

TSAC Minutes
November 2, 2016

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Mike Caruso (Ms. Erin Jones)
Mr. Ja' Cory Clark
Mr. Ralph Davila
Mr. Joe Dillard
Ms. Susan Edmisson
Mr. David Glockzin
Dr. Eleanor Green (Ms. Misty Skaggs)
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Clint Magill

Mr. Chris Nygren
Ms. Flora Reeves
Dr. Bob Strawser
Dr. CJ Woods
Mr. Landon Woods
Ms. Deborah Wright (Ms. Shelly Janac)

Guests:

Mr. Christian Trevino

Absent:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Dr. Zachary Grasley
Dr. Rajesh Miranda

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:45 am, and asked for a review of the minutes from the October 5, 2016 meeting. Mr. Joe Dillard motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Flora Reeves seconded; minutes approved.
2. Mr. Lange welcomed Mr. Ja' Cory Clark, the new designee of the Speaker of the Student Senate, and asked the committee members to introduce themselves. (Committee members previously received an email with his biographical information.)
3. Dr. Clint Magill and Mr. Lange discussed 24-hour reserved parking spaces.
 - 3.1. Mr. Lange mentioned that Transportation Services manages 36,000 parking spaces, and of those, 2,153 are 24-hour reserved spaces, and the bulk are in Northside Garage, University Center Garage (UCG) and Lot 15. The rest are scattered mostly near the heart of campus: Lots 6, 7, 14, part of 19, 21, 22, 23, 28, and 29. We've managed reserved spaces since the late 1980s, but have eliminated them where demand has waned. We try to maintain supply and demand at equilibrium.
 - 3.1.1. Dr. Magill discussed some problems with Lot 6. In years past, the gates were down, so the protected spaces were available at night. Now the gates go up in the early evening to facilitate throughput on Lubbock and people are parking in the reserved spaces at night. Dr. Magill suggested that instead of paying for a 24-hour reserved parking space, that perhaps a separate permit could be sold for night parking, or some other way that those spaces could be sold/enforced.
 - 3.1.2. Dr. Angie Hill Price suggested that Transportation Services could increase Parking Service Officer enforcement at the time the gates go up to reinforce the reserved lot.

3.1.3. Mr. Lange said he would take the suggestions into consideration, but would first like to try additional signage in the lot and at the gates, with the thought that the final Campus Master Plan plans for that area might eliminate the problem.

3.2. Mr. Chris Nygren asked for an update on reserved numbered spaces.

3.2.1. Mr. Lange said there are some big inefficiencies with reserved numbered spaces. While they don't take up a lot of our inventory of spaces, not being able to free them up for big events and conferences is problematic. For example, Fridays are the busiest days for the UCG. However, it is the least-used day for spaces above the second set of gates. As a result, about 350 reserved spaces sit empty while the garage visitor section fills up on a typical Friday. He also mentioned that with the opening of Cain Garage, we can flex some of UCG's traffic to the 500-600 spaces available there.

3.2.2. Dr. Price noted that those spaces provide a service to faculty and staff, and those who work at night. She also mentioned that in times of budget shortfalls, our ability to provide our faculty good parking is a perk that fills the gap in some cases.

3.2.3. Mr. Christian Trevino asked if we receive similar complaints for Lot 19. Mr. Lange responded that we do, but not as many, because the bulk of them are unreserved spaces.

3.2.3. Mr. Lange said that the TTI Transformational Mobility Study will take a look at some of these issues. Additionally, the Campus Master Plan has identified several places for future garages.

4. Ms. Therese Kucera gave a presentation with updated information on Lot 88, which is at the General Services Complex on Agronomy Road. She said that Lot 88 has always been an "Any Valid Permit" lot, and became a radar issue recently, as the student population has grown by 20% in the last four years. The lot went full on September 9th, when 150 non-affiliates attended a conference held there. As a result, we collected data and met with GSC administrators to come up with solutions.

At the meeting, the GSC constituents agreed that a push toward carpooling for large meetings and shuttling in large crowds might solve some of the problems. It was agreed that we would not change any of the lot policies now, but would continue to monitor Lot 88, and be prepared to put a plan of action into place if needed.

Please see presentation: <http://www.transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>

4.1. Dr. Price asked if non-affiliates have to purchase a pass. Ms. Kucera replied that they could purchase one at the payment kiosk.

4.2. Mr. Dillard asked if the 30-minute parking sections in this lot were used efficiently. Mr. Lange responded that they are used more at the GSC than any other area, for the frequent quick-service traffic. Lots 30 and 40, near the dorms are similarly used.

4.3. Mr. Dillard asked if they were regularly policed. Mr. Lange replied that they were, with a handheld, time enforcement system.

5. Ms. Madeline Dillard gave a "Fall 2017 Proposed Route Modification" presentation. Mr. Lange introduced the presentation and informed the committee that since we will not be

receiving additional funding in the fall, we need to look for continued efficiencies in our transit operations without compromising or eliminating service. We particularly studied Friday classes, ridership demand, etc. and adjusted our proposed route schedules accordingly. The idea was to pull resources from off-campus routes to on-campus for a portion of the day to achieve the best service possible. Please see presentation for these modifications:

<http://www.transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>

5.1. There were some questions from the committee concerning wait times and passengers left behind because of full buses. Ms. Dillard responded that we would monitor closely. Presently when a driver has a full bus and leaves passengers waiting, he/she calls dispatch and gives a report on how many passengers were left behind. Mr. Lange responded that when we started the new Route 9 for the Vet School this semester, with two buses, we learned that classroom space there was being used for biomed science undergraduate courses. We quickly made adjustments and added a bus during that peak time, and had the problem solved by the third week of classes. Ms. Misty Skaggs commented that it helped tremendously.

5.2. Ms. Dillard asked for input concerning a modification that would combine Routes 6 and 8 at the MSC. She asked if we should name the Route 6 going North one name and going south another name. The committee discussion and consensus was that the name should remain the same, but the Marquis should change to say Route 6/8 depending on which direction the bus was going from the MSC. That modification would be preceded by heavy marketing and communication to educate passengers about the change. More discussion on this will follow.

5.3. Mr. Justin Tippy took over the presentation to discuss Off-Campus modifications. He highlighted one change that would move the main campus stop for Route 12 from the MSC to the Trigon. This would put that transfer closer to Route 27. Mr. Christian Nygren mentioned that the International Graduate Student Association would be pleased with that modification.

5.4. At the conclusion of the presentation, Mr. Nygren asked if we would gather more data for a longer period of time before we make the modifications. Ms. Dillard responded that we would take a “deep dive” into all of our off-campus routes to look for efficiencies across the board.

5.4.1. Mr. Nygren followed up by asking if we would look at other days besides Fridays for the modifications. Mr. Lange answered that Monday-Thursday ridership data is very consistent and doesn’t lend itself to the modification and scrutiny Friday ridership does. Mr. Tippy highlighted Slide #22, “Matching Buses to Ridership.”

6. The meeting concluded at 1:15 pm.

Next TSAC Meeting: Wednesday, December 7, 2016, Koldus 110-111, 11:30 am