Allred and his team are vigilant in keeping pace with employee and student demand. Campus shuttles help both public transit commuters and drivers navigate campus once on campus, running as early as 6:00 a.m. and as late as 12:30 a.m. A new service brought to us is the U Car Share, providing low-cost car rentals (visit http://www.parking.utah.edu/ucarshare/index.html for more details).

All told, Commuter Services provides parking space for 40,000 vehicles per day, saves over 15,000 gallons of gasoline per day, significantly reduces pollution, and provides a great perk to campus members, affiliates, and visitors.

Have you ever heard the phrase “Jack Booted Thugs” bandied about? This unfortunate moniker for our dedicated men and women in red couldn’t be further from the truth. Formerly known as Parking Services, the newly christened Commuter Services title more accurately reflects the mission “to provide in a friendly, courteous and efficient manner, a wide range of transportation options for all who come to the University of Utah.”

Every University of Utah employee may take advantage of public transportation through the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) with their Ed-Pass, U Card or UHC Card. Employees and students alike simply tap their Ed-Pass or ID card against the UTA reader as they board and exit, riding for “free”. Approximately 30% of the University community use the Ed-Pass to commute to work and get around the valley. At $162 a month to purchase a UTA pass, and the ever-increasing price of gasoline, the University faculty, staff, and students benefit from significant savings.

Economist Milton Friedman is perhaps best remembered for coining the phrase “No such thing as a free lunch”. This is certainly the case for services provided by Commuter Services. As part of the U’s Auxiliary Services, Commuter Services is entirely self-funded. Primary sources of revenue include parking permits, meters, and fines (remember, parking fines, while inconvenient when you are on the receiving end, serve to protect parking space for legitimate owners of parking permits).

Though Commuter Services encourages people to use public transportation, they are equally dedicated to providing parking to meet the needs of its patrons. While campus parking is at a premium, and Commuter Services is perpetually challenged with new construction and an increasing population to serve, Director Alma Allred and his team are vigilant in keeping pace with employee and student demand.

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