

October 23, 2018

TO: David Bradford - Director of Parking and Transportation  
CC: Lynn Johnson - Vice President for University Operations  
CC: Rick Miranda - Provost and Executive Vice President  
CC: Alan Rudolph - Vice President for Research  
CC: Dell Rae Ciaravola - Public Safety and Risk Communications Manager

FROM: Members of the Department of Atmospheric Science - Foothills Campus

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Dear Mr. Bradford,

We, the undersigned members of the Department of Atmospheric Science and its affiliates, have numerous concerns regarding the Colorado State University (CSU) Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) plan to implement paid parking on the Foothills Campus beginning in 2019. To gain insight into how the proposal would affect us, the graduate student representatives in the Department of Atmospheric Science conducted an independent survey, which we drew upon to draft this petition. We have attached a copy of the results for your reference.

Overall, we are anxious about cost-of-living expenses and disillusioned with the deficient alternative transportation options currently in place. Additionally, we are disappointed with the absence of incentivization for environmentally friendly commuting options, and we stand against the implication that the only means of securing public transportation on the Foothills Campus is through paid parking.

In an effort to begin a conversation between the CSU administration and members of our department, we are voicing our broad dissent and recommendations here, and look forward to open-minded and respectful discussions in the future.

Sincerely,

The undersigned members of the Department of Atmospheric Science and its affiliates

## **Executive Summary of the Petition**

We, the undersigned members of the Department of Atmospheric Science and its affiliates, have numerous concerns regarding the Colorado State University (CSU) Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) plan to implement paid parking on the Foothills Campus beginning in 2019. This document summarizes the full petition, which has been made available to the undersigned.

### **Position**

1. We believe that accessible, reliable, and year-round alternative transportation needs to be available to the students and employees on the Foothills Campus and that it should function independently from parking operations and revenues generated therein.
2. We oppose the paid parking proposal on the basis that its current form constitutes a mandatory financial hardship for the students and employees on the Foothills Campus, who are already deprived of equal access to the abundant public transportation and university services available to our counterparts on Main Campus.
3. We believe that absent a novel and swift expansion of the current transportation system, a paid parking policy on the Foothills Campus will disincentivize the use of existing environmentally friendly and health-conscious alternative commuting options.

### **Recommendations**

1. CSU should shelve the decision to implement paid parking on the Foothills Campus until it can demonstrate that it is capable of providing reliable and affordable alternative transportation options to a majority of the students and employees who work at the Foothills Campus.
2. CSU should collaborate with universities that have successfully implemented comprehensive alternative transportation systems in order to improve CSU's Foothills Campus commuting network.
3. CSU should revisit its current paid parking structure and amend it to incentivize the use of alternative transportation by offering more flexible options for irregular single-occupancy drivers working to reduce their carbon emissions.

## **Position**

The dubious assurance by PTS that it will provide a public transportation network to the Foothills Campus is an extortionate proposal: PTS will supply transportation to the Foothills Campus on the condition that its students and employees drive to campus and pay for parking. Our objections to this fallacious stipulation are threefold.

- 1. We believe that accessible, reliable, and year-round alternative transportation needs to be available to the students and employees on the Foothills Campus and that it should function independently from parking operations and revenues generated therein.***

The current alternative transportation system to the Foothills Campus consists of one hourly, daytime-only bus route that does not run over winter break or in the summer. The limited routes constitute an insufficient platform for commuting to work for the majority of our department. Additionally, carpooling remains a difficult challenge to coordinate since our students and employees have widely variable day-to-day work hours, erratic travel schedules for conferences, workshops, and field work, and live spread out across the city limits and beyond. As such, most of our students and employees have no option other than to commute a significant number of days via single-occupancy vehicles.

Nevertheless, members of the Department of Atmospheric Science hold a strong demand for alternative transportation and reduced-carbon solutions to commuting. Not only would such a system be environmentally friendly, but it would also benefit our students and employees who regularly travel between the Foothills Campus and Main Campus. Most importantly, a reliable transportation network would assist our international students, who often do not have an automobile available to drive in this country, and rely exclusively on public transportation or biking to campus. We believe that it is CSU's responsibility to provide a means of alternative commuting to its students and staff, regardless of whether they work on Main Campus or the Foothills Campus.

Not only is there demand in our department for alternative commuting options, but CSU also pledged to provide a public transportation network to its full community in an attempt to reduce the University's greenhouse gas emissions. In 2008, CSU signed the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment (later renamed as Second Nature's Carbon Commitment) and implemented its Climate Action Plan in 2010 to fulfill these pledges. As part of the Climate Action Plan, CSU is required to take action to "Encourage use of and provide access to public transportation for all faculty, staff, students, and visitors." While the agreement to supply and promote alternative transportation has been successful on Main Campus, this promise has remained unfulfilled on the Foothills Campus since the document was signed in 2010. **We call upon CSU to honor its agreement in the Climate Action Plan to provide public transportation to all of its students and staff**, including those on the Foothills Campus.

- 2. We oppose the paid parking proposal on the basis that its current form constitutes a mandatory financial hardship for the students and employees on the Foothills Campus, who are already deprived of equal access to the abundant public transportation and university services available to our counterparts on Main Campus.***

The resounding opposition to the paid parking plan on Foothills Campus by members of the Department of Atmospheric Science stems from the lack of alternative options to single-occupancy commuting. Because there is no reliable transportation plan in place, CSU is effectively imposing a significant expenditure on its students and employees who work at the Foothills Campus. Members of the student body in the Department of Atmospheric Science are especially anxious about the possibility of a new expense added to their budget.

Graduate students in our department already pay a staggering \$2745.12 a year, or on the order of 10% of their post-tax graduate research stipend, straight back to CSU in the form of student fees. Adding a full-price parking pass would result in an average of 1/8 of the students' post-tax income being appropriated by CSU. As the cost of living continues to rise in Fort Collins, graduate students in our department are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet. **The mandatory purchase of a parking pass would be a serious economic burden, one that would financially strain current students and dissuade brilliant researchers from accepting an offer from CSU in the future.**

Furthermore, we believe that an obligatory expenditure for parking on the Foothills Campus will exacerbate the already existing disparity between the Main Campus and Foothills Campus. The students and employees on Main Campus are afforded alternative transportation options, making the purchase of a parking pass voluntary for many commuting there. In addition to transportation services, those on Main Campus have access to numerous university amenities, such as the recreation center, library, and student center, all of which have no presence on the Foothills Campus.

Moreover, because CSU lacks an efficient transportation network between the two campuses, it is difficult for the students and employees on the Foothills to travel to Main Campus to use these facilities, making them essentially inaccessible to the Foothills community. Students on the Foothills Campus pay the same student fees as their counterparts on Main Campus, but have severely limited access to the university resources those fees support. Imposing a paid parking system on the Foothills Campus is a flagrant means of extracting funds from students and employees who are already at a disadvantage based solely on the location of their department.

***3. We believe that absent a novel and swift expansion of the current transportation system, a paid parking policy on the Foothills Campus will disincentivize the use of existing environmentally friendly and health-conscious alternative commuting options.***

As atmospheric scientists who study topics such as climate change and air pollution, we are acutely aware of the need for our society to shift toward more sustainable practices. It is important that we as climate scientists lead by example and attempt to reduce our carbon footprint. This manifests in our support and frequent use of alternative transportation, where available.

When the weather is fair, many students and employees prefer to bike rather than drive to the department, which leads to health benefits for riders and reduces the adverse environmental impacts of single-occupancy vehicles. In the summer of 2018, the CSU Atmospheric Cyclists team won the annual Bike to Work Challenge, demonstrating that a significant proportion of our department actively makes use of the Fort Collins bicycle infrastructure. Nevertheless, the temperamental Colorado weather and lack of lighting at night can produce hazardous and arduous road conditions for cyclists (e.g. strong winds,



large hail, lightning, snow and ice storms), who will either need to purchase a parking pass to cover their commute on days with adverse weather, or be forced to traverse the elements in unsafe conditions. With limited bus service to the Foothills and erratic weather systems interrupting bike commutes, we envision that only a small minority of department members will be capable of completely foregoing the purchase of a parking pass with the current, or even slightly expanded public transportation network.

For those who wish to reduce their single-occupancy vehicle commutes, but cannot forego them altogether, no truly flexible parking plan exists. The only option for individuals with irregular alternative transportation schedules is to purchase the most comprehensive and expensive parking pass. **We are concerned that that people will then try to recover this considerable cost by driving more to make the parking pass worth the expenditure.** (The “I’ve already paid for it, so I might as well use it” effect.) Those who would have normally biked on fair weather days, or ridden the bus a few times a week would have no incentive to do so having already paid full price for parking. It is our position that CSU should encourage and reward individuals taking any steps to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and help the University meet the commitments outlined in the 2010 Climate Action Plan, rather than dissuading them with higher-per-use transportation costs for not adopting a flawless alternative transportation arrangement.

We recognize that if CSU is committed to its students and employees on the Foothills Campus and develops a truly comprehensive public transportation network, then we will reach a tipping point where most individuals are able to commute without driving. We will be willing to consider a paid parking plan specific to the needs of those on the Foothills Campus at such time as the majority of our students and employees have access to reasonable and affordable alternative transportation options and CSU proposes a fair price-per-usage plan for those trying to reduce their single-occupancy vehicle emissions.

## **Recommendations**

- 1. CSU should shelve the decision to implement paid parking on the Foothills Campus until it can demonstrate that it is capable of providing reliable and affordable alternative transportation options to a majority of the students and employees who work at the Foothills Campus.***

Presently, there is no viable year-round transportation network available to the students and employees on the Foothills Campus other than single-occupancy driving. With no reliable alternative commute, the proposed paid parking plan is essentially a mandatory expense for those working at the Foothills Campus. There already exists an inequity between the resources for students and employees on the Foothills Campus compared to those on Main Campus, who have expanded access to university and transportation services. CSU should be responsible for ensuring that their students and employees can reliably and affordably commute to their campus and workplace. The university has made this a reality for those on Main Campus, but it is a non-option for individuals on the Foothills Campus. CSU should not move forward with the proposed paid parking plan until it can offer the same university services to the students and employees on the Foothills Campus that are afforded to those on Main Campus.

**2. *CSU should collaborate with universities that have successfully implemented comprehensive alternative transportation systems in order to improve CSU's Foothills Campus commuting network.***

CSU is not unique in having a split-campus structure, but it has struggled compared to other schools to provide services to its student and employee population on its peripheral campus. We point your attention to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, which serves as an excellent example of successful and efficient design for a transportation system on a split-campus university. They managed to establish an impressive bus network across the divide, while providing student facilities (e.g. libraries, computer labs, recreational centers, cafeterias) to both campuses. We highly recommend that CSU research and contact other universities and peer land-grant institutions that have successfully implemented alternative transportation on two or more distinct campuses in order to engineer a better commuter system for CSU.

**3. *CSU should revisit its current paid parking structure and amend it to incentivize the use of alternative transportation by offering more flexible options for irregular single-occupancy drivers working to reduce their carbon emissions.***

As it stands, the current pricing options incentivize students and employees to purchase the year-round pass by making it the most economical choice on a per-use basis. We believe this arrangement encourages commuters to drive more to justify their parking permit purchase. Individuals who have a parking permit but are able to occasionally use alternative transportation should be rewarded for their environmentally friendly actions with lower per-use prices or refunds for the days they decide to bike, carpool, or take public transportation. PTS should consider flexible parking passes for students and employees who prefer to bike or take public transportation to campus but cannot always do so. We recommend that CSU explore pricing options that highlight driving less as the more attractive economic option, rather than the current system which offers no incentives for single-occupancy drivers to reduce their carbon emissions when possible.

**Statement of Solidarity**


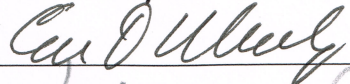
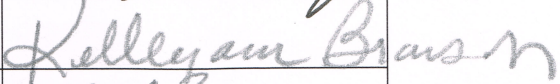


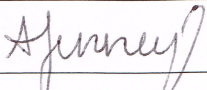

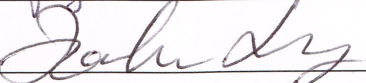


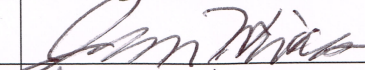
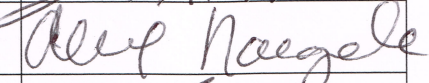

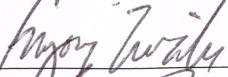
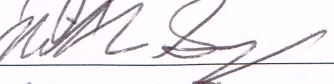
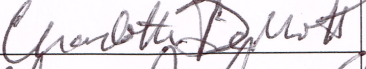

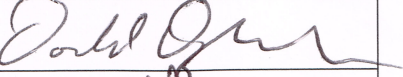
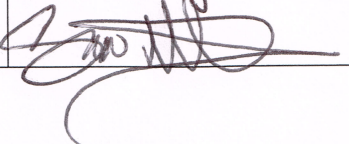
We stand with the undersigned individuals in our fellow departments located on the Foothills Campus who have also voiced their concerns to PTS and CSU. Even though their specific needs and concerns regarding the implementation of paid parking may differ from ours, we stand in support of their positions. We are cognizant that the current parking plan would not only disadvantage members of the Department of Atmospheric Science, but would also have far-reaching impacts for all those who work and study on the Foothills Campus.

**Concluding Remarks**

We, the undersigned members of the Department of Atmospheric Science and its affiliates, look forward to continuing the conversation between CSU and its students and employees on the Foothills Campus concerning the plan to implement paid parking. We believe that we can work together to develop environmentally and commuter friendly solutions to the transportation predicament on the Foothills Campus that can benefit the students, staff, and the University. Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns and recommendations.

October 23, 2018.

Petition against the decision to implement paid parking at the Foothills Campus

Printed name	Department / Position	Signature
Aryeh Drager	Atmos/GRA	
Eric D. Maloney	Atmos/Faculty	
Kelley Branson	ATS/ RA	
Mark Branson	ATS/RA	
ISIV BAKER	ATS/RS	
Andrea Jenney	ATS / GRA	
Jayne DeLoss	ATS/staff	
Joon-Hee Jung	ATS/RS	
Katherine Haynes	ATS/RS	
Celal KONOR	ATS/RS	
Justin Whitaker	ATS/GRA	
Alex Naegele	ATS /GRA	
Mostafa Elkady	ATS /RA	
Gregory Zwicke	ATS /PHD Student	
Nick Geyer	ATS/Res. Assoc	
Charlotte DeMott	ATS/Res. Sci.	
Michael Natoli	ATS/ GRA	
Donald Dazlich	ATS /RA	
Simon Martinez	Facilities	



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Printed name	Department / Position	Signature
Michael DeCaria	Atmos / GRA	Michael DeCaria
Faith Groff	Atmos / GRA	Faith Groff
Kirsten Mayer	Atmos / GRA	Kirsten Mayer
Zitely Tugmpa	Atmos - student	Zitely Tugmpa
Drew Koentzer	Atmos / GRA	Drew Koentzer
David Randel	Atmos / RSIII	David Randel
Paula Brown	Atmos / RSII	Paula Brown
Alexander DesRosiers	Atmos / GRA	Alexander DesRosiers
Naufal Razin	Atmos / GRA	Naufal Razin
Katelyn O'Reil	Atmos / GRA	Katelyn O'Reil
Joe Messina	Atmos / GRA	Joe Messina
Stacey Hitchcock	Atmos / GRA	Stacey Hitchcock
EMILY BELL	CIRA / RA	Emily Bell
Ting-Yu Cha	Atmos / GRA	Ting-Yu Cha
Greg McGarragh	CIRA / RSII	Greg McGarragh
Max Marchand	CIRA / Post-Doc	Max Marchand
Jaime Joseph	Atmos / Staff	Jaime Joseph
Paul Ciesielski	ATMOS / Senior RA	Paul Ciesielski
Russ Schumacher	Atmos - faculty	Russ Schumacher

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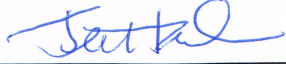
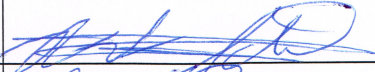
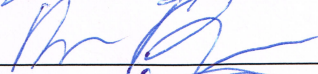
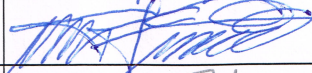
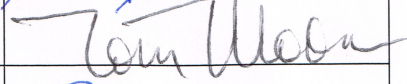

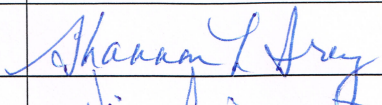

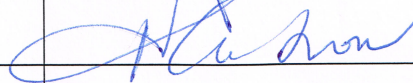
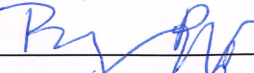

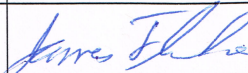
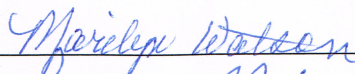
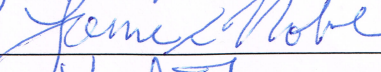
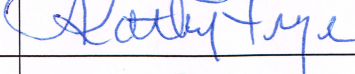
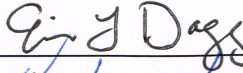
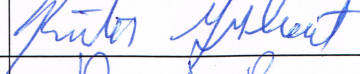
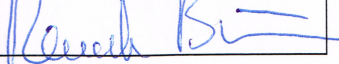
Petition against the decision to implement paid parking at the Foothills Campus

Printed name	Department / Position	Signature
Jennifer Bukowski	Atmos / GRA	Jennifer Bukowski
Cory Baggett	Atmos / RSI	Cory Baggett
Steven Brey	Atmos / GRA	[Signature]
Jeffrey Pierce	Atmos / Assoc. Prof.	Jeffrey Pierce
Kyle Chudler	Atmos / GRA	[Signature]
HENRY REGES	ATMOS / CLIMATE CTR	[Signature]
CHANDRA PASILLAS	ATMOS / PHD CANDIDATE	[Signature]
Zachary Bruck	Atmos / GRA	Zachary Bruck
Marquette Roque	Atmos / GRA	Marquette Roque
Nicholas Kedzuf	Atmos / GRA	Nicholas J. Kedzuf
Adam Clayton	Atmos / GRA	Adam Clayton
Richard Schulte	Atmos / GRA	Richard Schulte
Elizabeth Barnes	Atmos / Assoc. Prof.	Elizabeth Barnes
Anne Hodshire	Atmos / GRA	Anne Hodshire
Becky Botinger	Atmos / Res. Scientist	Becky Botinger
Erik Nielsen	Atmos / GRA	Erik Nielsen
DAVID THOMPSON	Atmos / Professor	David Thompson
Noah Newman	Atmos / Coordinator	Noah Newman
Maria McGowan	Atmos / GRA	Maria McGowan



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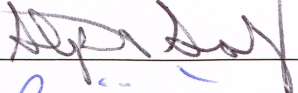
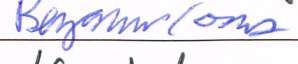
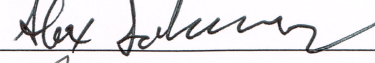

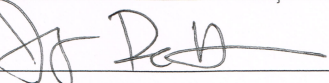

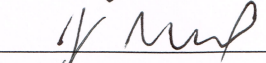
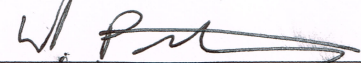
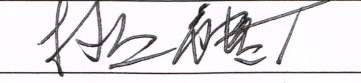

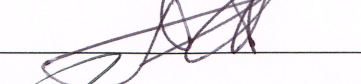
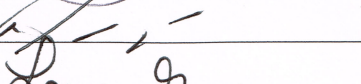


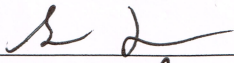


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Printed name	Department / Position	Signature
CURTIS SEAMAN	CIRA	
JENNY HAND	CIRA	
<del>BRETT SCHULTZ</del>	<del>NPS / CIRA</del>	<del></del>
Timothy David	CIRA	
Theodore Friesner	CIRA	
Tom Moore	CIRA	
Matt Rogers	CIRA	
Shannon Frey	ATS	
Hiroyuki Gosden	CIRA	
Holli Knutson	CIRA	
Rosemary Berger	CIRA	
Helene Bennett	CIRA / Prog. Asst.	
James Fluke	CIRA	
Marilyn Watson	CIRA / Facility <sup>manager</sup>	
Lance Noble	CIRA / Finance <sup>manager</sup>	
Kathy Fryer	CIRA	
Erin Dagg	CIRA	
Kristi Gebhart	NPS / CIRA	
Renate Brummer	CIRA	



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Printed name	Department / Position	Signature
Jungmin Park	Atmospheric Science, PhD student	
Luke Davis	Atmospheric Science M.Sc. Student	
Stephen Saleeby	Atmospheric Sci. Research Associate	
Ben Toms	Atmospheric Science, M.S. student	
Alex Sokolowsky	Atmospheric Science Ph.D Student	
Leah Grant	Atmospheric Science Research Scientist	
Jennifer DeHart	Atmospheric Science Postdoctoral Researcher	
Erin Dougherty	Atmospheric Science Ph.D. Student	
Jonathan Martinez	Atmospheric Science PhD student	
Warittha Panasawatwong	Atmospheric Science PhD student	
Yasutaka Murakami	Atmospheric Science MS student	
Casey Patrizio	Atmospheric Science, Ph.D student	
LOUIS RIVIERE	Atmospheric Science PhD student	
Jeremy Solbrig	CIRA Research Associate	
Louie Grasso	CIRA	
Steve Miller	CIRA	
Sean Freeman	Atmospheric Science PhD student	
Stacey Kamecki	ATIS / Postdoc	
Peter Marinescu	Atmospheric Science / P.H.D student	

## Petition against the decision to implement paid parking at the Foothills Campus

**Signature**

[illegible]



## Petition against the decision to implement paid parking at the Foothills Campus

**Signature**

[illegible]

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**Signature**

[illegible]

October 23, 2018.  
Petition against the decision to implement paid parking at the Foothills Campus  
Absentee Signatures

Printed name	Department / Position
Ben Trabing	ATS / GRA
Kevin Barry	ATS / GRA
Sam Childs	ATS / GRA
Samantha Wills	ATS / GRA

Mon 10/22/2018 11:01 AM

To: Bukowski, Jennie <Jennie.Bukowski@colostate.edu>;

Hey Jennie,

I am off campus but can you add my name to the petition?

Thanks,  
Ben Trabing

[Sam Childs <sjchilds@rams.colostate.edu>](mailto:sjchilds@rams.colostate.edu)

Mon 10/22/2018 8:40 AM

To: Bukowski, Jennie <Jennie.Bukowski@colostate.edu>;

Hi Jennie,

I'm at SLS this week but would like my name included on the petition. Thanks!

Barry, Kevin

Tue 10/23/2018 1:22 AM

To: Bukowski, Jennie <Jennie.Bukowski@colostate.edu>;

Hi Jennie,

I would like to sign—however am out of town until Wednesday.

Thanks,  
Kevin

Mon 10/22/2018 8:23 AM

To: Bukowski, Jennie <Jennie.Bukowski@colostate.edu>;

Hi Jennie!

I am not on campus this week, so could you please add my name (Samantha Wills) in support of the parking petition? Thanks for the help.

Cheers,  
Samantha Wills