

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 17, 2011

Attendees:

Mr. Jeff Toole
Dr. Tom Strganac
Dr. Beverly Kuhn
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Dr. Joe Newton
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Jennifer Slovacek
Mr. Jeff Wilson
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Casi Wilbanks
Mr. Rod Weis
Mr. C J Woods
Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith

Absent:

Ms. Mary Tess Eggebrecht
Dr. R J Golsan
Dr. Clint Magill
Ms. Flora Reeves
Mr. Chris Russo
Ms. Sarah Saunders
Mr. Tyler Moquin
Mr. Oliver Thoma

Guests:

Ms. Debbie Hoffmann
Mr. Doug Williams
Ms. June Broughton
Mr. Pete Willis
Ms. Therese Kucera
Ms. Rose Berryhill
Mr. Kenny Kimball
Ms. Lana Wolken

1.0 Business

1.1 Meeting was called to order by Peter Lange; Peter requested for members to review the minutes from April 19, 2011

1.1.1 Mr. Lange asked for corrections to the minutes;

1.1.1.1 Jennifer Slovacek made a motion to approve the minutes;

1.1.1.2 Jeff Wilson seconded the motion. All voted in favor; minutes approved.

1.2 Mr. Lange informed the group that the Faculty Senate filled their three vacant spots on the Transportation Services Advisory Committee. Joining us today was Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith. He is not new to working with Transportation Services, Dr. Coopersmith also assisted on several of the Bike Committees. This committee was instrumental in writing many of the rules in the bike program used today. Please join me in welcoming him to the committee.

2.0 Updates

2.1 Permit Registration is within the limits of the last few years at this time. We will see the numbers start to increase as the freshmen attend new student conferences and are allowed to register for their permits

2.2 Transit – requests for new or additional transit service are received daily. We extended service last year to the Health Science Center and currently our focus is on the service that we have posted. We need to do the service as timely and efficiently as possible. This month we have heard from and met with homeowners from Wellborn Road and Finfeather Road group, they once had service on Route 14, they feel that they can't be successful without transit. We really need to add buses to routes 12 and 36 during the peak times because of the ridership capacity. Peter continued that he and Rod have talked and felt that a process is needed when adding, altering or eliminating transit service. Do any of you as members of this committee have any thoughts on this issue?

2.2.1 Jeff Wilson asked if we knew of the large resident hall that is planned for West Campus; Peter stated that we had heard about the plan

2.2.2 Dr. Price asked if the city had ever been in contact with us about development.

2.2.3 Peter informed the group that the new technology that we have will help us at this time all of the counts are done manually and the decisions for routes are all internally based on these counts. We have a finite amount of money: \$70 per student per semester and operationally it costs the same to operate the smaller buses as it does the larger buses. We transport 15,000-20,000 riders per day based on these counts. I would like to start gathering data and share it in the fall regarding ridership counts, etc.

2.2.4 Dr. Stragnac asked if we ever received input from the students; Peter stated that Transportation Services does get feedback from Student Senate, Graduate Student Council and they act as liaisons.

2.2.5 Peter informed the committee that Transportation Services would continue pulling resources and putting what our processes should be; in the fall TS will start sharing this data with the TSAC members.

2.3 License Plate Recognition Program

2.3.1 Pete Willis the Parking Services Manager showed a short video about the LPR (License Plate Recognition) software that the parking services office is using.

2.3.1.1 The software will expedite the process of lot counts; locating vehicles that have 3 or more outstanding citations and all campus lots can be scanned in a day. Many outstanding citations are to visitors with no association to the campus or no way to link the citations.

2.3.1.2 The scanned information is not stored; the scanner is just taking pictures of the plates. We capture the license plate on every citation we write; using the LPR software is not recording any information differently from what we are currently doing manually.

2.4 Visitor Parking

2.4.1 Peter Lange informed the group that more visitor options is available for parking on west campus and will be in place by summer; Lots 97, 100e, 100g, and 100j. We added visitor parking last fall in lots 61, 74, and in 100h as pay by space, you pay for the space. The equipment in 100e, 100g, and 100j will be pay and display. What this means is that the visitor can pay in any of the pay areas and move about from 100e, 100g and 100j to the closest parking for their event or activity. Lot 97 will operate the pay by space equipment.

2.5 Traffic Engineering Studies

2.5.1 Peter described several engineering studies that will be done over the next couple of months

2.5.1.1 Parking lot and crosswalks at General Services Complex

2.5.1.2 Ireland Street – one way traffic with bikes in both directions

2.5.1.3 West Lamar – the NE corner as a traffic parking lane, bus lane and pedestrians merging together; look at the speed in the area

2.5.1.4 Bizzell Street in front of WERC and Zachry – Several things going on, we have pedestrian traffic, free right on Bizzell and free right from University onto Bizzell. Earlier meeting between EHS, UPD and TS discussed funneling the pedestrian to 3 specific areas

2.5.1.5 Agronomy Road – study the areas on the east side where pedestrian are walking across to the Vet School

2.5.1.6 Handicap Parking Study – long term plan to address the needs of the handicap parking community. To make sure that our overall numbers still look good

2.6 Ross Street – the construction project is on schedule with a completion at the end of the summer. The project should be complete by the end of August.

2.7 Wellborn Road Grade Separation – project should begin in July. Several things have to happen before it can be started, fiber and gas lines moved. We have learned that lane closures should not happen until after this football season; and it will be re-opened before the next football season. Still an eighteen (18) month timeline project and it scheduled to be completed by April 2013

2.7.1 The new information is concerning the trees in the project; 162 new trees will be planted, 32 existing trees will be relocated and 62 trees will be removed. We have been informed that some of the trees that will be removed are diseased.

2.7.2 We will lose about 40% of 30e or 80 spaces; 42 will be awash with the new lot that is part of the project.

2.8 Dorm construction project – This project will remove Crocker, Moore and McInnis. We will lose a small section of 30c and all of 30b; keep in mind that 30b has just be rebuilt. We have requested that Residence Life contribute when we redo 30c and try to expand some into the area of 30d to gain back the 34 spaces without taking too much of the adjacent green space.

3.0 Meeting Adjourned