Transportation Planning at Tufts

Recent studies to understand possible improvements to increase safety of people moving around and through the Tufts University Medford/Somerville campus have highlighted the need to address mobility issues comprehensively leading to the creation of the Tufts Transportation Working Group chaired by Tina Woolston, Sustainability Program Director and Kevin Maguire, Director of Public and Environmental Safety. The working group is charged by Executive Vice President Patricia Campbell with addressing university opportunities and challenges in two primary areas: transportation demand management and fleet management.

Subgroups were created to address the best way to manage Tufts-owned vehicles (Fleet) and to examine how people get to, from and around our campuses – also known as Transportation Demand Management (TDM). Both groups began work in the fall of 2013 and consist of personnel from Risk Management, Public Safety, Sustainability, Dean of Students Office, Office of Campus Life, Athletics, Operations, Procurement, Community Relations, Facilities Services and a student volunteer. Both subgroups have chosen a consultant to work with to achieve their goals.

The Fleet Management Working Group Committee will:

a. Address the need for policies related to student drivers and vehicles operated primarily by students, to assure that students have safe, well-maintained vehicles at reasonable costs to travel to off campus events and services;

b. Create a clear set of protocols and policies regarding use of university vehicles;

c. Create a set of protocols and policies for operators of university vehicles;

d. Create a fleet management plan for Tufts, including fleet acquisition, administration and management, use, maintenance, finances, etc., with the goals of increasing efficiencies and decreasing fleet operating costs.

The Transportation Demand Management Working Group Committee will work to analyze and provide recommendations on how to:

a. Reduce the need for single occupancy vehicles;

b. Optimize how people move around and between campuses;

c. Improve pedestrian/cyclist safety and campus aesthetics;

d. Reduce the parking burden on high demand satellite locations;

e. Support the use of alternative fuel vehicles;

f. Fund TDM strategies;

g. Address the transportation needs of students;

h. Optimize parking policies and practices;

i. Sustain TDM programs over time;

j. Measure success.

It is anticipated that the majority of the committees’ work will be completed by fall, 2014.