About our Department

WHO WE ARE – WHAT WE DO

Key activities of the PTS team include daily and long-term management and planning for the campus parking and transportation system. Our department involvement, investments, and operations are essential in keeping university functions moving smoothly each day of the year. Our services impact the experience of every person on the University of Idaho (UI) campus.

PTS annually administers parking for nearly 5,500 parking spaces, with parking lots making up approximately 44 acres of the campus footprint. Maintaining this critical university infrastructure for maximum safety and function for campus patrons is essential to fulfilling our mission of keeping UI moving. Our in-house maintenance program provides annual savings, as well as increased efficiencies and quality of work, with our team performing campus hardscape repairs including crack repair and seal-coating, parking lot striping, and thermal plastic application for crosswalks, and traffic and bike lanes.

The unit is comprised of two divisions, field and office operations, and includes 13 full-time positions, augmented with additional temporary staff. In addition to the key activities of the unit, and in keeping with the University’s commitment to ensuring equal access to all campus facilities, PTS manages the Vandal Access service, providing on-campus transportation to individuals with mobility impairments.

All PTS salaries, operating expenses, and parking lot maintenance are funded through permit, meter, event service, and enforcement income, with the exception of the Vandal Access service which is centrally funded. In keeping with our commitment to excellent customer service, our financial model is to generate needed funding from sources including permits, meters, and event services (approx. 85% of revenue), and not rely on a set amount of annual citation revenue. Parking enforcement, a key activity of the field division and a necessary tool for parking system management, generates roughly 15% of PTS revenue annually. While our unit’s financial model is to be self-supporting, and therefore the parking permit fee structure is set to align with that model, opportunities for mutual cost-sharing and cost-savings are afforded as a unit within Facilities Services. For PTS, these opportunities translate into savings for campus parkers and allow dollars saved to be directed towards other mission critical functions. Partnerships within the Facilities division that provide mutual benefit to units include campus snow removal, hardscape maintenance, and construction management programs. Additional Facilities partnerships can provide for supplemental financial support for major parking capital projects.

Alternative transportation options currently supported by PTS include ride-sharing and car-sharing programs, Zimride and Zipcar. Additionally, PTS supports cycling on campus by managing bike rack inventory, utilization, and adding new bike parking infrastructure when necessary. Aligning with our mission to keep UI moving, and working towards our vision of a campus where a personally owned vehicle is not required to meet mobility needs, PTS looks to increase support for alternative transportation by adding to, enhancing, and promoting mobility choices for faculty, staff, and students. As demand for vehicle parking on campus increases, new and enhanced mobility choices along with incentives for choosing an alternative mode will be essential.