



**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Campus Facilities Planning Committee
Request for Project Approval Form**

1. **Project Number**
2. **Project Name** Task Force Fencing
3. **Committee Date** April 9, 2010
4. **Requesting Department** Department of Public Safety
5. **Contact Name & Phone Number** Malcolm Davis & 3-0580
6. **Presenter:** **Malcolm Davis**
7. **Description of Request**

Project Overview

*The President Task Force on Safety and Security recommended that a wrought iron decorative fence marking the campus perimeter be installed, especially in outlying parking lots. **This recommendation was approved.***

The Department of Public Safety proposes that a first phase of perimeter fence be constructed immediately along Cullen, I-45 south feeder, Spur 5 and Wheeler. Later phases of the work will be coordinated with the construction of the METRO Light Rail lines along Scott and Wheeler.

This item discusses the security benefits resulting from this fencing and proposes ways to mitigate any negative visual impact from the installation.

Background Information:

The University of Houston is a public state supported institution that has no identifiable boundaries. The campus is almost as open to vehicle traffic as it is to pedestrian traffic. It is this openness that both increases exposure of members of our campus community to crime and fosters the perception that the University is not safe.

The University of Houston campus has a total of 54 parking lots with 74 entrance/exits plus 9 vehicle entrances from the public streets bordering

the University. Three of our residential complexes have fenced, gated, resident parking lots that are card access at all times. Seven parking lots have card access controlled gate arms that require card access from 7AM until 5PM on weekdays with the gate arms being left in the open position at all other times (after-hours, weekends and holidays). All campus entrances off the public streets and to remaining 44 parking lots do not have any form of access control and are open 24/7/365.

The members of the task force highly recommend that some type of exterior fencing be erected on the outer perimeter of the campus to both create an identifiable boundary for the University of Houston Campus, and to control pedestrian/vehicle access to campus by funneling pedestrians/vehicles to clearly defined gateways into the campus. The fencing should include rolling electronic gates at all parking lot entrances from public streets. Selected entrances would be left open 24/7/365 and all others would be closed after-hours, weekends and holidays.

Preliminary review suggests that times and hours of gate use will not hamper vehicle flow. Upon approval to proceed, exact locations of gates and necessary stacking area and turning radii will be more thoroughly studied.

It is important that both the public and the campus community recognize the proposed fence line for what it is, simply a means to identify the physical boundaries of the University of Houston which also provides defined vehicle and pedestrian gateways into the campus. Limiting the number of access points will allow Police Officers to more effectively respond to criminal activity and apprehend offenders before they are able to leave campus. Clear lines of sight through the fencing should allow staff and students to view suspicious activities inside or outside the parking lots and allow patrolling police to view activity in the lots from their patrol cars or bicycles while patrolling adjacent streets. Members of the task force understand that if this proposal is accepted, the final design of the fencing will be determined by a facilities committee.

While it is recognized that much of this work will need to wait until the construction of the METRO Light Rail lines along Scott and Wheeler is completed, construction of the perimeter fence line along Cullen, I-45 south feeder, Spur 5 and Wheeler could begin immediately. It is also recommended that similar fencing be placed on the perimeter of all outlying parking areas to provide another layer of security on campus.

Recommendation:

DPS proposes a 9' tall ornamental metal fence with 2' brick pilasters every 48' for fencing along Scott, Cullen, Wheeler, and John B Coleman Hwy. (Spur 5). Rolling gates will be provided at key driveway entrances. The fence will be extensively landscaped at its base.

METRO plans a black 42” vinyl chainlink fence separating the light rail alignment from the campus, and DPS proposes to pay the difference in cost to upgrade the fence in these locations.

Along the perimeter of the recently acquired MacGregor property, DPS proposes to install a 6’ fence in the black vinyl chainlink style.

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| 8. | Cost of Project | \$20-32/LF. Total Project Cost varies by scope |
| 9. | Source of Funding: | 2064-H0169-F6498-NA |
| 10. | Proposed Start Date: | Upon approval |

Spencer Moore
Executive Director
Facilities Planning & Construction

Date:_____

Attachments



Ornamental Fence Example



Vinyl Coated Fence Example



