

# ATU begins process of adding campus entrance

[Sean Ingram](#), Section Editor

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The Arkansas Tech University Board of Trustees directed administration to move forward and select an architect that would design a new campus entrance.

During its May meeting, trustees also approved the filing of a request with the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDOT) to install and fund a stop light at a proposed new campus entrance, which would be off North Arkansas Avenue and would join four other entrances onto campus.

Trustees also approved the transfer of \$50,000 from unappropriated educational and general funds to cover the initial architect's design costs for the roadway.

Bernadette Hinkle, vice president for administration and finance, said the proposed entrance would be approximately 650 feet long and 40 feet wide and include a reconfiguration of 200 new parking spaces. It would be located on a parcel of land north of John E. Tucker Coliseum and connect with Coliseum Drive near the University Commons apartments.

Hinkle explained that the primary goal of creating a new entrance to the ATU campus is to increase pedestrian safety and alleviate vehicle congestion.

"It was determined, during the campus master plan process of 2017, that the entrance to campus at the intersection of O Street and North Arkansas Avenue, as currently designed and utilized, does not allow smooth traffic flow and creates too many conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians," she said. "This has become particularly problematic since the opening of Rothwell Hall and Brown Hall, two academic facilities, and the intramural fields.

"The new entrance would enhance pedestrian safety by limiting vehicle circulation into the campus at the existing entrance and redirecting vehicles into a new entrance north along Arkansas Avenue that allows direct access to commuter parking."

