To: University of Tennessee Faculty and Staff

From: Cris Taylor, Fleet Management Director

Subject: Global Positioning Systems (GPS)

One of the primary goals and directives of UT Fleet Management is to provide a safe, reliable, and cost efficient fleet of vehicles to the Faculty and Staff of the University. In order to achieve this goal we must manage waste, and if possible eliminate it entirely. By minimizing our consumption, the University will then realize the gains brought about through increased efficiencies and cost reductions, which can ultimately be passed on as savings to our students. Waste can be present in many areas of an operation, i.e. budget, time and environmental etc. In order for our efforts to be effective, we must use multiple means which includes leveraging technology by analyzing data and educating our personnel. More often than not, it is a culmination of all methods which bring about the true reductions with lasting results. We’ve recently launched our single fuel card with PIN protection which gives us the ability to leverage our spending power and protect the University from unnecessary spending.

I am very excited to announce that one of the technologies we are utilizing in all Fleet Management vehicles is the Global Positioning Systems (GPS). The GPS units will provide us technical data, as it relates to vehicle performance and usage characteristics. Some of the benefits of having GPS onboard include: provides us with data which can be used to improve route optimization, technical diagnostics, and location tracking. The units give us the ability to monitor engine diagnostic and trouble codes immediately and remotely, as well as vehicle mileage and engine run time. With this information we can ensure the vehicles are held to a strict maintenance schedule to help us optimize the cost of operation and increase the longevity use of it as well. The GPS unit will even send notifications to the department and Fleet Management when the maintenance interval has been reached.

Vehicles used by multiple personnel will be equipped with Key Fob Recognition. Each driver will be issued a personal key fob for driver identification upon starting the vehicle. If someone tries to drive the vehicle without their fob it produces a loud audible alarm. Future uses of the key fobs will allow us to limit who may drive the vehicle by only allowing the vehicle to start for those designated to drive the vehicle, or not allowing the vehicle to start at all during a given time frame, such as the weekend.

The GPS units gives us the ability to be very interactive with our vehicle remotely. We are currently experimenting with remote lock and unlock, as well as, remote authorization to start for security purposes from a desktop or smart phone app.

Designated members of each department management team will be given visual access to the GPS website, so that they can review the data associated with their vehicles. The system has the ability to provide predetermined notifications of usage concerns via email or text. This will provide monitoring capability without having to observe a computer screen. However, at any given time the vehicle can be viewed on the computer to gather real time data.

We are currently in the installation phase and plan to have the entire roll out completed by mid-Summer. However, this will be an ongoing project as we learn and develop methods to better manage the University of Tennessee’s fleet of vehicles.