

Buses, Bikes, Cars, Trains and Feet: What is Drexel Doing to Promote Green Locomotion?



**By Dave Jost, Director, Parking Services,
Fran Maahs, Assistant Director, Facilities Management,
and Sharukh Nayar, Supervisor, Facilities Management**

Presented Wednesday, May 14, 2008

PROMOTING SUSTAINABILITY AT DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Transportation: Buses, Bikes, Cars, Trains, and Feet

Facilities Management operates 24 hours, 7 days a week, providing:

∞ Bulk Recycling Services.

We recycle:

- Motor oil
- Anti Freeze
- Batteries
- Tires
- Refrigerant Air Condition Systems
- Green Batteries
- Buses, Trucks, Golf Carts, Cleaning Machines
- Computers
- Desks and other Office Furniture

∞ Fleet & Equipment Maintenance.

- Drexel University's Fleet:
 - We currently have eight Hybrid vehicles.
 - As vehicles are replaced, we are down-sizing our vehicles. We are moving the fleet to smaller and more fuel efficient vehicles in an effort to reduce fuel consumption.
 - A number of vehicles in our fleet run on diesel (e.g., all of our shuttle buses).
- We use green batteries in all of our vehicles and equipment.

∞ Shipping & Receiving.

- Shipping and Receiving is responsible for:
 - Parcels & bulk material deliveries
 - Sorting/logging/delivery/receipt
 - Bar coding system
 - Receiving and processing from **800** to **2,400** Packages Daily
 - Up-keep of stock material
 - Storage and processing of bulk recyclable material

∞ Event Services and Utility Work.

- Includes:
 - Events Set Ups & Preparation
 - In FY06 we serviced **678** events.
 - In FY07 we serviced **915** events.
 - Work Requests
 - In FY 06, we performed **819** work requests.
 - FY 07, we performed **1,489** work requests (which includes recyclable items).

∞ Charter Bus Services.

- We provide:
 - Bus Charters (Student Groups)
 - New Student Orientation Service
 - Bus Tour Service for Open Houses
 - VIP Tours
 - University Main Events (Student First Program)
- In FY 05, we fulfilled 364 bus charter requests.
- In FY 06, we fulfilled 391 bus charter requests
- In FY 07, we fulfilled 427 bus charter requests

∞ **Campus Bus Service.**

○ We provide:

➤ Transportation Information

- Campus Bus Service Time Tables
- Public Safety Walking Escort Information
- Local Mass Transit Web Site Information

➤ Five Fixed Routes Bus Service

1. **Blue Route (Monday to Friday 2:30 pm to 10:30 pm)**
Athletic Field 44th Street & Chestnut Streets
2. **Blue Route (Saturday and Sunday and Holidays 4:30 pm to 12:00am)**
33rd & Market Sts. West to 43rd & Chestnuts Streets
3. **Gold Route (Monday to Friday 6:30pm to 2:00am)**
33rd & Market St to 44th & Spruce Sts.30th Street Station
Service 5 Days Mon / Friday 8 hours a day
4. **Dragon Route (Express Service no stops)**
Monday / Friday 5:45 am to 11:30pm)
5. **Queen Lane Route (Express Service no stops)**
Service operates from 5:30am to 10:00pm

In FY 06, the main campus bus service transported 220,000 passengers.

FY 07, the main campus bus service transported 274,000 passengers.

➤ Other Bus Services:

- **Winter Loop Shuttle (Operates from 4:30 pm to 8:00pm)**
Dorms to Dinning Hall
- **Vidas Field Service(Athletic Department)**
Dorms to Athletic Field
- **Disability Services Temporary Disability & Handicap Service**
- **Charter Bus Transportation**

▪ **Specialty Programs Sponsored by Facilities Management:**

- ∞ Drexel has six parking spots on campus for **Philly Car Share**. The newest spaces are located on 34th Street (2 spots in the D Lot) and 3201 Arch Street (1 spot in the W Lot). Participants in this program can borrow a car for \$5.90 an hour or \$49 a day. For information about this program go to www.phillycarshare.org
- ∞ Drexel also has a **Bike Share** program for students, faculty, and staff. There are ten bikes in the fleet and there are no rental fees. A membership agreement is required to participate in the program and borrow a bike. Bikes are available on a first come, first served basis. For information about the program, please visit www.drexel.edu/parking/bikeshare.
- ∞ Drexel also participates in the **Septa Compass Program** which provides fulltime students with a 10% discount on their Septa Transpass and Trailpass. The program is currently not available for faculty and staff. If you are a Drexel employee and are interested in participating in the Compass Program, please send the HR department an email telling them of your interest (HrDept@drexel.edu). Students seeking more information about the Compass Program are encouraged to follow this link: www.drexel.edu/creesestudentcenter/infodesk/septacompass
- ∞ We are also looking at ways to promote greater **carpooling**, like offering carpoolers premium parking spots or the ability for an entire carpool group to purchase just one parking space.
- ∞ Parking services is also exploring ways to minimize automobile traffic on campus through such innovations as **van pools** to help bring people onto campus.
- ∞ A project is underway to replace all of the lights in the parking garages with brighter, more energy efficient ones.

Questions for Facilities Management:

- ✓ **As you described all of the shuttle services we provide and the number of passengers you carry on the various routes, I was wondering how many gallons of gas are used each year?**
Last year, our shuttle fleet used 46 gallons of gas – all of which was diesel.
- ✓ **Do you have any plans to move your fleet of vehicles to biodiesel?**
We have put together a proposal to do this, but there are a number of issues we have to work through in order to put that plan into action. We have a number of vehicles that are under warranty; this will require us to check with the manufacturer to see if we can make this change. We also need to get approval from the city to do this, and we need to find a vendor who can supply us with biodiesel. It is not as easy to get as it might seem.
- ✓ **Penn is trying to use recycled oil in its vehicles. Is there any way that we can coordinate with them to make this change ourselves?**
I wasn't aware that they are doing this. This type of change would also require approval from our vehicle manufacturers where warranties are in place. We will certainly take a look at what Penn is doing and assess the feasibility of doing the same here.
- ✓ **As you look to replace older vehicles, would it make sense to move to more bio-sensitive alternatives?**
Yes. Our newest purchase is the state-of-the-art diesel vehicle. There is not much currently available in terms of hybrid buses. We see this on the horizon, but we expect them to be very expensive.
- ✓ **Are any of the smaller vehicles in your fleet electric?**
Just our golf carts.
- ✓ **Could you replace other small vehicles in your fleet with electric ones or would that be cost prohibitive?**
Yes, we could. They would be about the same price and they would save us money. The last purchases we made were to smaller four cylinder vehicle. Electric would be a good next step.
- ✓ **Regarding the Compass Program – do you have any statistics on how many people use the pre-tax transportation account? I think that would give you a pretty good idea about how many employees might take advantage of the Compass Program if it was available to them.**
We can get statistics from Payroll.
- ✓ **When will the Compass Program become available to faculty and staff?**
As soon as faculty and staff let Benefits know that this is important to them, I'm sure that it will become part of the benefits package.
- ✓ **Who, in Human Resources, should we contact to let them know we are interested in Compass?**
Use the general HR email to send them a note – HrDept@drexel.edu.
- ✓ **Is there any plan to add more bicycles to the Bike Share Program?**
Yes. I would like to add another 10 right off the bat and more later. It's just a matter of funding now.
- ✓ **How carefully are we surveying and tracking the commuting patterns of our students, faculty, and staff? I raise the question because we had a presentation by Penn, and they are doing that as part of developing their sustainability strategy.**
We aren't tracking commuting patterns as far as I know. I think it would be great to conduct an overall survey that would take a look at how are employees are incorporating sustainable practices into their work lives and to capture questions about commuting as part of this type of survey.
- ✓ **What are the fuel efficient vehicles in your fleet used for?**
They are used for public safety and maintenance.
- ✓ **Could we use other incentives to help promote car pooling? I would suggest adding a link to the Drexel website that would connect people interested in carpooling with one another.**
We are exploring other incentives, and I welcome your ideas as well. Please send your thoughts to parking@drexel.edu.

- ✓ **Does Dining Services have a partnership with a bio-fuel company that could pick up our cooking oil, convert it into fuel and allow us to reuse it in our fleet?**

Dining Services does have a partnership with a vendor that picks up our used cooking oil and converts it to bio-fuel. We are not currently reusing that oil in our fleet.

- ✓ **Can we use bio-fuel for small equipment like lawnmowers and weed whackers?**

There is nothing like that available in the market right now.

- ✓ **Did we have a Transpass discount program for employees in the past?**

Yes, we did. It went away because such a small number of employees used it that we would have had to pay a penalty to SEPTA to continue it.

- ✓ **Do you know if the university is going to encourage telecommuting or a four-day work week in the future? (Applause for the question!).**

This is a bit outside of my purview, however, I am happy to bring your ideas forward to university leadership.