Welcome:
A Note From the Director

Welcome to Transportation and Parking Services’ (TAPS) electronic newsletter! The purpose of this newsletter is to share with you some of the projects that we are working on and to highlight programs that we offer. This, our first issue, identifies TAPS’ contributions to campus sustainability goals that include infrastructure improvements such as the replacement of antiquated electric vehicle charging stations (pg. 2), the installation of solar panels to generate green energy (pg. 2) and promotion of alternative transportation programs like the goClub.

In an effort to create less waste, newsletters will be distributed electronically occasionally throughout the year. Your name was added to this email list when you signed up online or at a campus event. If you do not wish to receive TAPS’ newsletter, please follow this link to remove your name from the mailing list. I hope the information in this newsletter is informational and helpful.

Clifford A. Contreras
Director
Transportation and Parking Services

Parking info on the go:
The UC Davis Mobile Application

A smartphone application created by UC Davis students and packed full of useful information about our campus is available for free online and through Apple’s iTunes store. In addition to quick access to the California Aggie newspaper, sports schedules and the campus directory (among other things) the UC Davis smartphone application helps faculty, staff, students and visitors find their way around campus whether they are traveling by bus, bike, car or on foot.

Directions: walking, biking and driving directions are available on the UC Davis mobile application. For walking directions, you can use the building name as your destination and Google Maps will guide you along one of the campus paths.

Parking Information: Each parking lot on campus is listed in the Parking portion of the UC Davis mobile Application (pictured here). You can also find information about parking permits accepted in each parking lot, hours of enforcement and more.
Powerful Parking: Solar Panels Installed in Lot 1

In late December construction crews put the finishing touches on a project largely funded by the Boulder Colorado-based Main Street Power Co. to install more than 1,200 solar-energy collector panels in Lot 1, just south of the South Entry Parking Structure. Lot 1’s solar panels, each about 18 square feet and generating up to 235 watts, were installed on two carport-like structures running east-west, with the panels tilted to the south to maximize solar exposure. To further maximize the efficiency of the solar panels, the structure itself has been equipped with energy efficient lighting.

The solar installation in Lot 1 is part of a larger project in which the campus is putting up solar panels in seven locations throughout the University to reduce the campus’s carbon footprint. The combined first-year output from all seven sites is estimated at 1.1 million kilowatt-hours—enough power to serve two large campus buildings for an entire year.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations Get a Facelift

Electric car owners now have more options for plugging in their vehicles at the UC Davis campus thanks to the installation of new and improved charging stations.

The recent installation of 17 new Coulomb dual output charging stations was made possible by a grant awarded to UC Davis by the US Department of Energy. This addition increased the number of electric vehicle charging stations on campus to 33. In addition to the new units, this total number of electric vehicle charging stations includes five Clipper Creek units that were previously installed by TAPS, three inductive paddle charging stations, seven 110 volt units mainly used by campus GEM vehicles and one Tesla charging station located in parking Lot 1.

TAPS will not initially charge customers for electricity used at any of the electric vehicle charging stations on campus. However, over the next several months TAPS will work with the community of electric vehicle owners on campus to develop an improved electric vehicle parking program that will include a use fee for all EV charging stations. Currently customers must comply with posted parking permit requirements for the areas in which EV chargers are located and comply with a four hour maximum charging time. Electricity consumption data from the new Coulomb chargers will be transmitted to the US Department of Energy for two years, beginning in January 2012. Campus EV charging units can currently be activated using a ChargePoint card or bank issued credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover) without incurring charges. The swipe of a card simply activates the unit to allow for charging. Additionally the mobile application that is available for download at http://mychargepoint.net can be used to activate the charging station.

A map of campus EV charging stations can be found on the TAPS website.
Rules of the Road: Bicycle Education and Enforcement Program (BEEP)

When you receive a citation for a moving violation in a vehicle you often have the opportunity to attend traffic school to reduce the financial costs and insurance impacts. Now UC Davis bike riders cited for violating the rules of the road have a similar way out of high fines and court visits. It’s called the Bicycle Education and Enforcement Program, or BEEP for short.

BEEP is a "diversionary program," which means that violators are issued citations, but have the option of completing a bicycle education program and paying a considerably lower fee ($70, instead of $200+) within 14 days to have their citation stricken from the record. BEEP was created by the University Police, which enforces the bike laws, and Transportation and Parking Services, which manages the bicycle education program. The purpose of the program is to improve safety for cyclists, pedestrians and motorists, all of which are put at risk by cycling scofflaws.

You don’t have to get a citation to take advantage of the bike education program. If you are interested in learning how to avoid a citation the online course is available at: http://bikesafety.ucdavis.edu.

TAPS to the Rescue: Complimentary Motorist Assistance

Did you know that Transportation and Parking Services provides complimentary motorist assistance to anyone parked on the UC Davis campus? If you are parked on campus and experience a vehicle problem such as a flat tire, an empty tank of gas, a dead battery or find your keys locked in your car, you can call TAPS to request assistance during regular business hours. A knowledgeable TAPS officer will respond within minutes to your request for service.