Questions Raised at the April 23 Community Forum Meeting

What are the University’s procedures for dust control during construction?

University contracts require contractors to comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state, University and municipal laws regarding keeping dirt and debris from falling off of trucks on city and state roadways. They also must comply with the safety laws, rules and regulations as well as building codes to prevent damage or injury to property on, about, or adjacent to the work site. In addition, contractors are required to promptly repair damage as a result of their work to walls, utilities, streets, sidewalks, etc. within the U, the city, and to third parties. They also are not allowed to leave materials in streets and must submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, which addresses the issue of preventing dirt and debris from being tracked onto streets and washed into the storm water system. As part of that plan, they may be required to clean off trucks before exiting the site, and must keep roadways clean. They also must prevent mud and debris from washing into the storm system by providing retention areas on the site. In other words, if a truck from a U construction site travels on a city street and mud or debris falls off onto the street and washes into the storm drain, the contractor is not in compliance with our regulations.

Compliance of these regulations on campus is monitored by the University’s project managers and personnel from the Department of Environmental Health and Safety.

Who did the traffic study?

The study was completed by Fehr & Peers.

What roads are maintained by the city, and what roads are maintained by UDOT?

The city maintains 100 South and 400 South. UDOT maintains 500 South, Mario Capecchi Drive, North Campus Drive from Mario Capecchi Drive to 100 South, and South Campus Drive.

Does the city have any plans to mitigate impacts of construction vehicles on 1300 East?

The contractor who is awarded the bid for the reservoir demolition project will be required to obtain a haul permit from the City Transportation Department. The city will require the contractor to use designated truck routes such as state highways and main city arterial routes to minimize local traffic impacts. In addition, they will be required to keep the roads clean from any dirt or debris, and hours of operation will need to be within the city noise ordinance. More information on this project can be found at http://www.slcgov.com/Utilities/1300EReservoir.htm

Is there a time of day when trucks could be restricted from driving on Foothill?

The city ordinance allows construction truck traffic between the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. A special permit is required for hours beyond that. Currently, there are no plans to run construction trucks on Sunnyside.
What is the University planning to do about idling cars, specifically during construction along Central Campus Drive?

In addition to training the contractors to move traffic as quickly as possible through the construction area, “no idling” signs will also be posted to encourage people to turn off their engine while waiting to pass. As of the printing of this newsletter, the wait times in this area did not require “no idling” signs. Should the wait times increase, the contractor will be asked to provide signs.

Has there been an assessment of the evacuation due to a gas leak on 500 South in April?

Yes, the U is going through an evaluation process, which includes meetings with various groups around campus. From this process, we’ve determined that the University’s emergency responders did a great job and acted exactly as they should have; the incident was kept localized and the emergency alert system at the University worked well. We also have determined that there was some confusion due to mixed messages that were sent by the University and city personnel. The city did not know that the U had an emergency alert system, and the University did not know that the city would use the reverse-911 system without first communicating with the U. The city and University will work toward developing a protocol for emergencies so as to avoid confusion in the future.

What is the University doing to address traffic and transportation issues that arise through the traffic and transportation committee meetings?

Most cases of construction impacts to traffic and transportation are addressed individually. A lot of detailed information is shared as the projects get off the ground. The Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting is hosted at the university twice a year (April 28, 2009 and October 2, 2009). Any recommendations made at that meeting will be researched and responded to by the appropriate agency (the U, Salt Lake City, UDOT, UTA, etc.). In addition, the university is trying to replicate the process used during light rail construction, which means regular meetings will be held about transportation or traffic issues that will affect neighbors.

The U’s construction Web site at http://constructionimpacts.utah.edu is updated regularly. This is the best way to keep informed about the effects of construction projects on traffic. Neighbors are also encouraged to sign up for email alerts regarding traffic impacts by emailing laura.snow@utah.edu.