

Summary of Disability Permit Change

August 15, 2008

The decision to require disability parking permits on our campus was made in 2007 after being included in our proposed changes to the parking system for 07/08. While we had approval for the change in 2007, we are implementing the change for the 2008 fall semester. It is a significant change for disabled parkers but one that is necessary to ensure that our resource of disability parking is available and utilized by those disabled parkers who require it. Our message and reasoning is as follows:

Beginning September 1, 2008, Parking and Transportation Services will require parkers using state issued disability placards or license plates to also display a University of Idaho disability permit. Disability parking permits will be available for purchase by individuals with disabilities at the Parking Services Office located in the Student Union Building; disability permits for the 2008 – 09 year will be \$74.

The new plan for implementation of a University of Idaho disability permit was reached in collaboration with Disability Support Services on campus. While some may believe this change in policy is unique, it is the policy in place at Lewis-Clark State College, Boise State University, Idaho State University and the vast majority of Higher Education institutions. Most campuses, for several years, have required disabled parkers to purchase permits. The change now being made at the University of Idaho will result in contribution to the self-supporting parking system by parkers who are currently not contributing, but more importantly, will assist in managing the resource of disabled parking spaces to best assure that they are available to those who require it.

The authority for Parking and Transportation Services to manage the University of Idaho's parking and transportation system comes from the State Board of Education. Specifically, creating and requiring a disability permit on this campus is allowed within the ADA legislation and was confirmed in July 1998, when the Idaho Department of Administration adopted Idaho Administrative Code 38.04.04, Rules Governing Capitol Mall Parking. This rule provides that individuals with disabilities can be provided with disability parking permits "upon payment of a general space monthly fee." Subsequent to the adoption of this rule it was reviewed and approved by the 1999 session of the Idaho Legislature. (See <http://adm.idaho.gov/pubworks/facilities/parking/hcp.htm> for Capitol Mall Employee Handicap Parking)

The following points are helpful in providing further summarization of this new plan for disability parking:

- Parking and Transportation Services is committed to providing appropriate and adequate disability parking on campus

- We want to ensure that disability parking is available for those who need it – when they need it and where they need it
- There is a certain amount of questionable use of state disability permits that impact the University's disability parking resources and impacts the accessibility of those parkers who need disability parking
- Requiring UI disability permits is expected to minimize the questionable use and allow the University to manage the disability parking resource more effectively to ensure it is available for those who need it
- When disability parking is provided at no-fee and all other parking requires the purchase of permits there becomes a financial motivation to use disability parking permits fraudulently
- The parking system is entirely self-sustaining and currently we don't have sufficient revenues to support the system, costs associated with overhead and the costs of creating/moving/managing the dynamic needs of disability parking are not being covered
- New permits, products and options are being developed to meet the varied needs of the campus community and appropriate fees are being attached to products that historically have been provided at no cost
- All legal inquires including the University of Idaho Legal Counsel and the State of Idaho Attorney General's Office, have confirmed that we are following all local, state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)