



Date: September 10, 2018

Subject: Path to Prominence - Introduction to [Connections](#)
Parking and Transportation Impacts and Plan

Dear Lehigh Faculty and Staff:

Welcome to the 2018-2019 Lehigh University academic year. We are excited for all that this year will bring, including academic and research advancements, campus development, and preparations for growth in the student, faculty, and staff populations. We are also thrilled to have such an outstanding community of faculty and staff that have made, and will continue to make, Lehigh University a preeminent institution for higher learning.

First and foremost, we want to thank you for your patience, flexibility, and understanding through all the changes that are taking place on our campus; including construction impacts, transportation and roadway enhancements, parking capacity changes, and class scheduling challenges. We understand that these transitions have impacted many of you, and we appreciate you working with us to help make these improvements possible.

Background

Building on its proud legacy of success, Lehigh University, under the leadership of its Board of Trustees, has now embarked on an ambitious plan - [Path to Prominence](#) - that will allow it to grow and evolve into an even more impactful and innovative university—one whose work will change lives, and the world, for the better.

The Path to Prominence is our roadmap for Lehigh University's transformation over the next decade to achieve the goals related to academic achievements, student population growth, and research capabilities, and we will continue to implement transitions and changes that support these goals. Some of them include:

- Addition of approximately 1,000 undergraduate students, 500 graduate students, 100 faculty members, and 100 staff.
- Development of new infrastructure projects including new student housing, a state-of-the-art Health, Science, and Technology facility that will house the College of Health, and renovations to some of our most historic structures.
- Enhanced campus connectivity and mobility through the expansion and enhancement of multi-modal transportation resources and technologies, reduction of vehicle use on campus, and maximizing existing parking resources.

Looking Forward: Construction and Renovation

These ambitious goals for the expansion and development of Lehigh University in the coming years require significant investments in construction, renovation projects, transportation and multi-modal roadway enhancements. These projects will be integral to bringing this institution to the next level and will further Lehigh as a prominent academic and research institution, enhance the academic potential for students, and create greater opportunities for research and professional development for our faculty and staff.

To see a comprehensive list of campus infrastructure and building projects improvements over the next decade, and the ambitious goals we will meet, visit - [Path to Prominence](#). Some highlights include:

- Renovation of Building C at the Mountaintop Campus (completed in 2018)
- Construction of Brinker Lofts
- Construction of the new SouthSide Commons residence hall
- Construction of a new Health, Science, and Technology building
- Construction of the new Bridge West residence hall
- Conversion of interior portion of Asa Packer Campus to Car-Free Zones
- Construction of a new College of Business and Economics (CBE) building
- Renovation and expansion of the University Center

Lehigh University Connections Plan

Lehigh University has developed the “Connections” plan to facilitate the goals of Path to Prominence and support these infrastructure and building projects. Please [click here to see the Connections Framework 2018](#).

Beginning in July 2017, Lehigh University undertook a comprehensive campus-wide public outreach initiative, performance of parking and transit studies, and review of parking, transit, pedestrian, roadway, mobility infrastructure, policy and regulations to analyze the impact of Path to Prominence projects and growth. This effort has resulted in the programmatic changes being proposed as part of the “Connections” plan. The initiative described here does not currently have an ‘end’ date; the University is committed to performing ongoing review of the programs, continue our outreach efforts and monitor the impact of the various programs being implemented as part of the “Connections” plan. “Connections” will only continue to grow and expand over the next decade.

The outreach initiative resulted in over 70 information and feedback sessions across the University with various faculty and staff groups, departmental groups, special interest committees, and student organizations to provide information on the upcoming changes, collect feedback, and discuss questions, concerns and diverse needs of the campus community to assist us in the development of a comprehensive “Connections” plan.

As part of “Connections”, Lehigh University’s transportation system and mobility infrastructure will be enhanced to reduce the reliance on the automobile for on-campus travel, promote usage and expansion of the University’s transit system, and encourage health and wellness through

walking and cycling, resulting in a more collaborative, less congested, and more sustainable environment for the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and visitors alike.

To accomplish these goals, we will be implementing a series of initiatives that will likely require you to alter some of your parking and transportation routines. We understand that these changes will take some getting used to, and we are committed to providing you with the resources and knowledge necessary to make this transition as convenient and seamless as possible. While the changes proposed will be monitored over the next decade, the Provost and Vice President for Finance & Administration will assess the plan one year after implementation to ensure the various programs and systems support the needs of the University.

These initiatives are in alignment with the Lehigh’s Campus Sustainability Plan 2020 and the Campus Master Plan, under the [“Connections”](#) umbrella. They also support the health and wellness aspirations that are critical to creating a strong, supportive, and healthy campus community.

Transportation and Parking Impacts

The highest and best use of Lehigh’s financial resources is to maximize investment in the academic mission rather than in the construction of new parking facilities. This is especially true at a time in our history when transportation trends are changing dramatically. In the near future, we will experience a transformation in the parking landscape across campus.

Many of the future building projects will be constructed on existing parking sites leading to a reduction in parking supply, therefore creating the need to more effectively utilize our existing parking resources.

The following projects result in reduction of parking facility capacity on the Asa Packer campus:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • SouthSide Commons: | 243 spaces |
| • Bridge West: | 104 spaces |
| • College of Business & Economics: | 44 spaces |
| • <u>Health, Science, Technology:</u> | <u>127 spaces</u> |
| Total: | 518 spaces |

In addition, the following changes affect parking inventory on campus:

Addition of Parking Spaces

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| • Lease of parking spaces from Bethlehem Parking Authority at New Street Garage: | 163 spaces |
| • Northside Commuter Lot: | 150 spaces |

Conversion of Existing Parking Facilities resulting in an increase of Parking Inventory for Faculty/Staff

- Conversion of metered parking to Short Term Faculty/Staff Parking Spaces: 35 spaces
- Conversion of Farrington Square Garage Floors 4 and 5 from Student Parking to Faculty/Staff Parking (effective May 21, 2019): 130 spaces

Conversion of Existing Parking Facilities resulting in a decrease of Parking Inventory for Faculty/Staff

- Expansion and improvements to create more Loading Zones: 51 spaces
- Long-term plans to phase-in and develop Car-Free Zone: 270 spaces

In addition, as our long-term vision is to create a more sustainable and walkable campus, and reduce the dependence on vehicles, significant amounts of parking inventory across the campus core will eventually be replaced with “Car-Free Zones” to create a safer, healthier, and more pedestrian-friendly campus environment.

Location-Based Parking and Permit Fees

The current parking permit structure and fees have been in place for faculty and staff since 1996. However, to move forward in support of such significant campus infrastructure investments, while limiting investment in new parking structures, the time has come to adjust our parking permit structure and fees. As a result, we will be transitioning to a more detailed parking permit assignment system.

Effective July 1, 2019, the parking permit structure and fees will change. All Lehigh University faculty and staff (as well as all other Lehigh University permit holders) will make a selection to be assigned to a Campus Parking Zone based upon their campus address or several alternative options. The selection process will begin on or around April 1, 2019. These permits will be issued on a first-come, first-serve basis until the capacity in each zone has been achieved. Permits will be valid only in assigned Campus Parking Zones.

The Campus Parking Zone location-based permit fees are as follows:

- \$500 / year: All Asa Packer and SouthSide Campus Parking Zones
- \$250 / year: Mountaintop, Upper Residential, 125 Goodman, 126 Goodman, Goodman Lot E, and Saucon Village Day Care
- Free: Goodman Commuter Lot and Northside Commuter Lot

Each permit holder will also receive a credit for two (2) Daily Visitor Passes, valid from 6 AM to 11 PM on any two (2) days of your choosing, to be used throughout the academic year.

In addition to resolving the parking space deficit on the Asa Packer Campus, permit parking fees will support a number of critical campus infrastructure needs including parking facility maintenance, safety, campus transportation, multimodal and mobility programs, leasing of off-campus parking resources, Parking Services department operations, sustainability, and much more.

Parking Regulation Details - Location-Based Parking:

We are shifting to a common approach at many universities called Location-Based Parking. Your campus parking zone will be determined by your campus office or residential address. Your parking fee will be determined by the [Campus Parking Zone](#) you select during permit registration. Everyone will be given the option of parking in the Campus Parking Zone associated with their campus address or several alternate locations that assist Lehigh University in managing parking space demand (refer to Appendix D of the [Parking Regulations](#) to see your personal options). The Campus Parking Zones are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage you to make your selection as soon as the online Parking Registration Form goes live on or around April 1, 2019.

In the event that all parking permits available for your preferred Campus Parking Zone are sold out, applicants may choose to be placed on a waitlist, and may elect to park in the SouthSide or Mountaintop parking zone (also first-come, first-served), in the Goodman Campus Commuter Lot, or in the Northside Commuter Lot.

Generally, all Lehigh University Parking Facilities, with the exception of metered and pay-by-space areas, will be assigned during the academic day to specific users based upon campus address. In general, permits will be assigned to one Campus Parking Zone and will not allow students, faculty, staff or any other Lehigh University permit holder to park in multiple Campus Parking Zones during the academic day. Parking zone assignments for Faculty/Staff Parking Facilities will be restricted during the hours between 6 AM to 4 PM

Generally, parking assignment will relax on evenings and weekends. Faculty/Staff Reserved Campus Parking Zones (except reserved, prohibited, metered, and pay-by-space zones) will be available to all Lehigh University permit holders on evenings and weekends. Evenings and weekends are defined as Monday through Friday from 4 PM to 11PM, and Saturday and Sunday from 7 AM to 11 PM. Commuter lot permit holders must purchase an 'Evening & Weekend Permit' if they wish to park in Faculty/Staff Reserved Campus Parking Zones during Evening and Weekend hours.

Each of these regulations are designed with the bigger picture in mind: resources invested in our academic priorities, Lehigh's academic competitiveness, and the development of a more sustainable, safer, and walkable Lehigh University campus. In time, we know that these regulations will help to dramatically improve our campus, and create a more connected, pedestrian-friendly, and healthy community.

Parking Permit Registration

On or around April 1, 2019, Parking Services will email a link to the Parking Permit Registration form to those eligible to park in each Campus Parking Zone based upon campus address. Parking permits will be sold on a fiscal year basis.

On your assigned permit registration day, you will be given the following options:

- A permit valid in the Campus Parking Zone associated with your campus address*
- Goodman Commuter Lot
- Northside Commuter Lot

Those with a Campus Address on Asa Packer Campus will be given the additional following options, based upon availability:

- New Street Garage in SouthSide Bethlehem
- Mountaintop Campus Parking Zone

New Commuter Lot Parking Lots

To reduce congestion and respond to a reduction in parking supply due to Path to Prominence project construction on existing surface parking lots, new commuter lots are going to be made available. Signing up to utilize the Goodman Commuter Lot and Northside Commuter Lot will include:

- Two (2) Daily Visitor Passes, valid from 6 AM to 11 PM on any two (2) days of your choosing, issued as a credit with the purchase (\$0.00) of an annual permit.
- Alternate parking location during “Snow Alerts” within walking distance of Asa Packer Campus.
- Two (2) codes for On-Demand Transportation Program (Lyft) for any time of the year at your discretion.
- Use of Short-Term Faculty/Staff Parking Zones on Asa Packer Campus

Commuter Lot users will have the option of purchasing additional access options to Asa Packer and Mountaintop campus through an ‘Evening and Weekend Permit’ or ‘Academic Break Permit’. Refer to the [Parking Regulations](#) for the various permits available.

Lehigh Support

We understand that these revised regulations will impact all of us financially, and we are committed to helping to make these changes as easy as possible. Below we have outlined a number of strategies we will be implementing to help you through this transition.

Salary

As part of this plan, all full-time and part-time faculty and staff members employed by Lehigh University as of June 30, 2019 will receive a salary increase of \$250 on July 1, 2019. Lehigh’s annual merit-based increase will be in addition to this salary increase. All faculty and staff will

have access to a free option. It is our hope that this initial contribution will be of value to you as you register for your preferred Campus Parking Zone.

Alternative Transportation Options

At Lehigh University, we have a growing number of alternative transportation options available to our community, designed to improve the campus transportation experience, as well as create a more sustainable overall campus environment. These options will expand over the next several years in concert with campus population growth.

Lehigh University [Transit System](#): Campus Connector and Packer Express

The transit system will be significantly enhanced to better serve the needs of the campus and reduce campus vehicle congestion. These changes include:

- The old “Campus Connector” and “Mountaintop Express” services will be replaced with the new “Campus Connector” which will run 5 buses on the route during peak hours. This increases the number of buses running during peak hours between Asa Packer Campus and Mountaintop from 3 buses to 5 buses, improving headway during peak hours from approximately 20 minutes to 10 minutes, respectively.
- The “Campus Connector” will run late night hours to all campuses and replaces the “T.R.A.C.S” route.
- Connecting students, faculty & staff from 7:00 AM to 2:00 AM to the SouthSide central business district offering shopping, dining, and recreational opportunities for the LU Community.
- Providing connectivity to the New Street Garage and new Lehigh University offices at 306 S. New Street.
- Replacing the current Packer Avenue Bus Stop with two new Packer Avenue Bus Stops:
 - STEPS Bus Stop (Vine Street and W. Packer Avenue)
 - Whitaker Bus Stop (Webster Street and E. Packer Avenue)
- Addition of a Farrington Square Bus Stop for both the Campus Connector and Packer Express.
- AccessLU (accessibility bus service) is a new service providing on-demand service for those with accessibility limitations.

The new transit schedule is as follows:

Route	# of Buses at Peak Hours	Monday through Friday Hours of Operation	Weekend Hours of Operation
Packer Express	1	7 AM to 8 PM	-
Campus Connector	5	7 AM to 2:30 AM	10 AM to 2 AM
AccessLU (Accessibility Bus)	1	7 AM to 10 PM	10 AM to 10 PM

Check out the new [Campus Connector](#) and [Packer Express](#) routes to be implemented in 2019. Follow [@GoLehighTransit](#) on Twitter for real-time announcements and information.

You can also track each route for bus stop arrival times at bus.lehigh.edu. Stay tuned for more updates to this bus tracking website.

Carpooling

Faculty and staff who choose to participate in year-round carpooling arrangements can share between themselves the associated permit fee. Carpool members will be entitled to the following:

- Two (2) Daily Visitor Passes, issued as a credit to each carpool participant, with the purchase of an annual permit.
- Two (2) codes for On-Demand Transportation Program (Lyft)
- Free membership in Lehigh's Enterprise Car Share program

LANTA Bus Pass

For traveling to campus, faculty and staff can utilize the Lehigh Valley's LANTA (Lehigh and Northampton Transit Authority) public transportation service. Lehigh University and LANTA have an agreement to offer free rides to Lehigh University students, faculty, and staff. Using a valid Lehigh University Identification Card, passengers can present the card upon entering the LANTA bus. Fare boxes have been configured to recognize Lehigh University identification cards. For more on LANTA routes, visit lantabus.com.

Zimride Rideshare

Zimride provides students, faculty and staff the opportunity to obtain a ride from a fellow student, co-worker or facility member. Rides can be one-way to or from home, out-of-state or to a local destination. The service is web-based, easy to use and free to our Lehigh University members. For more information, or to find a rideshare partner, visit zimride.com/lehigh. This is a great way to find your daily Carpool group.

Enterprise Car Share

Lehigh also offers Enterprise Car Share, with six vehicles located throughout campus. This is a great option for faculty and staff, who choose not to drive to campus, but may need a vehicle to run errands, get to an appointment, or in an emergency. To sign up for the Enterprise Car Share membership, and for more information, visit enterprisecarshare.com/lehigh.

Bike Share

At Lehigh we have a beautiful campus, and although we are on the side of the mountain, we have an efficient network of roadways that are great for biking to various destinations, and we are committed to continuing to enhance these networks. Our bike share program is open to the entire Lehigh University community. The bicycles are currently located at Farrington Square.

This is a great option for travel to destinations such as the Bethlehem Greenway and locations on the northside of Bethlehem. For more information on our current subsidized bike share program, and to sign up as a user, visit bike.zagster.com/lehigh.

Thank you...

We understand that many of these parking regulations and transportation options are new and unfamiliar to many of you. Throughout the Fall and Spring semesters, Parking and Transportation Services will be hosting a series of Lunch and Learn events where you can learn more about each of these transportation options and programs, apply them to your individual travel schedule, and obtain all of the information and resources you need to effectively utilize them and prepare to make a parking selection in April 2019.

We will also provide sessions for departments and groups throughout the Fall semester to provide resources and information. Please contact Ann Marie Mulhearn at anm717@lehigh.edu to schedule a meeting for your department or group.

Additionally, the community is encouraged to provide open-end feedback about various programs, regulations, or initiatives. [Click here to submit feedback.](#)

We understand that many people may have obstacles to overcome with these new Parking Regulations. Accordingly, we invite you to set up a meeting with our Parking Services office beginning in December 2018 to work through your personal concerns and find a solution that works for you. More information will be distributed over the next few months, so stay tuned for more information on programs to come. We plan to announce a number of additional programs not referenced here, to be announced throughout the Fall and Winter, that we hope will help us achieve our goals.

Finally, we understand that change will always be difficult at first, but we truly believe that all of these efforts will not only support the goals that we all have for Lehigh University, but that they will help to create an even greater campus and community experience in the future. We hope that you will be patient and supportive of these efforts. We look forward to working with you all to help make this transition as smooth as possible for everyone.

Sincerely,

Brent Stringfellow, Associate Vice President for Campus Planning

Mark Ironside, Executive Director of University Business Services

