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Regents hear building space plan

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

A long-range plan presented to members of the Arizona Board of Regents Friday would more than double the amount of building space on campus, while reducing the number of parking spaces by 5,000.

UA's Comprehensive Campus Plan would increase building space to 19.5 million square feet from the current 9.4

million, largely by replacing many surface parking lots with buildings. Current campus growth boundaries would not change.

Once the space is increased, it would allow the university to accommodate 40,000 students, 5,000 more than are currently enrolled. That's the maximum that planners believe UA can accommodate without expanding its physical boundaries.

Planners told regents the university needs to increase its space because it is already short 2.5 million square feet,

including 400,000 square feet of research space and 280,000 square feet of academic offices.

If enrollment grows to 40,000, that shortage would become 7.5 million square feet.

President Pete Likins has said UA can't expand outward because it sits in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

"We need to understand what our physical space limitations are," Likins told the regents during their Friday meeting.

Much of the additional space would

come by replacing surface parking lots with garages. The 11 new garages proposed would hold 12,000 cars.

"The surface parking is taking up a huge amount of land," said Adam Gross, a principal with Ayers Saint Gross, the Maryland-based firm hired to construct the campus plan.

Surface parking takes up roughly the same space on campus as the entire Mall area, said Gross, who called asphalt

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ALL ABOARD



WILL SEBERGER/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Nick Applegate, volunteer conductor for Old Pueblo Trolley, drives the trolley on East University Boulevard yesterday afternoon.

City may expand trolley service

By Tessa Hill
STAFF WRITER

With the proposed extension of the Old Pueblo Trolley, students may soon have an easy way to shop, dine and barhop downtown.

The trolley currently runs on weekends between North Fourth Avenue's business district and UA's Main Gate, but the proposed extension would extend its current route to the downtown area and allow daily operation. As part of the planned Rio Nuevo project that hopes to revitalize Tucson's downtown, the extension would cost a total of \$8 million.

The proposal is partly geared to bring students from UA into the downtown area and vice versa, said Gene Caywood, CEO and chairman for the

board of directors of Old Pueblo Trolley.

"It's been something we've been working on for quite some time," said Caywood, who added that the trolley is key to keeping the university, North Fourth Avenue and downtown areas, not only historical, but vibrant.

Public transportation between UA and North Fourth Avenue, which was the equivalent of downtown Tucson today, began in the 1800s. In 1898, a mule-drawn carriage began to operate on what is now East University Boulevard, and by 1906 mule-drawn carriages were replaced by electric streetcars, which served UA until 1930. Following 1930, streetcars were not used again until 1993, when the Old Pueblo Trolley started its services that continue to be run by volunteers only.

Recently celebrating its 10th anniversary, Old Pueblo Trolley hopes to expand its service and become a reliable means of transportation.

Caywood said the trolley is used mainly by tourists, but with the proposed extension, it would hopefully also attract UA students.

"Students don't use it much because right now it only runs on weekends when most students are away from campus," Caywood said.

If the proposed extension passes, the trolley would offer 10-minute service to the downtown area every 10 to 15 minutes. In addition, the number of streetcars would increase from the current two to six. Although the final route is still under discussion, the

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New policy in effect for admissions

By Jeff Sklar
SENIOR WRITER

State universities will have more discretion in deciding which applicants to admit beginning in 2006, under new policies adopted Friday by the Arizona Board of Regents.

Resident students in the top 25 percent of their high school graduating class will still be guaranteed admission to the state university of their choice, but UA, ASU and NAU will be able to decide which other applicants to accept.

Currently, regents' guidelines grant admission to the top 50 percent of students, or anyone with a 2.5 GPA, though some students must take remedial courses after arriving at the universities.

President Pete Likins has said UA will not likely see huge changes in the makeup of its incoming

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Greeks show local support

By Cara O'Connor
STAFF WRITER

Some of Tucson's homeless population, firemen, and disadvantaged children are happier today thanks to the efforts of UA's greek community.

About 320 fraternity and sorority members volunteered at eight different locations across Tucson yesterday for All Greek Service Day, participating in activities that ranged from yardwork to bowling.

"The biggest problem has been that we have had too many people show up some places," said Mariel Furst, vice president of programming for the Panhellenic Association, which governs all UA sororities.

About 50 greeks spent the afternoon bowling, raising more than \$2,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tucson, and they expect more to be donated over the next couple of days, Furst said.

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