

**TSAC Minutes
September 2, 2015**

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Ms. Marisa Biondi
Mr. Tell Butler
Mr. Zach Carlson
Mr. Mike Caruso
Mr. Ralph Davila
Mr. Joe Dillard
Ms. Misty Skaggs for Dr. Eleanor Green
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Dr. Margaret Hobson
Mr. Peter Lange

Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Veronica Sprayberry
Dr. Bob Strawser
Dr. CJ Woods
Ms. Deborah Wright

Absent:
None

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting by welcoming members and asked each person to introduce themselves and indicate the organization they represent.
2. Mr. Lange introduced Dr. Joseph Newton, a founding member of TSAC, who is resigning his position on the committee after 8 years of service. Mr. Lange thanked him for his service and presented him with an engraved parking meter bank to commemorate his years of dedication to TSAC.
3. Mr. Lange explained the role of co-chair for the committee; the person serves as backup in case of his absence and oversees the meeting. Dr. Angie Hill Price has served as co-chair for the past several years; Mr. Mike Caruso asked if she is willing to serve again as co-chair and she agreed. Mr. Caruso motioned that Dr. Hill Price be installed as co-chair, Dr. Bob Strawser seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
 - 3.1. Mr. Lange mentioned it is important for members to keep in mind the constituents they represent as their point of reference.
 - 3.2. Dr. Angie Hill Price said it is also important that each person share the information from the meetings with their group and share feedback from these groups with TSAC to keep the flow of information open between all parties.
 - 3.3. Mr. Caruso mentioned the significance of members to hear all views to understand a different perspective from their own.
 - 3.4. Mr. Robert Pottberg said it's imperative to include everyone on the committee and listen to all opinions with an open mind.
4. Ms. Debbie Hoffmann shared an update on the Bike Share Program, including Borrow a Bike and Bike Lease. These services were put out for a Request for Proposals (RFP), and all responses were really expensive, so Transportation Services designed a program to operate at a lower cost to participants. Employees and students may borrow a bike 12 times a semester for a short length of time at the

Customer Assistance Center in 108 Koldus. Bikes checked out are due by 10 am the following day; bikes borrowed on Friday are due Monday by 10 am. The Bike Lease program allows leasing of a bike through a partnership with BCS Bicycles for \$50 per semester. Available bike leases sold out and a waiting list was established to notify customers when a bike is available.

5. Ms. Hoffmann shared that Hertz will not be providing car share on campus as they have discontinued the service in the United States. Fortunately, there was another company on state contract that met our needs, Zip Car, and they will continue the service starting as soon as possible. We are asking Hertz to share their user list, since they will no longer be providing the service but don't have a definite answer.
 - 5.1. It was asked if there is a registration fee to sign up for Zip Car. Ms. Hoffmann stated there is a small charge, but we have the option to lower it to \$1 or no fee at all.

6. Ms. Hoffmann updated members on game day parking information.
 - 6.1. The Destination Aggieland app and the program for game day parking were recognized for awards by Texas Parking and Transportation Association (TPTA) and the International Parking Institute (IPI). Ms. Hoffmann stated it was a collaborative effort with TTI and others who partnered for the success of the app and the game day experience. Transportation Services now owns and updates the Destination Aggieland app.
 - 6.2. Mr. Caruso said he heard lots of good comments about the app.
 - 6.3. Ms. Hoffmann said the *Get to the Grid* service for 2015 will be relocated to Momentum Plaza, off University Drive East.
 - 6.4. A shuttle to and from Downtown Bryan will also be available on game days. It is fully funded by the City of Bryan and the Downtown Bryan Association.
 - 6.4.1. Ms. Madeline Dillard, Manager for Transit, stated that the buses providing the service in Downtown Bryan will be air conditioned school buses that are under contract.
 - 6.5. Ms. Hoffmann said more permits in more lots were purchased by 12th Man for game days; this will impact public parking. Prepaid parking is only available on campus in Central Campus Garage and South Side Garage; West Campus Garage was offered but already sold out. There will also be prepaid parking available on Finfeather in the area currently used as a lay down area for Kyle Field construction. There are about 1,000 spaces available and bus service will be provided to campus. This is only a one year option, as the land reverts back to Ag after construction is complete and football season ends.
 - 6.5.1. Mr. Lange shared that going forward, many lots available now will be sites for buildings, including Fan Field on west campus.

7. Ms. Dillard gave an update on Transit.
 - 7.1. She said we currently have 86 full sized buses, up from 71 last year. We increased service hours by 20,000 and our ridership is up over the first 2 class days compared to last year. First day of class, ridership was 17% higher than first day of class of fall 2014. She said we are having capacity issues currently

which is the norm for the beginning of the semester; it usually settles down as the semester progresses. She said we are having fewer people left at stops than before with the increased capacity of the recently purchased buses.

- 7.1.1. Mr. Lange said that although we are leaving people at stops when the buses are at capacity, they are picked up with the next couple of buses. He said we are also in a better place because of the increased capacity of the larger buses.
 - 7.2. Ms. Dillard reminded members of the partnership with Brazos Transit District which was introduced last year to allow their pass holders to access our buses. To date, they have sold 146 passes to individuals for \$35 each; opening the service to the public allows us to qualify for public funding.
 - 7.2.1. Mr. Lange said the agreement allows us to apply for grant money in partnership with Brazos Transit District for the purchase of new buses.
 - 7.2.2. He said we have applied for 2 grants: 1. A grant through Texas DOT Mobility fund would be 100% funding of the purchase of 60 buses and 2. A TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant through US Department of Transportation which would provide 80% of funding for 60 buses. We will hear this fall on the application through Tx DOT. The application for federal funds is submitted, included letters of support and we haven't received notification that the application has been eliminated from the process, which has happened in the past. Mr. Lange did say that for the TIGER grant funding, there is half a billion dollars available, and over \$200 billion in requests.
 - 7.3. Ms. Dillard said this fall we will look at the shift in student housing, specifically in the area of South Holleman and 2818, in order to determine if more service is needed in the area.
8. Mr. Lange provided an update on campus construction and other items, including:
- 8.1. Over 5,000 beds will be added to the area on South George Bush near west campus between private construction and a ground lease proposal from the System.
 - 8.2. Route 03 is serving 1200 White Creek residents to transport them to main campus for dining at Sbisa.
 - 8.3. There were over 200,000 hits to our Transit mobile site, which provides real-time bus location and route information, on the first day of class.
 - 8.4. Lot 62 off Wellborn on the west side of Kyle Field opened Monday, signage is still being completed.
 - 8.5. Corps and Commons renovations are all self-contained but still impactful on pedestrians.
 - 8.6. Zachry renovation is proceeding with no problems, except the impact on pedestrian traffic in the area. Adjustments have been made to help direct pedestrians since construction began.
 - 8.7. Century Square development at the corner of South College and University is proceeding. The hotel and residential component are the first phase of the project; the construction fence will be expanded soon.

- 8.8. White Creek Apartments project is wrapping up; landscaping and sidewalks are being completed and the students who were housed in other areas temporarily will move in this weekend.
 - 8.9. Vet school construction has impacted parking and we have had to shift some staff to other areas. Parking will be better than before once construction is complete.
 - 8.10. Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory construction site work is proceeding on Agronomy Road. This location will house the Biosafety Level 2 and 3 labs and is expected to last approximately 18 months.
 - 8.11. Cain Hall ground lease proposal is on the Board of Regents agenda for tomorrow; will know more soon and work will have to start soon to accomplish in the timeframe proposed.
 - 8.12. Clinical Human Research building is to be located near the current PEAP Building.
 - 8.13. The Wellborn Road/George Bush grade separation project is now in the Right of Way acquisition process. A story in the Eagle stating the project will start in 2 years is incorrect. Design is complete, but have to wait for funding to be in place to start and that is an unknown variable. Depending on how the project is phased, could be a 3-4 year project, or a 9 month project if the intersection is closed completely.
 - 8.14. Transportation Services completed repairs over the summer in many areas, including Hensel and Lubbock Street; other projects are scheduled for the holiday break. Mr. Lange said it is important to allocate the money to critical areas.
9. In other business:
- 9.1. Mr. Tell Butler invited members to visit the pocket park area which was recently completed near the Engineering Activities Buildings.
 - 9.2. Ms. Debbie Hoffman said we should have the final Bike Master Plan update at the next meeting.
 - 9.3. After a reminder that the next meeting will be held in Rudder 301, the meeting was adjourned.