles to campus every day in order to have reliable, efficient transportation to conduct university business off campus throughout the day. In order to address this transportation need and, in turn, reduce the number of vehicles being driven to campus, AU has contracted with Lyft to establish the *American University Lyft Ride Smart Program*, a corporate ride service program. This program replaces the previous corporate car-sharing program.
- 3) **AU/WMATA U\*Pass Program:** In August 2016, AU became the first university in the region to partner with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to offer a discounted transit pass during each semester for all full-time undergraduate, graduate, and law students. The U\*Pass is included in the cost of attendance for approximately 10,500 eligible students and allows for unlimited rides on all MetroRail and MetroBus routes throughout the region. The availability of the U\*Pass has significantly reduced the number of vehicle trips to campus by students and, in turn, reduced the traffic congestion in the area. The U\*Pass utilization rate among students is over 90%. Between August 2021 and December 2022, AU students logged 1,635,680 total system rides, of which 1,274,560 were rail trips and 361,120 were bus trips.
- 4) **Carpool Matching:** AU has partnered with Commuter Connections, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's carpool matching program, to strengthen and expand sustainable transit and ride-sharing services for our community.
- 5) **Employee-based TDM Strategies:** AU continues to offer our employees transit and work schedule options that reduce parking demand, reduce traffic congestion,

and/or encourage using public transportation. Examples of these programs include offering WMATA SmartBenefits, flexible work schedules, expanded telecommuting opportunities, and a monetary incentive to promote biking to campus.

Currently, 2,066 AU employees are enrolled in a telecommuting program. Additionally, 47 employees have a compressed work week schedule and 590 are enrolled in flextime. There are 56 employees enrolled in the Bike to Work program. Additionally, 88 AU employees are participating in the WMATA SmartBenefits program. Finally, 160 AU employees have enrolled in the new transportation subsidy.

- 6) **Capital BikeShare:** Three stations are located adjacent to our campus (1 each at Main Campus, East Campus, and WCL) to serve our community and others in the area and AU has committed to installing a new Bikeshare station on the south side of campus. There are 381 students enrolled in the discount rate program with goDCgo.
- 7) **Commuter Mode Split Survey Results:** In September 2022, AU conducted a Commuter Mode Split Survey, inclusive of WCL. This survey was sent to select students, faculty, and staff in order to obtain more refined responses. The following charts depict the results of the responses:





- 8) **Good Neighbor Parking Program:** AU continues to enforce the Good Neighbor Parking Policy which requires AU affiliates to park at AU-owned facilities. We have seen greater compliance due to our ongoing efforts. Between August 2021 and August 2022, AU issued 136 citations for suspected violators in the areas near Main Campus, East Campus, the Spring Valley Building, and WCL. To date, all validated violations have been adjudicated through monetary penalties or compliance. The following is a link to the AU Parking Policy: <https://www.american.edu/policies/upload/parking-policy-2016-final.pdf>
- 9) **Neighborhood Parking Availability:** AU has not observed any adverse impact on parking availability in surrounding neighborhoods. Moreover, AU has not received complaints from our neighbors regarding lack of available parking. We are aware of a few incidences of Good Neighbor Program violations and will continue our enforcement efforts to keep violations to a minimum. Further, we are aware of concerns with the number of car-sharing vehicles parking adjacent to Main Campus. While this is lawful based on city regulations and therefore beyond the scope of the Good Neighbor Program, we continually monitor the situation and notify the respective car-sharing services when there are an excessive number of vehicles in the area
- 10) **Spin Scooter Partnership/Micromobility:** In fall 2021, American University began a partnership with Spin, a San Francisco-based micromobility company. This partnership allows students, faculty, and staff to enjoy a new and eco-friendly mode of transportation. Battery-operated scooters powered by 100 percent renewable energy are now available across the university's main campus, the Washington College of Law Tenley campus, and the Spring Valley building.

Beginning on August 15, Spin e-scooters became available for rental at marked corrals adjacent to existing bike racks on the AU campus. As a year-round mode of emission-free transportation, Spin scooters represent an efficient alternative to single

occupancy vehicles and will complement AU's other transportation offerings, including U-Pass, shuttle services, and bike sharing. Scooters located on the AU campus will be part of Spin's DC fleet.

We are aware of concerns regarding the large number of dockless scooters and bicycles that are parked in public spaces near campus. While such actions are permitted by the city, AU will work with our neighbors and DDOT to seek reasonable and measurable solutions to limit community impact. We also remind our community of safe and courteous scooter operations to ensure pedestrian safety.

- 11) **Bicycle Facilities:** AU maintains more than 30 exterior and indoor storage facilities and three bicycle repair stations for use by our community. Due to other transportation options, we continue to see a reduction in the use of personal bicycles by resident students.
- 12) **AU Shuttle:** AU maintains a robust shuttle service program that connects Main Campus, East Campus, the Spring Valley Building, and WCL with the AU/Tenleytown MetroRail station. In 2022, the passenger count for the program was 889,917. AU implemented transit screen technology for its shuttles, which is a live tracking system and mobile phone application that enables students, faculty, staff, and guests to monitor shuttle arrival times.
- 13) **TransitScreen Technology:** AU utilizes transit screen technology to display real-time information on all modes of transportation within our TDM program to include Capital Bikeshare, AU Shuttle, RideShare, MetroBus, and MetroRail. Community members can also access this information on their cell phones through a mobile application.
- 14) **RideSharing:** AU has taken measures to mitigate traffic congestion on the main thoroughfares caused by ridesharing services by designating ridesharing service locations within the Main Campus, East Campus, and WCL.
- 15) **Electric Vehicle Charging:** AU is committed to providing sustainable transportation options as part of our dedication to carbon neutrality. As a demonstration of this commitment, AU provides a total of 19 electric vehicle charging stations at locations on Main Campus, East Campus, and WCL.

Over the past several years, AU has expanded and strengthened its TDM and parking management programs while adhering to the provisions of the respective zoning orders. In doing so, we explored current and future transportation opportunities.

This new approach involved three important stakeholders: The American University Neighborhood Partnership "Neighborhood Partnership", DDOT, and the Office of Planning. Most notably, we engaged our neighbors through the Neighborhood Partnership. The Partnership's goals are to improve community relations between AU and the surrounding neighborhoods and promote community engagement on issues related to university operations. Specifically, the Transportation

and Parking Working Group, which is comprised of neighbors and AU officials, meets on a regular basis to assess our current efforts and make recommendations to improve AU and community relationships around this critical topic. The goal is to incorporate recommended improvements and establish key performance indicators that will measure the success of new TDM and parking initiatives. AU also gathers feedback from other neighbor organizations and the respective Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners.

AU also engages with DDOT and the Office of Planning to better understand future transportation and development plans for the city in general, and specifically, in Ward 3. Our goal is to align our programs and initiatives with those outlined in plans such as moveDC.

American University will continue to closely monitor changes in the teleworking, commuting, and parking choices of our community and offer alternatives to driving to campus through a robust transportation demand management program.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Regards,

Dan Nichols  
Assistant Vice President  
Risk, Safety and Transportation Programs  
American University