

CCSE Transportation Subcommittee Meeting Notes

Date: February 3rd 2015

Time: 2:30 – 3:45pm

Location: Urban Transportation Center (412 S Peoria St) Room 340

Present: Stephen Schlickman, Kevin Shalla, Katherine Yoshida, Sergio Villasenor, Sheena Freve

Discussion

1. Bike Lane Pilot Program Study Results

The study was conducted in October 2014 to measure the comfort level among UIC students towards bike lanes. The two important findings showed that the bikers and pedestrians in UIC preferred to have their own spaces delineated, and that they do not prefer signage. What they suggested instead was more education on bike/pedestrian rules. A discussion was then formed around the controversy of having permanent signage. Yoshida said that permanent signage might be counterproductive. For bike lane construction, funding is needed to determine all appropriate places for bike lanes and also ensure that the bike lanes are clearly marked. One suggestion for bike lane construction was Morgan St. Freve will provide Yoshida suggestions on funding sources electronically. Yoshida expressed interested to present the findings to a larger audience.

2. Amtrak Business Improvement Plan

Schlickman and Shalla suggested that while Illinois Governor Rauner's executive order 8 to address the state's fiscal crisis won't allow business class travel on Amtrak even though it is far cheaper than driving, the subcommittee should continue to take actions that promote the use of Amtrak (simultaneously answering the executive order's requirement for cost containment, and improving safety, sustainability, and the environment). One example is to include questions pertaining to the use of Amtrak on the TEM system such as "What are the reasons that you drive instead of use Amtrak?" in the employee expense report. Another example is to encourage the coordination of inter-campus meeting schedules to Amtrak schedules. Another idea is to update the OBFS Business Travel website to discourage passenger travel and encourage Amtrak when traveling between UIC and the other two campuses.

3. Active Transportation

Schlickman indicated that subcommittee should promote more active transportation, especially the use of Divvy bikes among UIC community. Yoshida informed about the Bike 2 Campus week in coming April that involves 12 campuses. This event is one of the great ways to promote bike usage. Schlickman said that a top-down approach is more effective than bottom-up approach in improving active transportation. Subcommittee should appoint someone to serve as an active transportation advocate.

4. Subcommittee Goals

One of the most important subcommittee goals is to improve member participation. Not only are members strongly encouraged to attend CCSE transportation meetings, they are also encouraged to bring a guest to learn more about what the subcommittee does. Another goal for the subcommittee is to successfully convince human resources department to include CTA benefits in the employee benefits. Further goals will be discussed in next meeting.

5. Metrics for Subcommittee Recommendations

Ting expressed that subcommittee should consider setting quantifiable goals, such as increase biking and walking by a certain percentage. Schlickman responded by stating the challenges (feasibility, frequency, sample size) in measuring the projects. For example, multimodal survey that was used previously to quantify the mode of transportation among faculty, students, and staffs required huge sample and amount of time to conduct. It was not a very feasible method. Discussion was later formed around other alternatives in quantifying progress and success, such as using employee reimbursement form to find out how employees travel, collect data from Divvy to find out how many miles employees with Divvy membership travel, and many more.

6. Action Items

- Ting will find out if it is possible to collect data such as Amtrak or automobile trips made by employees from employee reimbursement form/expense report.
- Ting will find out if it is possible to get data from Divvy on how many miles employees with Divvy membership travel per month.
- Ting will find out about the reliability data for Amtrak in terms of its speed and costs.
- Ting will correspond with Active Transportation Alliance to suggest ways or incentives to increase biking and walking.
- Ting will find out the types of benefits which insurance companies provide for people/organizations that make health choices. Such information may be able to facilitate subcommittee to develop a program in UIC that encourages healthier choice while also helps UIC obtains a cheaper rate from insurance companies.