



Transportation Services Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 4, 2013
Room 110/111, Koldus Building

Attending:

Ms. Brittany Bounds
Ms. Tiffany Daniels
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. Matt Keller
Dr. Beverly Kuhn
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Joe Newton
Mr. Darryl Peterson
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Mr. Travis Walters
Mr. Rod Weis
Dr. C.J. Woods
Dr. Guoyao Wu

Absent:

Mr. Mike Caruso
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Dr. Merna Jacobsen
Dr. Clint Magill
Dr. Bob Strawser
Dr. Thomas Strganac
Ms. Hannah Weger

Guests:	Ms. Madeline Dillard	Ms. Debbie Hoffmann	Mr. Kenny Kimball
	Ms. Therese Kucera	Ms. Melody Lawson	Ms. Jolene Sears
	Mr. Doug Williams		

1. Welcome and Orientation

1.1. Debbie Hoffmann called the meeting to order and gave a brief overview of the function of the Transportation Services Advisory Committee. She then asked that attendees introduce themselves and indicate the group or department which they represent.

2. Approve Minutes from May 1, 2013

- 2.1 Ms. Hoffmann asked attendees to review the minutes from the May Meeting for approval.
 - 2.1.1 Flora Reeves motioned to approve the minutes as presented.
 - 2.1.2 C.J. Woods seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented.
 - 2.1.3 All voted in favor and the minutes from the May meeting were approved.

3. Emerging Trends in Parking and Initiatives

- 3.1 Ms. Hoffmann gave a brief overview of License Plate Recognition and LPR associated with permitless parking. Although LPR can be used for “permitless” parking, we currently have 2 uses for the application: (1). We use as a database to check for violators who have outstanding citations via a vehicle mounted LPR system (2). We use the system to keep the 2 hour spaces at the Rec Sports Center available to patrons. We are able to monitor the plates which enter and then are alerted when a specific plate exceeds the 2 hour limit.
 - 3.1.1 Brittany Bounds asked if the state of Texas requires a front license plate and how could you use another vehicle that you own with LPR?

- 3.1.2 Ms. Hoffmann responded that you would register both vehicles and then could use either vehicle on campus, but LPR would prohibit the use of both vehicles at once, eliminating “double dipping” or attempting to pay for one car and parking two.
- 3.1.3 Peter Lange said that in the future, university environments that rely on permits today will be eventually exclusively using LPR. The benefit must outweigh the cost of the technology.
- 3.1.4 Mr. Lange said one issue with LPR is the data capture aspect of the situation. For example, at CSU in Ft. Collins, Colorado, they are utilizing LPR and are not purging their data, resulting in millions of records. Open Records could request data and track vehicles. We have a “30 day” policy and only keep active reads for 30 days.
- 3.1.5 He also noted that with a 92 - 96% accuracy rate, it would cause a serious inconvenience to patrons if they were kept from accessing the facility.
- 3.1.6 The variety of license plates also causes an issue with accuracy.
- 3.2 We are exploring options to replace the way departments currently use one-day temporary permits. It requires that departments purchase “scratch off” permits that are \$5 each and valid for only one day and they keep a supply on hand for visitors. An option that we are exploring is a printable version which DPR’s could utilize only when needed; they would not have to maintain an inventory or wait for delivery.
- 3.3 We began AggiePass this summer, which is a pre-loaded debit card used as a declining balance card in 3 of our garages (Central Campus Garage, University Center Garage and West Campus Garage). You can recharge the balance online and it speeds up the process for exiting garage.

4. Updates:

- 4.1 CBE has approved the 2 garages which were proposed for the Engineering corridor and the Northside Dorm area. 2 more garages are being discussed and this would probably result in an increase in rates. The garage at Kyle is not considered part of the scope of the Kyle redevelopment.
- 4.2 Historically, the permit for University Apartments (Lot 99) has been less than other surface lot parking. Res Life pays per resident, whether they take a permit or not. We plan to increase \$50 to match surface lot parking price in 2014-2015.
- 4.3 We have not received the data from the City of College Station yet. Engineers have been collaborating, but the information has not been as timely as we hoped. New Street is now two-way and there are bi-directional bike lanes on Ireland. It seems to be working and improving the flow of traffic in the area. The change from head in angled spaces to parallel spaces seems to be working as well.
- 4.4 We are awaiting guidance on site of garage for Kyle Field.
- 4.5 The Slow Moving Vehicle SAP has been submitted and is working its way through the process. Information is on our website and we are building the process for registration and permitting. EHS developed the training aspect of the SAP.
- 4.6 Lot 30 has been renovated and we have also asked to expand the parking to include the spaces in Lot 77, which would raise the number of spaces in the northside area to numbers comparable to before the new dorm was constructed.
- 4.7 The Wellborn Road Grade Separation Project is open and accessible to cars, pedestrians and bikes are limited now to the north side due to work being completed on the south side. It will be totally complete by September 12 and there will be a Ribbon Cutting held on October 18th. Buses are able to travel from west campus to main campus without waiting for traffic lights or trains.
 - 4.7.1 Robert Pottberg asked if Olsen would remain one lane? Mr. Lange replied that the plan is for it to remain as it is. There is a proposed plan to fix Olsen but the University would have to provide funding, which has not happened. A long term fix is to pull back the medians, but must have funding.
- 4.8 The vet school project will include 3 buildings behind current Lots 24/45. We are planning for surface parking only in the area. Prep work could start as early as next semester.

5. Transit First Week, Route Changes and Fee Request

- 5.1 Mr. Lange stated that we had 241,000 rides the first week of school. We are seeing some issues related to traffic and are seeing heavier volumes on campus. There was a 7% decrease in ridership from the first Monday to the second Monday. We are continuing to monitor ridership and are tweaking as needed, for example, adding additional buses on routes. All of the issues have been based on the volume of riders.

- 5.1.1 We will talk about off campus changes for some routes, get student input via forums and implement any changes for fall of 2014.
- 5.1.2 Mr. Lange asked for opinions on the best way to reach students to gather opinions: is a student forum best? Advertising in *The Battalion* or advertising the change on the buses?
- 5.1.3 Ms. Bounds suggested an online survey; students appreciate the opportunity to give their input.
- 5.1.4 Travis Walters suggested getting input from the bus drivers as well.
- 5.1.5 Transportation Services is going through the Reallocation Committee process to ask for money for bus replacement. In the bus fleet, 46 buses are 12-13 years old and 25 buses are 4-5 years old.

6. Comments on Financial Year End

- 6.1 Kenny Kimball gave a brief update on the year-end financial status. Transportation Services is in 4 independent financial parts, one doesn't fund the others.
 - 6.1.1 Smallest is RV Parking, Olsen and Penberthy Lots. Came in on budget as expected. RV Spaces at the equine center will become part of this area.
 - 6.1.2 Fleet Service Center broke even this year with a few thousand in profit.
 - 6.1.3 Transit wasn't able to put as much to the bottom line as we would like. Student Success Fee has inhibited the ability to plan for future and long term bus replacement. Maintenance, drivers and fuel are set expenses, so there is nowhere to cut costs, except service.
 - 6.1.4 Parking ended the year in the black. Revenue came in as projected, with expenses slightly below budget.

7. Upcoming Peer Site Visits/Projects

- 7.1 A group of Transportation Services employees from the University of Alabama will visit on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9/12-9/14, to observe game day operations. Of all peer institutions, Alabama is structured most like us in respect to organization.
- 7.2 A group from Penn State will visit in October.
- 7.3 Transportation Services is partnering with the City of College Station for a traffic study the week of the Alabama game. The last traffic study was conducted in the 90's, so this will provide important new data.

8. Other Business

- 8.1 Ms. Bounds asked about the status of Mega Bus.
 - 8.1.2 Starting at Thanksgiving break, they will be running service on Thursday, Friday, Sunday and Monday with 2 pick ups per day to Dallas, Houston, Austin and San Antonio.
- 8.2 Dr. Wu indicated there is a sign missing at Lot 65, which was noted for replacement.

9. Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2 at 11:30 am, in Koldus, Room 110/111.