

TSAC Minutes
April 1, 2020

*****This was a recorded Zoom Meeting*****

Members Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. Andy Deuel
Dr. Eleanor Green
Dr. Julie Harlin
Ms. Erin Jones
Dr. Andrew Klein
Mr. Jim Kovar
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Regan McGuill (Mr. Fawez Syed)
Ms. Lisa Pierce
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Tom Reber

Dr. John Stallone
Ms. Deborah Wright

Absent:

Mr. Thomas Barrow
Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Purna Doddapaneni
Mr. Mikey Jaillet
Ms. Flora Reeves

Guests:

Ms. Lilia Gonzales
Mr. Jason Hayes
Ms. Misty Skaggs
Ms. Tamra Young

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

2. Mr. Lange asked the committee to review the minutes from the March 4, 2020 meeting. Dr. Angie Hill Price motioned that they be approved; Ms. Erin Jones seconded; minutes approved.

3. Mr. Lange gave an update on our Transit operations (while the university is taking Coronavirus precautions).
 - We are currently operating a modified break service, with about 32 buses running (which is a little more than normal break service, in which we usually run about 22 buses).
 - We are working very hard to retain our driver workforce, which is critical to our Transit operation. We are running a few more buses because of social distancing rules (only 20 allowed on board at a time), and have come up with ways to retain employees by using them for bus detailing, standby shifts, and regular shift work.
 - We have about 28 budgeted and 250 student drivers. Many of our budgeted drivers are in an at-risk category, so we also are finding ways to keep them safe and employed.
 - We are expecting to lose about 40 student drivers, who will graduate in May.

- We need to monitor our training pipeline, to make sure we synchronize it to meet our driver needs for the fall semester.
- Our ridership is low, with an average of 1,100 riders per day last week and about 750 per day this week.
- The bulk of our riders are international students, who rely on us to get around campus and town.
- We estimate that fewer than 20% of students are remaining on campus. Ms. Deborah Wright confirmed this. She said that according to a poll she saw today, there are only 1,900 students on campus.

4. Mr. Lange gave an update on Parking operations and the effect of the shutdown on our revenue.

- We have instituted modified break parking and added about 20 parking lots.
- Our parking enforcement personnel have moved into a campus ambassador role, with a very gentle approach to citations. We are making calls and only citing unauthorized use of handicapped parking spaces, or those blocking fire lanes.
- We've been producing pro-forma spreadsheets to project our anticipated revenue loss. Right now, assuming campus operations are back to normal in September, we are expecting a \$3.9 million loss of revenue. This can be attributed to our loss of parking revenue from large spring events such as Ring Day, Parent's Weekend, MS 150, commencements, etc.
- Some of that loss is also coming from Parking Permit returns, which accounts for about \$600,000.
- We have polled other universities, and we are forerunners in offering prorated refunds for returned permits for both students and employees. This is our normal order of business, but the permits are being returned for refunds much earlier than usual, which has doubled the impact when compared to last year.
- Our current thinking is to mitigate our revenue losses by looking at delaying large capital projects for a few years. These are projects we pay for in cash, such as improvements to parking lots and streets.
- We will be updating our projections weekly.
- On the plus side, the decreased ridership of our buses allows us to save some maintenance expenses.
- We are still operating normally, with keeping gates down around campus and in garages, and by manning our booths.
- We are using the down-time opportunity to upgrade our garages with new parking equipment, and to stripe/refurbish parking lots earlier than usual.

5. Mr. Lange opened up the floor for questions.

5.1. Dr. Eleanor Green said it was a pleasure to be on the committee, and thanked Mr. Lange for his leadership and Transportation Services for excellent customer service.

5.2. Mr. Fawaz Syed asked for our policy on bus route naming. We will send it to him.

6. Mr. Lange concluded the meeting at 11:58 a.m.

*The next meeting will be May 6, 2020, Zoom Meeting details to follow
Please visit our website: transport.tamu.edu*