

**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Minutes
December 6, 2023**

This was an in-person meeting with a zoom option.

Present:

Ms. Ava Blackburn
Ms. Mary Cearley
Mr. Evan Cox
Mr. Joe Dillard
Ms. Kristen Harrell for Mr. Tom Reber
Ms. Katelyn Kellogg
Dr. Andrew Klein
Mr. James “Jim” Kovar
Mr. Peter Lange
Mr. Tim McLaughlin
Mr. Andrew Moore
Mr. Patrick Muñoz for Mr. Bill Cox
Ms. Jamie Norgaard
Ms. Amanda Pelton
Ms. Jessica Simpson

Online:

Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Tamra Young for Ms. Deborah Wright

Absent:

Mr. Andrew Applewhite
Mr. Ed Costello
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Nick Farmer
Ms. Erin Jones
Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Mr. Tom Reber
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Mikayla Slaydon

Guests:

Mr. Justin Tippy

Called to Order 11:45 a.m. by Mr. Peter Lange

1. Review/Approve Minutes from November 1, 2023, Meeting – Mr. Peter Lange
 - 1.1. Approved by – Ms. Katelyn Kellogg
 - 1.2. Seconded by – **Missing Information**
2. Updates – Mr. Peter Lange
 - 2.1. Thank you for your help this semester. Good luck on finals and grading. This is the last meeting for this semester. We will not have a meeting in January; February 7, 2024, is the next scheduled meeting.
 - 2.2. I would like to make an announcement; this will be Kenny Kimball’s last TSAC meeting. He will be retiring on December 31st. Ms. Tammy Hoskens will be filling this position and comes to us from the TAMU Risk and Compliance Office.
 - 2.3. We will talk about a few upcoming changes to Transit for Spring 2024, most are due to community construction.
3. Transit Fall ’24 Changes - Mr. Justin Tippy (PowerPoint Presentation)
 - 3.1. The following changes will begin this upcoming Monday, due to construction.
 - 3.2. Fall ridership comparisons – we are back to pre-COVID numbers. We are estimating to hit 7 million rides for the year.

3.3. Construction Impacts:

- FM 2818 – Routes 35 & 40
 - 3.3..1. Beginning on Monday the turn from Jones Butler onto Harvey Mitchell will close.
 - 3.3..2. The closure of 1 stop – Holleman at Corregidor for Route 40
 - 3.3..3. Stop moves – Holleman at Legacy moves to Route 35. Jones Butler at Harvey Mitchell and Jones Butler at Gridiron will move to Route 40
 - 3.3..4. Route 35 will run 4 buses and Route 40 will run 7 buses
- Luther Street – Route 36
 - 3.3..1. A full closure between Marion Pugh and Jones Butler will begin sometime after the Fall '23 semester
 - 3.3..2. 3 Stop closures – Marion Pugh at George Bush, Park West 1, Park West 2
 - 3.3..3. New stop – Penberthy at Park West, will be shared with Routes 35 & 40
 - 3.3..4. We will adjust routes depending on passenger counts
- Lincoln Avenue – Route 12
 - 3.3..1. Various construction phases will impact Route 12, but we will be able to provide service the entire duration of the project and will adjust routes as needed
- Deacon Drive Railroad Crossing – Route 34
 - 3.3..1. Scheduled to open January 8, 2024, and Cain Road Crossing will close at this time.
 - 3.3..2. We will evaluate the need to service the Barracks

3.4. MyRide:

- New software anticipated launching in the Spring. This will replace the current Bus Routes webpage
- The new app will show live route changes, temporary stops, if a bus is running behind or early. Trip planning will also be available soon. Reroutes will display automatically once we enter closure information
 - 3.4..1. Mr. Peter Lange – The Google piece is what we are waiting to be validated. We are hoping to have a final validation in the next few days
 - 3.4..2. Ms. Katelyn Kellogg – Will it show information on how full the bus is?
 - 3.4..3. Mr. Justin Tippy – Yes, it will show the percentage occupied.

3.5. Fall 2024 Changes:

- The daily service hours provided is about 800. We will increase an additional 69 hours per day by adding busses to some routes.
- Adding a 5th bus to routes 25 & 36 (all day), additional bus to route 47, and extra buses for 4 weeks to Routes 8, 15, 35, 36, and 40. We will re-evaluate keeping or eliminating additional buses.

3.6. Transit Passenger Survey:

- The transit passenger survey was distributed from May through October 2023. The questions were regarding what bus routes are being used and targeted off-campus riders. We received over 2000 responses, 70% of which utilize off campus routes.
- The most requested on campus additional service area was the Zachry/Engineering Quad. We are exploring removing all the buses from the trigon and move them to the MSC, making this a centralized hub. This would allow simple transfers, safer intersections, less interruptions. The current routes 01, 04, 47 utilize 9 buses by adding additional routes 12, 22, 26, 27 (11 buses) to the area this will decrease wait time and increase options. We

reviewed a lot of data to determine where routes should go, with the least number of pedestrians.

3.6..1. Mr. Peter Lange – Widening Penberthy is part of the Mobility Master Plan. We are working through the approval process. This would add lanes to Kimbrough. We would want to accomplish this before the Bush/Wellborn grade separation project begins. We would like to have shelters, sidewalks, and add some pads to the MSC by the Fall of 2025. Rebuilding the trigon for better infrastructure and user experience makes more sense. The consultants we utilized advised to remove buses off Ross Street, and further restrict vehicle use. We do have the ability to move the gates off Ross Street. We will continue to survey for more feedback.

3.6..1.1. Ms. Debbie Lollar – The trigon is a tight congested area with multiple conflict points, and we address this in the Mobility Master Plan. We plan to enhance bike flow, in a logical way, and increase safety.

3.6..1.2. Mr. Peter Lange – We have awesome data and know how many people get off and on.

3.6..1.3. Mr. Justin Tippy – We looked at this with the data we have. Routes 15 & 12 have heavy ridership and route 35 loses much of its riders before arriving at the MSC. The new plan helps to alleviate this.

3.6..1.4. Ms. Debbie Lollar – Traffic demand is lower in this area; this is not a bad place to have some crossing.

3.6..1.5. Mr. Jim Kovar – Mitigate students who walk across the drill field?

3.6..1.5.1. Mr. Peter Lange – We see some of this on game days. I would say 3 stops to the East to mitigate and 4 stops spread out should not increase pedestrians across the drill field.

3.6..1.5.2. Mr. Jim Kovar – Mitigate by rotating clockwise to get more people onto Houston Street.

3.6..1.5.3. Mr. Peter Lange – we have more success sharing stops than not sharing with the Cities and transit community. There is talk about a trolley, we will have to save a spot if it happens.

3.6..1.5.4. Ms. Katelyn Kellogg – Would using shrubbery help to mitigate?

3.6..1.5.5. Mr. Peter Lange – Possibly some trees. We must remember this is sacred land.

3.6..1.5.6. Ms. Jessica Simpson – Logistically speaking, the bus hub is brilliant, this would help get people where they need to go.

4. Transit Budget – Mr. Peter Lange (PowerPoint Presentation)

4.1. There is currently no pressure for a new garage. We have one plugged in for FY'29, 5 years from now. We will start the process for the possible location in 2025. We are working on the master plan if residential planning expands White Creek.

4.2. We will be replacing the elevators at Central Campus Garage (CCG) and West Campus Garage (WCG)

4.3. Permits - rates will have the usual inflation increase of 2.5%

4.4. Visitor Parking – rates will increase in FY26 and FY27 each year by \$1/hour for the first two hours.

4.5. One-time funding requests - \$500,000 for reimbursement of Parking Funds for the overages of Railroad Quiet Zone. Project could possibly exceed \$5.5 million and would prompt our request

to cover additional expenses from central funding. Penberthy widening project is estimated to cost \$4.5 million, we are requesting \$2 million from central funds.

- Mr. Jim Kovar – How much of the \$5.1 million is for building?
- Mr. Peter Lange – We asked for \$2 million, about half, from administration
- Dr. Angie Hill Price – Faculty, Staff, and students are paying for roads. This is an issue for permit holders to be paying for roads and infrastructure. Why are employees having to pay?
- Mr. McLaughlin – It has been done this way for the past 8-10 years.
- Dr. Angie Hill Price – It has always been a complaint, now there is an even bigger jump for funding. Is there a better way to obtain funding?
- Mr. McLaughlin – We do not have community transportation for staff.
- Mr. Peter Lange – We can set up a different discussion
- Mr. Kenneth Kimball – Parking is in the State legislative budget. We cannot utilize State funds for parking, we must use user fees. We did not include roads in that contract, so we ask for funds from central funding, we ask but we do not get it all.
- Mr. Peter Lange – To Angie's point we started to make changes, repairs, fixing potholes, and the roads are looking way better now. I am proud of what we are doing. Angie's question is valid.
- Dr. Angie Hill Price – I am not blaming Transportation Services; I continue to push why we are funding our infrastructure like this. The effect it has on Transportation Services is that you are needing to be as frugal as you are. Maintaining transparency is important.

4.6. Transit Services asks for this budget cycle will include an increase of \$500,000 for next Fall, a one time ask of \$1.26 million to fund the match for the grant awarded for the purchase of six new electric buses. Transit needs it's base increased. The student growth has increased 45%. We did not replace any buses, we have 95 buses, and more service hours. The allocation is not keeping up with that growth.

5. Additional Comments/Questions:

5.1. Mr. Joe Dillard – Long ago Transportation Services help manage airport parking, do you have a contact for that?

- Mr. Peter Lange – Madeline will share that contact information with you.

5.2. Ms. Katelyn Kellogg – Do you have any educational campus safety resources in online format for students?

- Ms. Debbie Lollar – We can take this as an opportunity to include it as a component of our safety campaign, we will look into something sooner.
- Ms. Kristin Harrell – We can then take this back to our teams, and possibly incorporate it into new student orientation.
- Ms. Jessica Simpson – Counter argument, students tend to tune out, we need boots on the ground and create a culture that perpetrates and addressing it in the student senate as well.

Meeting adjourned - 1:00 PM

Next meeting – February 7, 2024