Rice University’s experience with parking at its Bissonnet Street graduate housing facility demonstrates that the parking proposed for the Shakespeare Graduate Apartments will be more than adequate for residents and visitors, and that no spillover parking should occur. To assure that it does not, the university will undertake the following steps concurrent with the development of this facility:

1. The resident selection process at Rice’s Shakespeare and Bissonnet graduate apartment properties will be combined to optimize the currently unused parking (40-50 spaces) in the Bissonnet apartments. Applicants will be required to fill out parking applications as part of their housing applications, indicating vehicle ownership status. In no case will the number of residents with permits exceed the available on-site parking at either location.

2. Rice will maintain, monitor and adapt as necessary the combined shuttle and escort service between the Shakespeare Graduate Apartments and the Rice campus, just as it has for the last eight years at the existing Bissonnet facility.

3. Shakespeare Graduate Apartments management will establish a phone number for Morningside Place residents to report parking concerns. The apartment management will work with the Rice University Police Department to verify whether street-parked vehicles are registered to Rice graduate students and then take appropriate action. A log will be kept of inquiries and research results.

4. The Shakespeare Graduate Apartments management will establish “good neighbor” and “green awareness” programs to increase apartment residents’ understanding of the impacts of unnecessary vehicle use and parking on neighborhood streets. The programs will communicate the benefits of parking only on Rice University property and Rice’s commitment to being a good neighbor, and will complement the university-wide program discussed below.

5. The university will hire a traffic and parking consultant to survey parking in the area at various times during the academic year. Monitoring will include the parking practices of residents and visitors of the Shakespeare Graduate Apartments. After one year, the university will share the consultant’s report with Morningside Place residents and the City of Houston including recommendations for improvements if problems are identified. If this report and neighborhood input indicate the need for additional measures to reduce the impact of parking in the Shakespeare Graduate Apartments, appropriate next steps will be taken. Such steps might include:

   A. Increased shuttle service in the evening between Shakespeare and two nearby university parking lots (located two and three blocks from the apartments) to encourage the use of these lots for additional visitor parking.
B. Working with the City of Houston to further improve sidewalks and bike paths between the main campus and the Shakespeare Graduate Apartments to encourage the use of transportation alternatives.

Finally, Rice will continue to communicate with its faculty, staff and students at the beginning of every school year and with visitors and contractors about the university’s “good neighbor” commitment and its parking regulations, which are located on the Rice web site at http://www.rice.edu/parking. As these regulations state:

Rice values its cordial relations with area institutions, businesses and residents and looks to the members of the Rice community to help maintain these positive relationships. Accordingly, just as many campus amenities are open to the general public but intended for the primary benefit of Rice students, staff and faculty, so available on-street parking in the residential neighborhoods near the Rice campus should be reserved for the primary use of the residents of these neighborhoods and their visitors. When visiting, residing or working at Rice-owned properties, Rice contractors and Rice students, staff, faculty and their guests are expected to park in university-provided parking facilities, not on neighborhood streets.