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CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO IMPACT PARKING SPACES

There is no denying it – parking on the NIH Bethesda campus is fast becoming a major quality of work issue.

While the NIH has been fortunate in receiving support for new research facilities and security improvements to foster the expanding research mission, with this progress comes new construction, affecting an already strained parking situation.

The NIH has several construction projects underway or planned this summer that will significantly reduce the availability of parking on the main campus. Although the NIH is taking steps to improve the situation, including plans to build two new multi-level parking garages, the upgrading of current facilities and construction of new facilities will mean the loss of many existing spaces until the parking garages are finished in late 2004.

Currently under construction, the Edmond J. Safra Family Lodge broke ground in February 2003 adjacent to the Building 60 (Convent). This construction

1700 TOTAL PARKING LOSSES IN 2003

Month	Project	Lost Spaces
FEBRUARY	Family Lodge	110
MARCH	Building 6	30
JULY	Stormwater Facility	350
JULY-AUGUST	Bldg. 10 Utility Vault	200
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER	CVI/Gate	450
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER	Building 33	560



resulted in the loss of about 100 parking spaces but was offset in part because of additional parking available in Lot 41 and some parking garages that were underutilized.

Several new research-driven construction projects are scheduled to commence in July/August 2003 that will further reduce parking availability. The construction of the Zebrafish Addition to Building 6 will impact parking spaces at the traffic circle in front of the building and possibly several spaces at the loading dock. Also, a new Utility Vault will be built

new Commercial Vehicle Inspection (CVI) Facility will be built on existing parking lots near Rockville Pike to comply with security requirements. The CVI will facilitate the inspection of all commercial vehicles in one central location, separate from employee entrances.

Over the long term, the construction of two new multi-level parking garages should help remedy the parking shortage. The planned construction of MLP-9, the Northwest Parking Garage, will replace almost 1000 spaces lost to the CRC and

in Lot 41 to assist with employee parking. However, the addition of attendants will only make up approximately 250 of the lost spaces.

The NIH strongly encourages all employees and other individuals working on the main campus to consider using alternative methods of transportation. Several alternative transportation options include:

■ **The NIH Transhare Program** - established in 1992 as a means of reducing traffic congestion and relieving energy and environmental concerns in the metropolitan area. Participants in the program are eligible to receive up to \$100 per month in a commuting subsidy (Metrocheks). Metrocheks can be redeemed for Metro, bus and numerous public transportation modes.

■ **Carpooling and Vanpooling** - these programs remain integral components of reducing the demand on campus parking spaces. Carpoolers may park in preferred areas until 9:30 a.m. Registered vanpools receive a reserved space in the lot of their choice. Vanpool participants may be eligible for the NIH Transhare Program to reduce the monthly cost. The NIH Ridefinders Network assists employees interested in carpooling and vanpooling by providing a list of individuals interested in ridesharing who live and work in the same area.

■ **Express Buses** - there are currently 3 express bus routes that serve the NIH campus: 1) Metrobus J-9 from Lakeforest Mall; 2) Ride-On Route 70 from Milestone Park & Ride; and 3) Metrobus Smartmover from Tysons Corner.

■ **Bicycling and Walking** - these transportation modes historically have played a large part in reducing vehicular traffic on campus roadways, and even regionally, by removing vehicles from already clogged traffic arteries.

In all, current and upcoming construction projects will impact 1,700 employee parking spaces on the main campus.



The sections with shaded lines on the map show the areas that will be impacted as a result of these projects.

near Building 10 to serve the west side of campus removing significant parking spaces.

Finally, three major projects will remove over 1,000 parking spaces in the 31 Lots. State and local regulations require the NIH to build a new Storm Water Management Facility as part of the Clinical Research Center project to address storm water run-off. The construction of the new Infectious Diseases Research Lab, known as Building 33, will also remove significant parking spaces in the 31 Lots. Finally, as part of the NIH Perimeter Security System, a

Building 50 since 1995. In addition, MLP-10, part of the Building 33 complex, will add 1230 parking spaces and should help offset current and previous losses, particularly in the northeast section of campus where the 31 Lots are impacted. In total, the addition of MLP-9 and MLP-10 will return 2170 spaces to campus.

Until the parking garages are built, all NIH Parking Permit holders are going to be affected. To the extent possible, the NIH will attempt to reallocate spaces in other areas, but this may not serve all employees.

Parking attendants will be placed

■ **Satellite Parking Areas** – The NIH maintains satellite parking spaces at the Mid-Pike Plaza Commuter Parking Lot. Parking is free for employees and shuttle service operates throughout the day to the campus and leased facilities.

Again, the NIH is strongly encouraging employees to consider using one of the above alternative transportation modes. To obtain information on all forms of alternative transportation, please contact the Employee Transportation Services Office at 2-RIDE (7433).

The NIH is exploring ways to help lessen the impact of the parking shortage. An NIH Parking Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Michael Gottesman with representation from broad segments of the NIH community will be working on interim solutions to address the situation. More information will be available in the near future. In the meantime, suggestions and comments are welcome.

INFORMATION:

NIH Parking Information Line
E-mail: parkinginfo@mail.nih.gov
Voice: 301-594-6677
TTY: 301-435-1908

HIGHWAY ADVISORY RADIO COMING TO THE NIH ON AM 1610

The Office of Research Facilities (ORF) and the Office of Research Services (ORS) have been working on numerous transportation related improvements designed to assist NIH employees, contractors, visitors and guests traveling to, and circulating throughout, the main campus. One innovative improvement coming later this summer is the acquisition of a Highway Advisory Radio system (HARS), currently being worked on by the Division of Facilities Planning (DFP), ORF.

The HARS consists of a low power radio transmitter that will broadcast traffic related information over your car radio. The station will transmit on frequency 1610 on your AM radio. The HARS has been designed to also incorporate Variable Message Signs (VMS) – a type of electronic message board – located on the campus and flashing beacon signals located at off-campus locations. HARS messages can be broadcast by a pre-recorded message, or in the event of an emergency, through ‘live’ broadcasts.

In initial testing the NIH system transmitted approximately four miles from the main campus. This range allows NIH to maximize the target audience on major traffic arteries serving the campus such as the Old Georgetown Road and Rockville Pike traffic corridors to the north, and East West Highway at Wisconsin Avenue to the south. Our hope is that this will allow motorists ample time to react to traffic conditions prior to committing to a clogged traffic artery. In the future, our goal is to enhance the system using ‘repeaters’ to expand the range of the AM signal to include off-campus facilities at Rockledge, Executive Plaza and surrounding leased buildings.

Motorist would be able to listen to repeated messages while passing through the broadcast zone. Due to unforeseen circumstances such as a motor vehicle accident, unusually heavy traffic volume, broken down

vehicles, security threat levels, etc., information can be relayed to employees quickly through their vehicle’s AM radio. Useful traffic information re-directing employees to another entrance or exit will expedite their commute to the campus. Other types of messages being considered for broadcast include special event information, parking lot information, and more importantly, emergency information. Because the transmitter broadcasts on the AM radio band, virtually every car radio is able to receive the signal.

The system can be linked directly to several VMS message signs placed strategically on campus to assist motorists in navigating around congested areas, construction and to relay other important information to those not listening to the radio station. Traffic advisories can be sent without delay. For special events, motorists can receive directions to the correct building or designated parking areas. VMS signs placed at exit locations could direct motorists to alternative exits in the event of accidents or traffic jams.

In the event of an emergency requiring an evacuation, DFP has been working with the Division of Public Safety (DPS) to implement a plan to help safely guide individuals from the campus in an orderly fashion. The evacuation plan includes the use of the HARS AM radio system and the VMS signs to aid in communicating emergency evacuation instructions. The NIH is working with various state/local agencies to integrate the system into a regional emergency broadcast system in the future.

INFORMATION:

Thomas Hayden
301-496-5037

FIRE LANES ON CAMPUS

We have all noticed cars illegally parked in designated fire lanes. It happens everywhere, unfortunately, including the NIH Bethesda campus. These lanes are absolutely essential for effective emergency response. Blocked emergency access places our people and facilities at risk.

The signs that scream “NO PARKING - FIRE LANE” should be simple and straightforward enough.

When there is an emergency, fire, rescue and police vehicles need to get close to the buildings, fire hydrants, and sprinkler/standpipe connections.

Leaving your vehicle in a fire lane may seriously hinder firefighting and rescue efforts, making this a very serious offense. At the NIH, this violation results in a fine plus towing and impoundment charges. Make no mistake: All parking in designated fire lanes is against the law and there are no exceptions.

INFORMATION:

Fire Prevention Section
301-496-0487

IS ESI ESSENTIAL FOR THE NIH?

Conducting cost-benefit analyses of library resources is challenging, especially when we don't know whether NIH staff are in fact benefiting from a costly resource. That is why the NIH Library needs your input about the value of ISI Essential Science IndicatorsSM (ESI) to your institute, grants administrator, laboratory, or working group. If this database is important to your work we need to know about it, or it may be cancelled. Or if you haven't tried it yet, please take the time to do so and let us know if you think you will use it in the future. In either case we would like to know more about how you use ESI.

ISI Essential Science Indicators provides Internet access to science performance statistics and science trends data compiled by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). Covering 8,500 journals from around the world, ESI enables you to view rankings of highly cited scientists, institutions (university, corporate, government research lab), nations, and journals. Links are provided from within ESI to papers found in ISI Web of Science[®]. ESI is updated bimonthly.

ISI Essential Science Indicators can be accessed from the NIH Library homepage via the Databases page, <http://nihlibrary.nih.gov/Elecres/databases.htm>, located behind the Electronic Resources icon. The webcast “NIH Library Presents Essential Science Indicators,” from March 21, 2002, gives an overview of ESI including vendor answers to questions posed by NIH staff. It is available at: <http://videocast.nih.gov/PastEvents.asp?c=4>.

INFORMATION:

Karen Smith
301-594-6273

K-9 GRADUATES ADDED TO FORCE

Graduation Day arrived on June 12, 2003 for a group of students who received bones and dog treats rather than caps and gowns.

Three new NIH Police Canine Teams completed an exhaustive, demanding training program to enter the daily workforce of the NIH Police. They are on campus every day, serving and protecting.

The new graduates bring the NIH Police canine complement to 10 explosive detection teams and one narcotic detection team. These teams are all engaged in strategic operations that enhance the operational security of the NIH campus.



One of the K-9 graduate teams: Officer Nigretti and K-9 Ceasar.

The effective combination of dedicated human handler and well-trained dog present a very effective weapon against crime and potential terrorist attacks.

During periods of elevated security levels, these teams are invaluable in the inspection of the thousands of items, packages, parcels and vehicles that enter our campus every day. Their presence is a clear deterrent. They also enhance and speed up the inspection process to facilitate the safe entry to the campus of all the important scientific, medical, administrative, and operational staff that make the NIH a world-class facility.

The new graduates join existing K-9 teams that have repeatedly proven themselves as valued components of the overall security plan for the NIH campus. While the teams are used primarily for NIH on- and off-campus facilities, they also support other local public safety agencies in crime prevention and other techniques.

During this past calendar quarter, the NIH Police Canine Unit not only performed all necessary tasks at the NIH, but they also supported the Maryland State Police, the Rockville City Police, and the Naval Medical Center in narcotic enforcement activities.

When you see one of our graduates working somewhere on the campus you need not offer formal or traditional expressions of congratulations. A simple pat on the head or dog treat is more than sufficient.

INFORMATION:

Richard Johnston
301-594-9636

NIH LAUDED FOR TRAVEL SYSTEM INNOVATIONS

GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE'S TRAVEL MANAGERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

In June, six agencies were recognized for their success in government travel management. The 2003 Travel Managers of the Year award, sponsored by Government Executive magazine, honored the NIH along with the Postal Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Secret Service, Veterans Affairs, and the Food and Drug Administration. The award program encourages innovation and celebrates excellence in government travel management.

Historically, the General Services Administration (GSA) contract provided the NIH, like most government entities, with travel management center services. However, given the unique travel requirements at the NIH, it was difficult to administer

and measure the value and quality of service through this arrangement. Complaints escalated as the NIH travel requirements increased and the Travel Management Center (TMC) was unable to add needed staff and technology due to the structure of the contract.

The NIH decided to go its own way for travel services, and sought a travel agency with experience serving patient and government travelers, advanced accounting and reservation systems, multiple methods for making reservations, lowest fare guarantees, upgraded telecommunications systems, 24-hour emergency customer support, and other travel amenities. Since May 2001, these services have been provided through a performance based contract with Omega World Travel.

In fiscal year 2002, 75,000 reservations were processed. That translates into \$24 million spent on transportation. The NIH will save



Recipients of the Travel Managers of the Year Award from left, Cheryl Shipe, Carole Harman, Belinda Cowling, Timothy Tosten, Mark Fryman, Ellen Grant, Patience Hadley (Omega World Travel) and Connie Forkkio (Omega World Travel). (All individuals are from the NIH unless otherwise noted.)

approximately \$150,000 this fiscal year through internal administration and oversight. This includes the Project Office working closely with the TMC to ensure compliance in providing the GSA's contract City-Pair fares that charges government travelers a price of approximately 65 percent of full fares. The NIH also benefits from a three-tiered fee structure (<http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/dss/special/travel.htm#fees>), so IC travel arrangers have options that immediately allow them to save on internal travel depending on which method is used to make reservations.

Omega World Travel has a software program (MegaCatch) that locates unused portions of electronic tickets (E-tickets). Travelers that are issued E-tickets often neglect to inform their travel coordinator or travel agent that they did not take a particular flight(s). During travel in FY 02 at the NIH, Omega was able to locate 1,093 such occurrences, resulting in \$225,000 in refunds.

Previous programs and systems required an exorbitant amount of paper. Introducing online request forms by fax or e-mail has reduced paper usage. Also of note is the option to enter a personal travel profile online. The reduction in calls placed to the TMC allows more requests to be processed and also saves time for the travel arrangers.

One of the key aspects in the success of this new travel contract was developing performance standards. Prior to Omega, NIH consumers lacked confidence based on experiences with telephone response times, accuracy of requests

and other essential service area components. The Project Officer's standards were designed to ensure that expected service levels were met by the TMC, and monetary penalties would be imposed if any of the standards fell below the Allowable Quality Levels set in the contract.

Based on feedback from our information sessions, NIH travel arrangers have shared that they are more confident in the system because the Project Office is accessible and accountable. They appreciate having contact people who are willing to listen, take advice and implement changes, take action and seek resolution for all issues received, and especially the way they keep the community updated on all relevant information, particularly through the bi-monthly electronic newsletter (*Travel-Tips*).

INFORMATION

Tim Tosten, Chief, Worksite Enrichment Programs Branch

Ellen Grant, TMC Project Officer
301-402-8180

www.nih.gov/od/ors/dss/special/travel.htm

EARTH DAY EVENT

NIH CELEBRATES RECORD TURNOUT FOR E-CYCLING

On April 12, the NIH held its first electronics recycling (e-cycling) event at White Flint Mall in North Bethesda. Open to government employees and the public, the event provided an opportunity to recycle all types of personally owned electronics ranging from cell phones to televisions and computers.

The event's original location, the Building 31F parking lot on the NIH Campus, had to be changed on short notice when the security level was raised due to the start of the war in Iraq. Event organizers scrambled to find a new site for the event at a non-government facility. White Flint Mall management generously offered the use of one of their parking lots for the collection site. They provided free advertising for the event on their website and with announcements on the electronic sign at the entrance to the mall. NIH organizers re-publicized as well. They feared turnout would be low.

Car loads of "e-junk" began to come to the collection site before it was open. By mid-morning there were so many cars arriving that one service line couldn't handle the traffic and two more lines were set up. By mid-day all three lines were busy and at times backed up to the street. Finally, it was closing time. Exhausted event volunteers thought they could slow down and start packing the materials away for transport, but the cars kept coming.

It was determined that an estimated 670 deliveries of electronics were made that day. Most of them came by cars and trucks – 644 -- the remainder of the deliveries came by bicycles, pedestrians and even a couple of backpackers. A total of 34 tons of equipment was delivered! According to Jim Richmond, Maryland Department of the Environment representative, this set a new

statewide record for the largest amount of recyclable materials collected in a single day event.

Most of the equipment collected will be disassembled and recycled. Some equipment that is in working condition and not obsolete will be refurbished and donated or sold. For example, 103 cell phones and related accessories collected at the event will be turned in to the Wireless Foundation to be reconfigured as emergency call phones and donated to abuse prevention programs.

Few would have predicted the potential adverse environmental consequences of the Computer Age. Gazing over the small mountains of collected dead TVs, PCs, printers and other electronics, Ed Rau, the NIH coordinator of the event, mused that just 10 years ago most of this toxic "detritus of technology" did not even exist. In the next 10 years several hundred million more computers will become obsolete and require disposal. Clearly they will keep on coming.

Even the White House took notice. Juan Lopez, the chief of staff for the White House Task Force on Waste Prevention and Recycling sent congratulations "on such a successful event."

INFORMATION:

Ed Rau
301-496-7775

ARE THE SECURITY METAL DETECTORS SAFE?

HOW ABOUT IF I AM PREGNANT?

Robert Zoon, Radiation Safety Officer, has received numerous inquiries asking the above questions, particularly when the national threat level shifts from yellow to orange and further security measures are instituted on campus.

The bottom line, as a result of the field strength measurements and the standards of exposure that have been established, it is prudent to conclude that no adverse biological effects would be expected to occur as a result of exposure to these magnetic field strengths.

A recent article in the journal Health Physics has provided the information needed for the public to better answer the questions. Zoon summarized that material for this article.

A series of measurements of the magnetic field strengths produced by both hand-held and walk-through metal detectors (also called magnetometers) was made by a group of scientists from the FDA's Winchester Engineering and Analytical Center. Eight models of hand-held detector and 10 models of walk-through detectors were measured in actual security screening locations such as airports and Federal buildings.

For the hand held metal detectors the range of magnetic field strengths was 13-30 milligauss (mG), while for the walk-through units the range was 171-756 mG. As a frame of reference for these magnetic field strengths, the earth's magnetic field ranges from 250 to 650 mG, depending on location. Thus, the metal detector magnetic field strengths are on the order of those to which all of us are exposed our entire lives as a result of living on this planet.

The journal article also highlights that these magnetic field strengths are well below the exposure limits recommended by the American Conference of Government Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), which range from 2000-6000 mG, based on the frequency of the field. Contributing further to their safety is the relatively low frequencies at which the metal detectors operate.

EXCEPTION FOR IMPLANTED MEDICAL DEVICES

Although no adverse biological effects would be expected to occur as a result of exposure to these magnetic field strengths, there is a precaution that should be observed. If you have an implanted medical device, such as a cardiac defibrillator, pacemaker, spinal cord stimulator or an ambulatory infusion pump, the metal detectors have been reported to cause electromagnetic interference (EMI) with such devices. Effects reported were reprogramming, inactivation, battery depletion, ventricular fibrillation, shocking, over-stimulation or over-infusion. If you have such a device, you should request to be cleared through security by a method other than magnetometer scanning, particularly a walk-through unit, where the field strengths are higher.

INFORMATION:

Robert Zoon
301-496-2254



OUR LATEST CHAMPION TREE: SALIX BABYLONICA

The NIH now has six Montgomery County Champion trees. The latest one was recognized at the Montgomery County Earth Day celebration in April. The weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*), tree tag #2330, is located along the creek between East Drive and Parking Lot 31G.

The interesting thing about this tree is that our grounds maintenance and landscaping people planted it in 1983 for stream bank stabilization. With only 20

years of age, it must love where it lives to have thrived so well. The tree is 88 inches in circumference and 45 feet tall, with a 57 foot crown spread giving it 147 points and the current championship. A plaque will soon be placed near the tree to properly identify it.

INFORMATION

Lynn Mueller
301-496-4817

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Mr. Steve Ficca, Office of Research Services Director, encourages you to submit questions, comments and suggestions about the services the ORS provides to the NIH community. Either Mr. Ficca or someone from the ORS staff will personally respond to each question. Just e-mail, phone or fax your comments and questions to the appropriate location listed below.

For questions or comments about ORS services to the NIH community, contact the ORS Information Line:

E-mail: ORSInfo@mail.nih.gov

Phone: 301-594-6677

Fax: 301-402-2204

Website: <http://www.nih.gov/od/ors/security/index.htm>

For questions or comments about articles in the *News2Use* or to suggest future story ideas:

E-mail: ORSNews2Use@mail.nih.gov

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