

Transportation Services Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Attending:	Mr. Mike Caruso	Absent:	Dr. R. J. Golsan
	Dr. Johnathan Coopersmith		Mr. Thomas McNutt
	Mr. Joe Dillard		
	Dr. Angie Hill Price		
	Dr. Beverly Kuhn		
	Mr. Peter Lange		
	Dr. Clint Magill		
	Dr. Joe Newton		
	Mr. Robert Pottberg		
	Ms. Flora Reeves		
	Ms. Jennifer Slovacek		
	Dr. Thomas Strganac		
	Mr. Rod Weis		
	Ms. Casi Wilbanks		
	Mr. Kyle Womack		
	Mr. C. J. Woods		

Special Guest: Mr. Tom Reber

Guests:	Mr. Doug Williams	Mr. Kenny Kimball	Ms. Debbie Hoffmann
	Ms. Rose Berryhill	Ms. June Broughton	Ms. Therese Kucera
	Ms. Lana Wolken		

1. Business

- 1.1. Meeting called to order by Mr. Peter Lange and members requested to review minutes from May 17, 2011.
- 1.2. Members introduced themselves and new members were identified
- 1.3. Mr. Lange asked for corrections to the minutes;
 - 1.3.1. Dr. Joe Newton made a motion to approve the minutes;
 - 1.3.2. Dr. Angie Hill Price 2nd the motion to approve the minutes; all voted in favor; minutes approved

2. MSC Plaza Presentation by Mr. Tom Reber

2.1. Mr. Reber informed the group that this is first time that this presentation is being seen by anyone outside of him and Peter or by anyone in the public. A decision must be made by the end of this month; Peter Lange followed up that he recommended this group to Tom because they will have feedback for him on the presentation. Mr. Reber continued that the MSC project has been under 3 presidents and 4 student body presidents, some decisions about the project were made some time ago and Joe Routt Street – MSC Plaza and the Plaza will be done before April

2.1.1. It was recommended from the committee that it be sent through the student groups and the Faculty Senate

2.1.2. The options are:

2.1.2.1. OPTION 1: Completely closing Joe Routt between Stallings Blvd. and Houston St., creating a pedestrian-friendly extension of the MSC Plaza

2.1.2.2. OPTION 2: Limited vehicular access to Joe Routt Blvd. between Stallings Blvd. and Houston Street. From 6am-6pm, one way eastbound for buses only; from 6pm-6am the street would be one-way eastbound for all traffic. Bi-directional bike lanes

2.1.2.3. OPTION 3: One-way eastbound access to all traffic and bi-directional bike lanes, 24 hours a day; the way it is currently being used

2.1.2.4. OPTION 4: Two-way traffic, bikes share the road (no designated bike lanes) but restricted to buses from 6am-6pm; the street would be two-way, open to all traffic from 6pm-6am

2.1.2.5. Questions/Comments:

2.1.2.5.1. Peter stated that if we don't have the access to Joe Routt the transit loop as known in the Master Plan will be lost

2.1.2.5.2. Dr. Price felt that option 1 was not a good option but for 7 days of the year and it would defeat all the work done and decisions made for Ross Street; and it would be bad for the buses; she also stated that she could not see closing it altogether, but understands from the MSC perspective how it would be great but the rest of the campus would not benefit

2.1.2.5.3. Dr. Magill asked when the new passageway project would start and expressed concern about getting around during its construction

2.1.2.5.4. Option 2 would not create problems for bus routes because they would be able to transport people and let them off at the MSC

2.1.2.5.5. Dr. Newton asked Peter if he felt the same way about the buses, like Ross Street, if it is closed permanently, then we have no options. If it stays partially opened we have options later. Peter agreed

2.1.2.5.6. Dr. Kuhn felt that if Joe Routt completely closed it would push more traffic to the already heavily used intersections on George Bush Drive which would make those areas worse

2.1.2.5.7. Dr. Price felt that it is a terrible idea to close Joe Routt completely

2.1.2.5.8. Kyle Womack asked what redoing Joe Routt was going to do to the MSC Project budget. Tom reported that this has no impact on the MSC project; the Joe Routt construction would be raised from other funds. If it closes we lose it forever

2.1.2.5.9. Mike Caruso asked if there are any problems with the way it currently configured. Peter stated that we have not had any accidents or injuries that we know of

- 2.1.2.5.9.1. Mike then stated that pedestrians will go from MSC to Koldus and not MSC to Kyle other than on game day because the bookstore will no longer be in G. Rollie White Coliseum and classes will not be continue to be held in this building or Read
- 2.1.2.5.10. Peter explained the concerns with going from 2 lanes westbound in front of Rudder to 1 lane westbound in front of the MSC. It would need an engineer's study for recommendations on the intersection; it is rare to see this configuration in public roadways
- 2.1.2.5.11. Dr. Price asked how people would get access for deliveries, etc. Peter compared this to Ross Street; authorized delivery or service providers would have access to the MSC
- 2.1.2.5.12. Mike Caruso stated that many people used the University Center Garage (UCG) now and the MSC is not even open. Closing the roadway would put lots of pressure on George Bush because UCG is the only place in this area for visitors to park
- 2.1.2.5.13. Dr. Price felt that a 5th option could added that would force the left lane to turn left from Joe Routt to Houston and then only 1 lane would go straight. She then asked if we could open it 24 hours in each direction and observe the utilization. Install the gates but do not put them into operation unless they are needed
- 2.1.2.5.14. Dr. Kuhn stated that Option 6 could be limited access to UBs (university business permits) that would limit access those conducting university business but would eliminate student access.
- 2.1.2.5.15. Kyle Womack stated that eliminating student access would cause them to oppose that option. Peter stated that he did not see this happening because students use the area at night
- 2.1.2.5.15.1. Kyle continued that option 4 would not be an issue for students; students do not normally use the bike lanes
- 2.1.2.5.16. Mike Caruso stated that he did not see a need for Option 1 related to game day operations; the Fan Zone will continue to work with any of the options
- 2.1.2.5.17. Mike also felt the smartest to move people across campus is by buses and it has to be in the discussions
- 2.1.2.5.18. Peter told the group that he did not want them to support the plan with a binding resolution but he would like to have what they liked or could support
- 2.1.2.5.18.1. All voted in favor of keeping Joe Routt open; but to have an engineer do a study on the intersection**
- 2.1.2.5.18.2. Then he asked for an option
- 2.1.2.5.18.2.1. Mike Caruso stated that he would like to discuss the negatives and positives, bike issues – no bike lanes, intersection of 1- way to a 2-way and if it is buses only, where would it cut off; Peter stated that they are only discussing from Gene Stallings to Houston Street
- 2.1.2.5.18.2.2. You stated it only has 1 route, if it is fewer buses; then service would not be impacted for 2-way traffic
- 2.1.2.5.18.2.3. Dr. Kuhn and Dr. Price asked about an Option 5 that has 2-way access to all traffic, 24 hours a day with no designated bike lanes (bikes share the road)

2.1.2.5.18.2.4. Rod Weis stated that the key is to remember we are a growing campus. If the decision is made for Joe Routt to be bi-directional, one thing that will impede everything will be the Kiss-N-Drops

2.1.2.5.18.2.5. Dr. Price said to place gates and negate later on when to open and close them

2.1.2.5.18.2.6. Dr. Coopersmith stated that Bi-Directional made a lot of sense to keep the buses going, build it with gate infrastructure and experiment; you will need them later. He felt they all agree bi-directionality, with no designated bikes

2.1.2.5.18.2.7. Peter stated that the Kiss-N-Drops are not bad; it's the pickups that sit and wait that cause the hang ups; Dr. Kuhn stated that it would have to be enforced

2.1.2.5.18.2.8. OPTION: 1-way direction VS 2-way direction; 14 voted for 2 way, one member voted for 1-way and one 1 abstained; voting was done by show of hands

2.1.2.5.19. Peter asked the members if they had groups that Tom should show the presentation to let him know. Dr. Price recommended the Faculty Senate

3. Updates:

3.1. Peter told the group that last year when the Blind Student Association members visited the TSAC meeting we promised to change the transit maps from pdf maps to Google Maps. We have done this! It is pretty cool because you can go the street view and see where the stop is; the dots are in line with the stops. This information is now available for all routes.

4. Route 5: Change name from "Bush School" to "Bush Center"

4.1. Peter told the group that Transportation Services received a request to change the name of our bus route from "Bush School" to "Bush Center". He stated he felt it does make more sense it would cover every operation out there: the Library, PCC, and Bush School.

Kyle stated that students did not care about the route name, but it would help freshmen students in the beginning if the route number and route name were the only information on the marquee. He understand and appreciates the Welcome Back and that we need drivers but this is not as important to the freshmen as where it is going and what route it is; Peter also let Kyle know that all of the new fleet of buses have permanent signs on the back of each bus with the route number

4.1.1.1. Kyle also wanted to let us know about the quick turn around on route 33. It began with difficulties in the beginning but by the end of the week it was much better; Peter stated that they did it in a week -- last year took about 5 weeks to work through the issue of overcrowding on off-campus routes.

4.1.2. Kyle Womack made the motion to change the name of Route 5 to "Bush Center";

4.1.3. Dr. Price seconded the motion; all voted in favor

5. Committee Co-Chair

5.1. Peter informed the committee members that a co-chair is needed for the committee; it is not a hard job and it's good to have someone else in charge besides himself.

5.1.1. Dr. Price nominated Dr. Magill

5.1.1.1. Kyle Womack 2nd the nomination; all voted in favor

6. Recurring meeting date

6.1. Dr. Kuhn stated that the 1st Wednesday would work well; consensus seemed to be acknowledged by everyone on the committee

6.1.1. Dr. Stragnac was concerned because the 1st Wednesday in December was a Reading Day

6.1.2. Kyle stated that Wednesday would be good for him and Thomas; that Thomas had something come up early today that caused a conflict for today's meeting

6.2. Members agreed to the 1st Wednesday of every month for our recurring meetings

7. Additional Business

7.1. Dr. Stragnac asked about the status of Ross Street. Peter stated that it was about 30 days behind schedule because there were many unanticipated issues at the intersection at Ireland and Ross. The original completion date was early September and it is now slated to be completed in October. Peter reminded the group about the addition to the project of an extra 300 feet on Houston Street, so it will now be sometime around November 10th.

7.2. Kyle informed the committee that he has issues with the people stopping their cars at the pay stations in University Center Garage and causing problems. Peter told him that we would look at the problem.

7.3. Dr. Magill asked about the intersection in front of the YMCA and it needs to have a stop sign. There are lots of vans in the area.

7.3.1. Peter stated that we have an engineering firm looking at other things and that he would ask them to look at that intersection as well after the sidewalk area between YMCA and Coke is completed

Meeting adjourned