

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 17, 2010

Attendees:

Mr. Joe Dillard
Ms. Mary Tess Eggebrecht
Dr. Beverly Kuhn
Dr. Joe Newton
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Jennifer Slovacek
Mr. Oliver Thoma
Mr. Rod Weis
Ms. Casi Wilbanks
Mr. Jeff Wilson
Mr. C J Woods
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Mr. Chris Russo

Absent:

Ms. Lallah Howard
Dr. R J Golsan
Mr. Jeff Toole

Special Guest: Tyler Moquin (alternate for designee of Student Body President)

Guests:

Ms. Debbie Hoffmann
Mr. Doug Williams
Mr. Kenny Kimball

Ms. Therese Kucera
Ms. Rose Berryhill
Ms. June Broughton

1.0 Business

1.1 Meeting was called to order by Peter Lange; Peter requested for members to review the minutes from October 19, 2010

1.1.1 Mr. Lange asked the members present for corrections to the minutes; Dr. Joe Newton made a motion to approve the September 22nd minutes;

1.1.1.1 Sarah Saunders identified that

1.1.1.1.1 3.14.1 "owners" was misspelled

1.1.1.1.2 3.5.1 That the word "the" needed to be removed
"Oliver felt that *the* implementing..."

1.1.1.2 Dr. Newton made a motion to approve the minutes with suggested corrections

1.1.1.3 Dr. Price seconded the motion; all voted in favor, minutes approved.

1.2 Introduction of new member

- 1.2.1 Mr. Lange introduced Sara Saunders as the designee for the Graduate Student Council President
- 1.2.2 Tyler Moquin substituting for Chris Russo

1.3 Membership

- 1.3.1 Mr. Lange stated that a co-chair is still needed for the committee and we still had vacancies for a Faculty Senate Representative, 2 General Faculty members, and alternates for designees of the Student Body President and Graduate Student Council. He would really like for a Faculty Member to serve as the co-chair for TSAC.
 - 1.3.1.1 Dr. Price stated that she and the Faculty Senate were working on assigning the members and should have a commitment soon.

1.4 Transportation Services Organizational Changes

- 1.4.1 Debbie Hoffmann, Associate Director
- 1.4.2 Therese Kucera, Manager of Customer Service Center

2.0 Bike Program Launched

- 2.1 Peter informed the committee at the Commons yesterday 57 bikes were tagged for not being in racks; today the TS staff moved 12 bikes to bicycle racks
 - 2.1.1 The plan is working well, for the most part the students are using the racks as requested; our next step is to identify other areas where we can begin to expect compliance, IE: Library, O&M Building, others

3.0 Transit Software and Camera Installation

- 3.1 Peter informed the group that sometime during the 2nd week in December we should have 5 buses in our pilot program to begin using the transit software program and cameras
 - 3.1.1 Each bus will have 8 cameras, one on the front windshield catches the view of the road, one over the driver seat recording the entrance door, one capturing the driver's actions, one in the center and at the front - positioned to the back of the bus, one capturing from the back of the bus to the front of the bus, one positioned to the back exit door and wheel chair lift, and two outside, on each side of the bus
 - 3.1.2 Each bus is equipped with its own DVR recorder to record a month of video
 - 3.1.2.1 The video will automatically add a bookmark when there are quick breaking reactions, and will serve as additional data when there are incidents on a bus, or bus accidents
 - 3.1.3 We will have the data to show that we are doing what we should be doing
 - 3.1.4 Chris Russo asked what is the goal for adding this software and cameras

3.1.4.1 Peter stated that our main reason is safety issues; we can view video from an accident, if a passenger steps off of a unit incorrectly, and mystery dents in the units-assisting in tracking down what happened.

3.2 The software includes auto passenger counts and real time location devices

4.0 Northgate Improvement Plan

4.1 Peter explained that Transportation Services was given a new date for the Northgate Improvement Project, they are now saying January-February of 2012

5.0 Lot 97 and Lot 23 projects

5.1 Peter gave a brief update about the Lot 97 construction project. The project will begin in December, near student final days. It will be a 100-120 day project, and Lot 97 will be closed during the basketball season

5.2 Lot 23 Construction Project – Liberal Arts Building start date is pushed back to January/February 2011. The permitted customers that are being displaced were surveyed, they were allowed to select any 3 areas to move into, and all but four customers returned their surveys; these four will be given the default location-the Central Campus Parking Garage.

5.2.1 We do have some customers in Scoates that wished to park in an area on the west side of the building that required driving over a pedestrian area to gain access. Representatives from Transportation Services, Environmental Health and Safety, and Facility Services met with them on site and are still in dialogue with them.

6.0 Crosswalk at Kleberg and Lot 61

6.1 Student senate members met with Transportation Services and requested for a mid-block cross walk installed from Lot 61 to the Kleberg Building. We will install the cross walk including push-button, flashing signs. These may be relocated and reused later after the construction of the underground passageway closes the street in this area. The installation should be completed by Friday of this week.

7.0 Atmos Gas Line Project

7.1 Peter informed the group that Atmos Gas is running a gas line down University Drive, turning at Ireland and going to the central utility plant. Polo Road will be closed on Monday due to trenching associated with the project, which is expected to progress down Ireland from December 15th through the 31st.

7.1.1 Dr. Price asked about the trucks that are now parking on Ireland in the two-way traffic area

- 7.1.2 Peter stated that we could reach out to the Power Plant to re-park the trucks, removing them from the streets.

8.0 Penberthy Project and Jones-Butler Extension

- 8.1 Peter explained that Rec Sports is discussing a project including intramural field enhancements and additional parking at Penberthy. This is scheduled for Fall 2011.
- 8.2 Jones-Butler Road extension is also scheduled for Fall 2011

9.0 Para Transit Service for Faculty and Staff

- 9.1 The group was informed by Peter that TS received some inquiries about Para Transit Service for Faculty and Staff from University Staff Council and Faculty Senate. Transportation Services ended this service to Faculty and Staff in fall 2009. We paid for the employees to ride last year with Brazos Transit. Brazos Transit is run by a federally funded program and they are approved for managing this type of service. We were providing door to door service for work, personal errands, and doctor appointments but it wasn't being paid for by the employees using the service. The service provided to employees was different than the service provided to students, who were paying the fees. There are two significant issues:
 - 9.1.1 Service outside of the defined route boundaries or service area, including destination more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from a fixed route
 - 9.1.2 Transit is student fees funded
- 9.2 If the service is reinstated, it should be a much defined service route and service rules (to and from campus only). Personal errands are a misuse of the service.
 - 9.2.1 Dr. Newton asked what the cost was for these buses; Peter indicated the cost for providing this service for nine employees was between \$250,000- \$300,000 per year.

10.0 Graduate Student – request to expand week-end and game day services

- 10.1 Peter discussed that during a budget reallocation process, a Graduate Student wrote to request expanded transit service on home football game days to include the Sunday after the game and additional service during the semester breaks. We are examining the costs and passenger counts. We are committed to looking at the numbers and engaging the undergraduate and graduate students on these issues.

11.0 Other Business

- 11.1 Transportation Services has been approached by Student Government Association regarding an express bus route from Bush School
- 11.2 Discussions were held on Ross Street plan and the compression of people, cars, pedestrians, bikes, etc. in front of Thompson Hall. Concerns were expressed about how it is pushing all traffic that used to drop-off in front of Sbisa to the one block of Ross Street that will have open access. Suggestion was made to examine the traffic patterns and congestion; consider reopening Ross Street in front of Sbisa so traffic can disburse and not stack up in the one block of Ross Street.
- 11.3 Request made to work with the city to ensure that the timing of their signal lights on University Drive is adjusted to account for the increased traffic that will occur when vehicular traffic will likely increase at Asbury and Ireland Streets due to the open access loop created when the construction at Ross Street is completed.
- 11.4 Peter informed the group that Lallah Howard will be sharing the Ross Street plan with the Faculty Senate

12.0 Meeting Adjourned