Automobiles compete for space with, and occupy more space on campus than academic programs, so the more people who can be persuaded to access the campus by transit, bicycle or on foot, the better. Transit will become a more viable mode for many with the addition of a downtown circulator service providing frequent connections between the campus and the Downtown Transit Mall. Improved convenience and safety for cyclists, as improvements to Campus Lane, University Drive and the cross-campus routes will provide, make this a more attractive option. Each regular cyclist and transit user represents savings in the number of structured parking spaces to be built, representing substantial savings to the university. Emissions are also reduced when bicycles are used instead of automobiles. As additional parking garages are constructed, the locations of campus shuttle stops will be amended, ensuring convenient service for parkers.

Bicycle routes identified on the campus are those that satisfy the criteria of safely accommodating speeds faster than pedestrians, good sight lines at all intersections with pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and direct through routes for those crossing much of the campus. The intention is to make designated cycle routes more attractive to use than the network of footpaths, thus freeing those up for people on foot. Links to adjacent streets are generally acceptable, although heavy traffic on Broadway, Capitol Boulevard and 9th Street make those river crossings hazardous for cyclists. Bicycle access routes to the north remain a priority, and could be improved with additional footbridges across the river.

SECTION D
A new University Transit Center is planned for the west side of the Student Union Building to serve city buses, the Downtown Circulator, campus and private shuttles.
Program Affinities

In the 1997 master plan, the traditional grouping of facilities by department was perpetuated on the basis that the efficiencies of proximity are greatest within each department. Distinction of Boise State University as a metropolitan research university has precipitated a re-examination of that assumption. Increasingly, research crosses interdisciplinary boundaries, so access to multiple departments and, in particular, to shared research facilities becomes far more important. Discovering what that meant in terms of siting new facilities involved a special convocation of the Deans, since all departments of the university would be affected by the outcome. Issues of relevance included the priorities for new facilities needed on campus, the costs and efficiencies involved in remodeling vacated buildings for other uses, the availability and visibility of sites for new buildings and their location relative to existing facilities that are likely to continue in their present uses for the long term.

In unraveling these issues, there were three factors that helped to shape consensus:

• Vacant sites along Capitol Boulevard should be occupied by multi-story buildings that demonstrate the new direction of Boise State University as a metropolitan research university of distinction.

• Remodeling science buildings to current research standards is expensive, involves substantial compromises, and tends to be inflexible. Remodeling science buildings as classroom and office buildings avoids such problems.

• The southeast campus has sites suitable for shared research laboratory buildings that should be proximate to Engineering and many of the sciences.

Accordingly, it was decided that over time, the sciences would move into new buildings grouped around one, and later two shared research laboratory buildings between University Drive and Beacon Street, Michigan Avenue and Grant Avenue.

New facilities along Capitol Boulevard would include Business, Social Sciences and Public Affairs, Performing Arts, and possibly some Administration.

As the Sciences and others vacate spaces that they currently occupy in the central campus during the next decade, so those spaces will be remodeled to enable departments that are now scattered to consolidate and expand. Those include Education, English, Languages, Literature, Philosophy, Art, Mathematics and Administration.

This will leave Athletics, Kinesiology and Events grouped in the northeast campus, with a new parking garage located to serve them as well as the sciences to the south of University Drive.

Though generalized in its expression here, the consequences of the Affinities Plan are far reaching in enabling Boise State University to realize its new role as a metropolitan research university of distinction.
One of the long range goals identified in the 1997 Master Plan was promotion of on-campus residential life (Goal A, Objective 1.). With the emergence of the metropolitan research university as a strategic direction, Boise State University is set on a course to become more and more of a residential campus while still serving the needs of the greater community.

The Student Life Framework specifically looks at campus from the perspective of the resident-student. The location of housing units, food service, recreational facilities, cultural venues and health, wellness and counseling services are mapped. What is revealed in this view of the future campus is that amenities, options and attractions on the campus are becoming significant. One of the most striking attributes of the Boise State University campus is its proximity to a range of amenities available in Boise’s central city area: Julia Davis Park and the Boise River Greenbelt, both regional amenities; the Morrison Center for the Performing Arts and the proposed 900 seat performing arts theater; business, entertainment and government services in downtown; the Boise Art Museum and the Idaho State Historical Museum; and other features. It is appropriate that, as the metropolitan research university for the State of Idaho, Boise State University sits at the heart of the metropolitan area’s greatest cultural assets.

Several characteristics of future growth will reinforce this trend:

- The increase in graduate students involved in research activities requiring extensive use of university facilities means living close to one’s work is more attractive;
- The growth of the university towards a compact, higher density pedestrian campus means, for those living on campus as well as commuting and parking in peripheral parking structures, that getting around on foot will be easier, safer and more attractive;
- As growth and density in central Boise gradually increases, traffic congestion will also increase and transit will become more attractive and improved – these factors make living on or close to campus more appealing because getting from campus to downtown and other areas will be simpler;
- The increase in student intramural facilities, including the Student Recreation Center and intramural swim center and proposed playing fields will make on-campus living a more attractive prospect then it has been in the past.

Convenient retail services also make living on-campus attractive. Student food services and stores at the Student Union will become more central to the whole campus as significant expansion in the southeast campus occurs. New satellite food outlets have and will continue to expand convenience to the periphery of campus. Also indicated on the framework plan is the potential of convenience retail in the ground floor space of proposed parking structures. These businesses should be storefront, pedestrian oriented uses that benefit from proximity to the campus and expand the range of retail and restaurant choices for on-campus students. Effort should also be made to encourage additional student-serving retail on Broadway and Capitol Boulevard.

Student health and spiritual guidance are also important to the well-being of students. Health and Wellness facilities are being relocated to a site immediately south of the Recreation Center. Campus ministries and nearby churches offer community worship and outreach for students of a dedicated faith.
This Boise State University Campus Facilities Master Plan diagram is the result of overlaying the many systems summarized in the preceding framework plans upon the campus. This master plan summarizes facilities improvements projected through 2020 and beyond. It differs from the campus today in five significant ways and dozens of smaller ways. The main differences are:

- Facilities are to be located by affinity rather than by discipline: a consequence of the new role of metropolitan research university and the consequent increase in inter-disciplinary studies;
- Relocation of applied technology programs off campus will enable full integration of properties between University Drive and Beacon Street with the rest of the campus;
- University Drive is redefined as the main access drive to the campus, rather than a regular city street passing through it, and will be redesigned accordingly;
- The university will, for the first time, have an active and visible presence on Capitol Boulevard, eventually occupying a third of a mile of frontage;
- Most parking will be removed from surface lots into strategically located parking garages, returning the surface of the campus to buildings, landscaped open space, and improved circulation.

Among the other changes that are important but less conspicuous:

- Transit service will be greatly improved by introduction of the Downtown Circulator with several stops on campus, including a transit center at the SUB;
- Separate bicycle routes will improve safety and convenience for those who cycle, and will attract them away from using busy footpaths where conflicts with pedestrians occur;
- Firm campus boundaries at Beacon Street, Boise Avenue and Denver Avenue will reassure neighbors to the south of no further encroachment by the campus;
- Each part of campus will have a distinctive landscape focus and a stronger identity as west campus, central campus, the central-east Student Union area, the athletics quadrant, and the research quadrant;
- Buildings and circulation systems will refocus on the Boise River and Julia Davis Park as major resources that enhance the campus;
- The campus will increasingly function as an integral part of Downtown Boise, and is no longer considered remote from the center;
- All academic programs will be located east of Capitol Boulevard, eliminating hazardous crossings by students hurrying between classes.

Footprints shown for future buildings are, of course, approximate in their sizes, shapes and locations. As these are built, and as other, unanticipated changes occur, this master plan will require updating. The principles that underlie the plan will remain valid, but it would be prudent to re-evaluate the usefulness of this plan as a comprehensive guide to campus facilities decision making no later than 2012, and every two years thereafter until it is decided to update it. The Campus Architect should alert the Vice President for Finance as soon as outdated features of the master plan become an impediment to its regular use.

Colleges and universities across the country are seeking ways to keep students living on campus beyond freshman and sophomore years. Not only do resident students perform better academically, they both contribute to and benefit from the richness of campus life. The master plan anticipates significant improvements to student facilities on campus, and a doubling of housing for students choosing to live on or adjacent to the campus. New housing will include apartments that provide the degree of independence sought by juniors and seniors while keeping them engaged in round-the-clock student life. As research activities at Boise State University increase, so the numbers of graduate students in need of nearby housing will increase. The planned doubling of housing units will be timed to meet these emerging demands.