Kim Jackson joins the Graduate Student Government to discuss transportation issues and policy and, in particular, how they impact graduate students the upcoming academic year.

The Fall 2012 schedule is mostly complete with only minor changes from the Spring 2012 schedule.

- Stanworth
  - The Stanworth Apartments will receive full shuttle service from 8am to 7pm, running on 30 minute intervals. After 7pm, Stanworth will receive service, as it does now, from the Campus Circulator.
  - The Stanworth Line will follow, approximately, this route: Stanworth → Palmer Square → 201 Nassau (Digital Print Center) → Engineering Quadrangle → Fisher Hall → South Campus → Princeton Station → Stanworth

- Tiger Line
  - With the shutdown of Hibben/Magie, the Tiger Line will shift its route to include the Graduate College. All other stops will remain as-is. Importantly, there will be no stop at Princeton Station.

- Saturday Shopper
  - Due to its popularity, the Saturday Shopper is being expanded to include a secondary route and an extra weekend of service (previously 2 weekends per month now expanded to 3 weekends a month). One weekend each month will service the Princeton Shopping Center, with the remaining two weekends servicing Route 1.

- Forrestal Line
  - The Forrestal Line is adding approximately 5 minutes to its interval to include the Princeton Hospital to its route.

- Seminary/West Line
  - Due to the leasing of apartments from the Princeton Theological Seminary, Tiger Transit will service both sides of this complex with the West Line with a 30 minute interval.

In addition to explaining Tiger Transit changes for the Fall 2012 schedule, she also solicited questions from the audience concerning various topics related to transportation.

- In previous years, the University provided hourly transportation to Walmart during move-in times of the year. Is this something that could make a return?
  - Kim’s response: This program was sponsored at the time by the Davis International Center. If the funding were to return, they would be more than happy to provide the service.
Would it be possible to flag down busses, or allow busses to drop off students, at non-official stop locations? Or build additional stops? Particularly along Nassau Street for students living off campus in that area?

- Kim’s response: The main hurdle to allowing busses to be flag down is maintain the bus schedule. In previous years, students have voiced the concern that buses maintaining a tight schedule is paramount. It is also subject to feasibility (in particular, along Nassau or Washington where stopping is more difficult). However, they will look into allowing something like this for the Campus Circulator when traffic is less of a problem.

- As well, adding new stops is both costly and time-consuming – especially when it concerns Princeton Borough.

What is involved with researching and providing University-sponsored transportation to off-campus locations, particularly in the case of block leasing in neighboring townships?

- Kim’s response: Due to the various groups involved when instituting a bus line to an area, this is quite tricky. In particular, research and negotiating with townships, boroughs, and New Jersey Transit are necessary when selecting roadways for route.

- Kim’s recommendation: More data is needed as to where people (including graduates, faculty, and staff) are living in order for her and her department to advocate for adding such a service. Only after it is known where people reside will it be possible to begin the necessary discussions.

When is the Spring schedule finalized?

- Kim’s response: Approximately November.

What is the policy for when a bus is running ahead of schedule and must stop and wait?

- Kim’s response: This is dependent upon the stop: Drivers cannot stop for long at high-traffic locations, such as along Nassau or Washington, and must instead wait at ‘safe’ locations (such as Friend Center, Fisher Hall, and the apartment complexes).

Is it possible for On-Demand shuttle service to also service nearby off-campus locations, such as near the Princeton Hospital?

- Kim’s response: This will be looked into.

As parting words, Kim thanks the graduate student population for being supportive and using the transportation services. By continuing to do so, it allows her and her office to make improvements and expansions to the routes and services.