

PACE CLOSES MAJOR PARKING LOT Master Plan Construction Begins

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As of Oct. 5, Lot K, the parking area near the Goldstein Fitness Center and Martin Hall, has been officially closed in order for Master Plan construction to begin.

With the closing of Lot K, many students think there will be limited parking. According to Dean for Students, Lisa Bardill Moscaritolo, this endeavor is the beginning of a new advancement for the Pace community.

“Lot K’s closing has been advertised for the past two years,” Moscaritolo said. “We’ve had so many meetings with the Student Government Association [and community meetings] with updates about the closing.” However, meetings may not necessarily be the best way to attribute information to students. It wasn’t until the Fall Leadership Training held on Sept. 27, that students really took a hit from the beginning of the anticipated breaking ground of the Master Plan.

“I’m not fond of it,” senior communications major Rachael McMahan said. “I don’t think this is a great time since it’s almost the middle of the semester; it’s one more added concern.”

Unfortunately, due to a delay in paperwork, construction is already about six weeks late. The delay has enabled students to prepare for the transition, but it is just now sinking in. When looking at the plan, students will be advised that there are about 2,100 parking spaces across campus; there is not a parking problem, only a walking problem.

Students are continuously voicing concerns about having to walk around the campus, with concerns from weather changes to carrying hefty materials, such as equipment bags (academic and athletic), books, and materials for student events, only so much can be said until the actual construction begins.

McMahan isn’t the only student to address this concern. Faculty and staff are also affected by this change. It has been said by members of the Pace community that the time in which this phase is being executed is inconvenient.

“This is an essential parking area, and with homecoming so close, it’s not the best time to begin construction,” senior communications major Vincent Melita said. “I have no problems with the master plan; in fact, I think it’s a great idea to upgrade our campus. Unfortunately, the execution of it just doesn’t seem professional.”

Director of Security Vincent Beatty, along with Dean of Students Lisa Bardill Moscaritolo and Director of Residential Life Debbie Levesque, met with residents of Martin Hall on Oct. 3 to discuss the upcoming closing.

Many students attended this meeting and asked questions that have been circulating, such as parking alternatives and what that means for students within the next year.

The plan is to have Resident Hall A structured by the fall of 2015, along with the environmental center relocated behind Paton Hall, two areas directly across from Martin Hall.

The roads will not be closed, however, construction is said to begin at 7 a.m. and finish no later than 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

It was mentioned that there are enough parking spaces to accommodate students and faculty, if used accordingly.

“I think the master plan is a great idea,” senior environmental studies major Christiaan van Zy said. “Consolidating the campus will lessen the number of shuttles and create a walking environment for students. Everyone has to deal with a little inconvenience for the betterment of the institution. As Dean Lisa said, it will only strengthen our degree later on.”

With the Master Plan continuing until 2016, students are encouraged to plan ahead. There is much to be improved on, much more than what is being processed right now.

Plans for breaking ground are set for Oct. 23, and continuous updates will be made available to students.

Students can utilize the Pace Mobile App for updates while construction progresses, as well as for any changes that may occur due to weather, etc.

For more information on the Master Plan, please visit: www.paceplvmasterplan.com.