



Associated Students of Western Washington University
Board of Directors

MEMO

To: Vice President Van Den Hul
From: 2014-2015 AS Board of Directors
Re: Western Student Shuttle Expansion
Date: October 13, 2014

Since 2007, the Western Washington University Student Shuttle provides students with a safe and reliable option for returning home after WTA service ends for the evening. Funded through the Alternative Transportation Fee, the Western Student Shuttle operates Monday-Saturday, 11 p.m.-3 a.m., and Sunday, 9p.m.-3a.m. The shuttle provides transport to and from Western's campus, Bill McDonald Parkway, Sehome Village, Lincoln Creek Park & Ride, Lakeway Center and Downtown Bellingham.

Though the current student shuttle routes serve a large portion of students, we, the Associated Students board of directors, find that there are far too many students who do not have access to the same options as their north campus counterparts.

The Happy Valley Neighborhood, a highly student populated area, has been underserved by our late-night transportation system. Recognizing this, the Associated Students board of directors and the alternative transportation office has worked over the past several years to find a solution. The attached extended route will provide much-needed late-night shuttle service for students living in Happy Valley.

The new route, an extension of the current Western Student Shuttle route, will stop at established WTA bus stops on 21st Street, Donovan Street, and 32nd Street, only running on collector and arterial streets. The above all goal throughout the planning phase was to ensure that the integrity and cohesiveness of the Happy Valley Neighborhood would not be compromised.

Zach Dugovich, vice president for student life, and Karen Izumoto, alternative transportation coordinator, met with the executive board of the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association Sept. 10, 2014 to discuss the proposed changes. Following a short presentation and productive dialogue, the plan was met with enthusiasm and a vote of approval from the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association executive board. The conversation with the Happy Valley Neighborhood Association will continue as the extension moves forward.

Ensuring students are well aware of the extended route has also been at the forefront of our concern. The Alternative Transportation Office is in the process of creating advertisements to inform students of the potential route extension, and will be featured throughout campus as well as on WTA and late-night shuttle buses. On Nov. 4, 2014 students and community members are invited to voice

their questions or concerns regarding the change at an open forum, which will be well publicized over the coming weeks.

Extending the Western Student Shuttle to the Happy Valley neighborhood will not only provide students a safe route home, but will continue the Western Washington University tradition of inclusivity, sustainability and community development. Therefore, we, the 2014-2015 Associated Students board of directors urge the University Administration to approve the proposed extension.

X

Annika Wolters
AS President

X

Chelsea Ghant
AS VP for Business and Operations

X

Sarah Kahout
AS VP for Governmental Affairs

X

Jaleesa Smiley
AS VP for Academic Affairs

X

Giselle Alcantar Soto
AS VP for Activities

X

Cristina Rodriguez
AS VP for Diversity

X

Zach Dugovich
AS VP for Student Life