



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

1. **Project Number**
2. **Project Name** **Task Force Fencing**
3. **Committee Date** **May 19, 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 along the east side of Cullen between Wheeler and N. MacGregor and along the northern border of the MacGregor property between Cullen and UH N. MacGregor property line. Installation of a perimeter fence in these areas will address the most immediate security concern, lot 8A, and assist UH in complying with the Jeanne Cleary Act.

As part of its light rail implementation, METRO will install fencing upgraded to UH standard on the campus side of the rail alignment. Later phases of the work, to be coordinated with the construction of the METRO Light Rail lines along Scott and Wheeler, will be presented to the committee at a later date.

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 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 and the MacGregor property 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’ as its fencing standard.-The fence will be extensively landscaped at its base.

The METRO fence standard is a black 42” vinyl chain link fence along rail alignments; DPS proposes that a meeting with METRO be set up to explore the possibility of upgrading the fence to ornamental metal in these locations with UH paying the additional cost. Pilasters will not be included along the METRO length of fence.

- 8. **Cost of Project** \$30-\$40/LF. Total Project Cost varies by scope
- 9. **Source of Funding:** Individual line item, FY2011 UH Budget
- 10. **Proposed Start Date:** Upon approval

Date: _____

Spencer Moore
Executive Director
Facilities Planning & Construction

Attachments



Voting Results:

- Motion Failed
- Motion Passed
- Motion Passed with the Following Modifications:

 Motion Deferred to a Future Meeting Pending Receipt of Additional Information:



Ornamental Fence Examples