

Campus parking might see expansion

BY JULIA HANSEN
Staff Reporter

If the Board of Governors approves the proposal to prepare final plans, more parking will be available to students and faculty on the south end of campus.

Both the Barnett Hall parking lot and the lot north of Barnett Hall will expand this summer if the Board of Governors approves the proposed construction, Campus Architect Mark Schultz said.

Along with the expansion to the parking lot north of Barnett, a bridge will be built over Bear Creek, which runs parallel to Franklin Street. This bridge will connect the large parking lot to the smaller lot. There also will be a pathway connecting these parking lots to the Barnett Hall lot for an easier commute by foot or bicycle. The Barnett Hall parking lot will extend into the grassy hillside in front of Barnett with a second tier, doubling the parking spaces currently in the front lot, Schultz said.

"We really need to construct [the Barnett Hall] lot and [the lot north of Barnett] over this summer," Schultz said. "It's easier to work on these projects when there aren't 6,000 students around."

The design and construction of the parking lots will be slightly more complicated than usual because of Bear Creek, the small body of water that runs parallel to Franklin Street. The companies designing and constructing the new lots will have to take creek bank erosion and storm water management into consideration when designing and constructing the lots, Schultz said.

One of the reasons for the proposal of the lot expansion is a survey the Department of Public Safety conducted in September and October of this school year. The survey kept a tally of the number of cars in the parking lot at different points of the day. Director of Public Safety Tom Johnson said parking surveys are a common procedure across campus, but this survey was suggested.

"Normally we do this [parking survey] every spring, but we went ahead and did another one for just specifically that lot because of the complaints we've been having about parking down there this fall," Johnson said. "[The survey] just gives us an idea or kind of a snapshot of what the usage of the lot is."



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index

Students walk to Barnett Hall on Wednesday afternoon. Pending approval from the Board of Governors, parking could be expanded around the building. A pathway also would be built to connect the new lot with the one on Franklin Street.

Another reason for the proposal of the lot extension is the upcoming Pershing Arena renovations and additions, Schultz said. A large portion of the Per-

shing Hall parking lot will be removed in order to add onto the current building once construction begins. Schultz said this loss of parking spaces will need to be compensated for in another parking lot.

"As a predecessor to the Pershing construction we need to relocate parking out of the Pershing parking lot," Schultz said. "This can be done by expanding the lot [north of Barnett Hall]."

Mark Smith, assistant professor of communication, said he ar-

rives at Barnett Hall early in the morning and rarely has parking issues but has had to park in Stokes Stadium before due to a full parking lot. Smith is a member of the

Barnett Hall Parking Lot Committee, which met with DPS shortly before fall break.

"[Two things] DPS emphasized in this meeting were courtesy and co-operation because parking is tight," Smith said.

Senior Chrissy Molinar said she drives to class and sometimes must park her car at Stokes Stadium and walk to Barnett.

"I think [the parking lot expansion] is a good idea because there's not enough parking here," Molinar

said. "The expansion should be student parking too."

Many parking lots are closed or roped off due to construction right now, including the large parking lot north of the Student Union Building, Blanton, Nason and Brewer halls' residential parking lot and the lot south of the SUB.

Schultz said the lot south of the SUB will reopen in fall 2008 after construction crews move their equipment out and the surface is repaved.

Schultz also said there are other upcoming parking lot projects. These include expanding parking lots near Ryle and Dobson Halls, West Campus Suites and the old fire station that eventually will be renovated into the Dr. Ruth Towne museum.

The Board of Governors will meet this Saturday.

"The expansion should be student parking, too."

Chrissy Molinar
Senior

"I think it's an opportunity, and MoDOT certainly didn't have to choose us for this project."

Martha Rowe
Mayor of Kirksville

Council green-lights U.S. 63 bypass

BY CAITLIN DEAN
Staff Reporter

Kirksville might become a more traffic-friendly town by 2012.

At a special meeting Nov. 16, the City Council voted to approve the U.S. Highway 63 bypass project. The three council members present supported the project after seeing that the majority of citizens who attended the meeting supported it. Councilmembers Tom Mayer and Jeff Newton were not present at the meeting.

"Out of the hundred [people who showed up for the meeting], I think 50 or better gave their input," councilmember Aaron Rodgers said. "I'd say over 80 percent of [the input] was positive [support] for the bypass."

If the project is approved, the Missouri Department of Transportation requires that the project be under contract by 2010, Rodgers said.

"[That] made this project kind of a great thing because most all the land has been purchased, the

utilities have been moved and they can start awarding contracts," he said. "There's a lot of groundwork that's already been done."

One reason Rodgers said he supports the bypass is to help ease city traffic, which he also said could be beneficial to some businesses.

"There are some business owners that are kind of leery about it," he said. "Right now I see it as being beneficial to businesses. ... You may have someone in Lancaster who wants to go to J.C. Penney on the south end of town, and they'll be able to get there without all the hassle. I think it just makes the town more friendly traffic-wise."

Rodgers said this project is a step in the right direction for Kirksville.

Kirksville mayor Martha

Rowe also said at the meeting that she supported the project.

"I think it's an opportunity, and MoDOT certainly didn't have to choose us for this project," Rowe said.

Kirksville will pay for one-fourth of the project, she said.

She added that it is beneficial to the city that MoDOT wanted to partner for the project.

"We are going to give \$7,000,175, and the total construction would be 28.7 [million]," Rowe said.

Rowe said she expects the issue will be approved when citizens vote on it.

"People are very pleased with the four-lane addition to Macon," she said. "We're also very pleased with the extension of the four lanes, so I believe [this issue] will [pass]."

When voting on the issue, cit-

izens will need to decide whether to continue the sales tax, Rowe said.

Some who own businesses located along Baltimore, on the current U.S. Highway 63 route, are concerned about what the bypass could mean for their sales.

"I think it will do nothing but take business out of Kirksville," said Linda Harden, Mug Shotz owner and manager.

If someone can get across town in 10 minutes, the traffic is not a big issue, she said.

"Our traffic compared to big cities is nothing," Harden said. "We've lived some places with tons of traffic, so this is nothing to worry about."

Mug Shotz receives business from those passing through Kirksville on U.S. Highway 63, particularly around the holidays, she said.

Harden said the bypass could be beneficial on some levels.

"If it would just basically get the truckers to bypass, I'm sure that would help wear and tear and everything on the highways," she said.

NEWS | In Brief

Family settles lawsuit against airline

A wrongful death lawsuit against American Airlines in connection with a 2004 plane crash near Kirksville Regional Airport has been settled in St. Louis Circuit Court, American Airlines spokesman Tim Wagner said.

The family of Rada Bronson, who died in the crash with 12 others, originally filed the lawsuit in early 2005, according to the Feb. 3, 2005 issue of the Index.

AmericanConnection flight 5966 hit trees as it descended and then broke into several pieces and caught fire, according to the Oct. 21, 2004, issue of the Index. American Airlines is the parent company of Corporate Airlines, which operated flight 5966, according to the Feb. 3 issue of the Index.

Three other families also filed lawsuits against American Airlines, but those were settled last year in a U.S. District Court, according to yesterday's St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Wagner said the terms of the settlement could not be disclosed because of a confidentiality agreement.

DPS offers shuttle for winter break

The Department of Public Safety will offer a shuttle service from campus to the train station in La Plata for students going home at the end of the semester, according to a Monday press release.

The shuttle will leave for the station at 9 a.m. Dec. 15, and it will be available to take students back to campus the evening of Jan. 13.

Reservations are necessary, according to the release. Taking the shuttle will cost \$5, and the money is due at the Public Safety Building by Dec. 14.

For more information or to make reservations, contact DPS.

Group sponsors voter registration drive

The College Democrats are sponsoring a voter registration drive on the Quad that will last until Friday. Members of the organization have a table set up between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. at which students can fill out a voter registration card to vote in Adair County in the upcoming presidential elections.

Voter registration cards also are available at the Adair County Courthouse in downtown Kirksville.

Committee discusses DREAM plans

The Kirksville Downtown Improvement Committee met for its annual meeting Nov. 19. The committee, made up of downtown business and property owners, met to discuss ways to encourage more people to shop on the square and the surrounding area.

The KDIC board conducts monthly meetings, but all members of the committee were invited to the November meeting to evaluate 2007 and make plans for 2008.

Assistant City Manager Kris McKim gave a presentation on the DREAM initiative, which Kirksville became a part of in September. McKim said her presentation was designed to inform KDIC members about what being part of the initiative meant for the city.

McKim said that being a DREAM city would move Kirksville up in terms of the state's priorities. The city will still have to apply for funding and state programs, but McKim said being a DREAM city should mean that Kirksville will get preference over non-DREAM cities. She said state representatives and city officials should have an agreement as well as possible projects by February.

The KDIC also used the meeting to conduct elections for the coming year. Roberta Santee was re-elected as president, Beverly Powell was elected vice president, Alisa Kigar was elected secretary and Tina Taggart was elected treasurer. Chandrika Collins, Liz Srnka, Sherry Stacey and Mark Whitney were elected to fill spots on the board.

Student Senate | In Brief

(From Sunday, Nov. 18)

- Senate passed a money motion for printer toner.
- Senate discussed the Safe Ride program and ideas from similar programs at other colleges and universities. Senate will seek to fix potential problems the Department of Public Safety has with the program. Fundraising, Senate ownership of the program and rules also were discussed.
- Senate announced that it would post a budget review survey on TruView.
- Senate announced that it would not meet Nov. 25.

DPS | Reports

- 11/18 Freshman Blake Cavender, sophomore Valerie Thompson, freshman Samuel Kramer, freshman Katherine Martin, freshman Amy Caldwell, freshman Lee Jones and Luke Jones were issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 11/17 Laura Harbron was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.
- 11/15 Freshman Vincent Ballard was issued a Missouri Uniform Complaint and Summons for minor in possession of intoxicants.

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