

# Transportation Services Advisory Committee

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

## MINUTES OF MEETING

May 28, 2009

**ATTENDEES:** David Bierling  
Konrad Johnson  
Mike Caruso  
Leah Flores  
Nicole Franzetti  
Cheryl Hanks  
Lallah Howard  
Beth McNeill  
Robert Pottberg  
Dr. Angie Hill Price  
Flora Reeves  
Rosie Schonefeld  
Rod Weis

**Absent:** Dr. Howard Kaplan  
Dr. Alan Love  
Dr. Joe Newton  
Logan Nichols  
Dave Parrott  
Hunter Bollman  
Jennifer Bomnskie  
Tanner Wilson

**GUESTS:** Dan Mizer  
Peter Lange  
Kenny Kimball  
Doug Williams  
Debbie Hoffmann  
Therese Kucera

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### 1.0 Welcome and Business

- 1.1 Dr. Price asked that the committee members to review minutes from the March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - 1.1.1 Robert Pottberg stated that he was present in the last meeting but was marked as absent
  - 1.1.2 David Bierling requested corrections in 2.1; he requested that we remove the last part of the 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. He also requested corrections to 2.1.2.1.2 "David stated he would ask the Graduate Student Council about their support. It must go through the Executive Committee."
- 1.2 After the corrections were made, Leah Flores made a motion to approve the March 24<sup>th</sup> minutes
  - 1.2.1 Robert Pottberg seconded the motion
  - 1.2.2 All approved
- 1.3 Rod Weis informed the committee that Transportation Services received an award during the 2009 International Parking Institute Conference. TS was named as the "Parking Organization of the Year".

## **2.0 Bicycle Rules and Regulations**

- 2.1 Mike Caruso felt that the plan was a lot of information. How would the plan be presented?
- 2.2 Rod Weis stated that the next step is to recommend the plan through Lallah Howard and Dr. Cross to President Murano. This would give Transportation Services the authority to administer the bike program and the ability to enforce the regulations. Then the rule would need to be presented to rule committee, Faculty Senate. Send drafts to the Graduate Student Council, Student Senate, etc. It is likely that the Bicycle Rules and Regulations would not be implemented until Spring 2010.
- 2.3 Dr. Price stated if the TSAC committee approved the recommended plan would still need to get/gather input from the campus community. The subcommittee that made the current plan feels that there is a need for a formal process to make this campus more bike and pedestrian friendly. There is not any cost for a permit in this plan.
  - 2.3.1 Dan Mizer spoke about his experience on multiple bike committees and stated that he certainly supports the effort and the indicators are that these problems will only continue to get worse if we don't take any action
  - 2.3.2 Konrad Johnson stated that initially he did not support the plan because of the fee, but then he did not consider the retrieval of stolen bikes by the University Police Department or from any other state law enforcement agency. He is glad to see that there is no fee initially; it indicates that the programs are an ability to improve our campus and not just out to get the students. This is the way that it should be communicated to the students; it must be on a positive note – especially the portion about helping to ensure bikes are returned to their rightful owners.
  - 2.3.3 Mike Caruso felt that anything coming from Transportation Services would be received as punitive or regulatory. He also felt that we should emphasize the positives.
- 2.4 Cheryl Hanks thought that it is ready to go forward. The rules may seem long now but as it goes through the processes, the rules committee and others will modify the document to improve it. If it doesn't go now, vested people will discontinue giving their time to serve on new bike committees.
- 2.5 Cheryl Hanks made the motion to accept and forward the bike rules and regulations
  - 2.5.1 Mike Caruso second the motion
  - 2.5.2 All approved unanimously
- 2.6 Rod stated that he felt the rules would end up being just three or four sentences with links to other pages for more detail.
- 2.7 Dr. Price recommended the possibility of a flyer for incoming freshmen with simplified, key interest points/rules if you want to bring a bike
- 2.8 Konrad suggested that maybe the RHA (Residence Hall Association) would be interested in sponsoring a fund raiser to assist in providing headlights, or some other required item. This would help raise awareness.

## **3.0 Memorandum of Support and Approval**

- 3.1 Cheryl Hanks recommended leaving the first sentence of the second paragraph. Add the 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph. Then the second sentence of the second paragraph is changed to the third paragraph of the memorandum. At the end of the second sentence add "such as" in place of "for the program by". She thought there was a plan to request initial funding from an administrative source, but this is not referenced in the memorandum.

3.2 Lallah Howard told the committee that \$100,000 was laid out in Rod's budget request, but she did not know if it would be approved and funded.

#### 4.0 Other business

4.1 Dr. Price requested to address vehicles parked and driving on sidewalks

4.1.1 Lallah Howard recommended working with or checking with Charley Clark to see if they are working on a program to address this issue. Is it a security issue or is it that we don't like getting nearly run over by golf carts and gators?

4.1.2 Lallah then stated that this was a university wide issue and that one group should not try to solve it alone.

4.1.3 Rod and Dr. Price suggested a sub-committee

4.1.3.1 Interested members were Konrad Johnson and Mike Caruso

4.1.3.2 Rod stated that he would arrange a meeting with Charley Clark; inform the group about the meeting; those interested could RSVP their attendance.

4.2 Mike Caruso asked what about the guidelines for Low Speed Vehicles (LSV)

4.3 Beth McNeill asked if we came to a conclusion about summer meetings.

4.3.1 Dr. Price recommended for the committee to get information together about SMV and vehicles on sidewalks then begin the August meeting with this topic. She requested not to meet in June and July.

4.4 Cheryl Hanks asked about the University Staff Council USC meeting/forums

4.4.1 Robert stated that parking was the primary topic of complaint; primarily complained about the cost and 17% increase on top of fuel cost increases and insurance increases.

4.4.2 Robert also stated that the flyer at the forum and it did not go over well. The common complaint was that "it does not meet my needs"; "What is the USC going to do to fix this?"; We asked for the attendees to send us suggestions to fix the issue, we have not received any as of yet.

4.4.3 Lallah said that as long as parking is a resource that it must be allocated in a certain way and it has a cost associated with it, people will complain

4.4.4 Robert stated that if prices were lowered from some; then others would have to pay more or Transportation Service's budget would be less which would affect the services they provide; many still do not understand why they have to pay.

4.4.5 Robert said that a sliding scale of permit prices based on salaries was not brought up in the University Staff Council Townhall Forum.

4.4.6 Lallah stated that the committee should not make a value judgment based on someone's financial situation

4.5 Rod stated that Transportation Services needed to do a better job communicating construction projects underway and in place so that permit customers can see the improvements that are being made or what the permit price increases are being applied to.

Other Topic(s):

1. **Set a meeting with Charley Clark to discuss parking or driving vehicles on sidewalks and safety rules for slow moving vehicles**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**