



Transportation Services Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 2, 2013
Room 110/111, Koldus Building

Attending:

Ms. Brittany Bounds
Ms. Tiffany Daniels
Mr. Joe Dillard
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Dr. Beverly Kuhn
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Beth McNeill
Dr. Joe Newton
Mr. Darryl Peterson
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Dr. Bob Strawser
Mr. Travis Walters
Dr. C.J. Woods
Dr. Guoyao Wu

Absent:

Mr. Mike Caruso
Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith
Dr. Merna Jacobsen
Mr. Matt Keller
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Hannah Weger
Mr. Rod Weis

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

1. Welcome

Mr. Peter Lange welcomed the group and introduced two new appointees, Dr. Beth McNeill and Dr. Jonathan Coopersmith.

2. Approve Minutes

- 2.1 Mr. Lange asked attendees to review the minutes from the September meeting for approval.
 - 2.1.1 Mr. Travis Walters motioned to approve the minutes as presented.
 - 2.1.2 Dr. C. J. Woods seconded the motion to approve the minutes as presented.
 - 2.1.3 All voted in favor and the minutes from the September meeting were approved.

3. Nomination of Co-Chair

- 3.1 Mr. Lange indicated that since Dr. Clint Magill has rotated off the committee, we would like another faculty or staff member to be selected as co-chair. Dr. Bob Strawser indicated that he would serve as co-chair if no one else is interested in serving. Mr. Lange indicated that since several faculty and staff members were absent, we would send an email to determine if there was other interest in serving.

4. Transportation Services in the News

- 4.1 Mr. Lange showed a clip that is available on our website of a segment which aired on ABC News 40 regarding Bike Share on campus. In the video, Mr. Ron Steedly, our Alternative Transportation Manager, highlighted some advantages of the Maroon Bikes Bike Share program we have implemented.

- 4.1.1 Mr. Lange commented on the affordability of the Maroon Bikes program in comparison to others available from other companies, where you might spend thousands on specialized bike racks. Maroon Bikes use an off-the-shelf key box and bike rack making it easy and inexpensive to implement.

5. Updates

- 5.1 Transit Update - Mr. Lange shared that into the sixth week of classes, we have seen a slight decrease in ridership overall from the first class day to present. Ridership is higher than same time last year; comparison of the last week shows an increase of 45,000 rides from same week last fall. We passed the 1 million ride mark on the 4th week of class. From an on-time perspective, Transit buses generally run on time 95-97% of the time, but when they aren't on time, it is during the class change periods. Ms. Madeline Dillard indicated that Route 5 will permanently have one more bus to accommodate increased ridership. Wellborn Road Grade Separation is open and more pedestrians and bikers are using it to travel between west campus and the MSC area, a potential reason for a slight decrease in ridership between those stops.
 - 5.1.1 Dr. Strawser asked if they changed west campus classes to change on the ½ hour mark if it would help to relieve congestion and make transit more efficient. Ms. Dillard indicated that would help improve the congestion for on-campus routes.
 - 5.1.2 Dr. Angie Hill Price asked what will happen when Zachry closes for construction and what arrangements will be made to accommodate students, faculty and staff. Mr. Lange indicated that it would depend on where the classes are relocated to; for example, we couldn't go to William Fitch but would be able to accommodate Riverside Campus.
 - 5.1.3 Dr. Joe Newton said he has heard students complain that they are having a hard time getting to class on time from Route 31.
 - 5.1.4 Mr. Walters asked why some specific bus types were taken from routes and Ms. Dillard indicated that they moved the higher capacity buses (Millenniums) to the routes which needed them.
 - 5.1.5 Mr. Lange indicated that a Student Forum is planned for October 22nd in MSC 2300A, to discuss proposed Transit Changes for Fall 2014.
- 5.2 Dulie Bell Update - Mr. Lange indicated that the final groups occupying the building will be relocated near the end of October and the building will come down around the holiday break; construction of the parking lot will take approximately 100 days.
- 5.3 Traffic Study Highlights - In conjunction with the City of College Station and with participation from TTI, a traffic study was conducted the week of the Alabama game from Wednesday through Sunday. An aerial survey was conducted, Bluetooth counters and manual lot counts were used as part of the study.
 - 5.3.1 The biggest takeaway from the study at this point is that traffic congestion is concentrated at 2818 to University and the Wellborn Road area, south of campus.
 - 5.3.2 The Get to the Grid Transit system moved twice as many passengers as the game before with the same resources and nearly the same route times and time needed to clear campus after the game.
 - 5.3.3 We showed that we can handle the increase in riders, traffic and parking but the fact is that the numbers of vehicles and people on campus for Alabama game could become the new norm.

6. Fee Request Sent Forward

- 6.1 Mr. Lange informed the committee that a request was sent forward for additional monies to buy 8 - 10 buses to replace 9 smaller International buses. So the size of the bus fleet will remain the same, but will be able to accommodate more passengers on the larger buses. Mr. Kenny Kimball clarified that we are asking for a larger portion of the University Advancement Fee, not a fee increase.
 - 6.1.1 Dr. Bob Strawser said he doesn't think our increases for football game parking rates were large enough.
 - 6.1.2 Mr. Lange indicated that it will take time to adjust rates and that we didn't begin charging for game days until 2005; revenue has increased steadily and has allowed permit rates to stay steady. Example: for the 2013 Alabama game, we made more than the entire 2005 season.
- 6.2 We have approval from CBE to proceed with 2 garages (Engineering Corridor and Northside Residence Area) but situation has changed somewhat since that submission. Transportation Services is being asked to build a 2600 space garage to support the proposed West Campus Dorm, which would open to some residents in Fall 2015. In addition, there is a request for a garage to support the renovated Kyle Field, which has been requested as a 2 garage structure. We are submitting a document through the CBE process to request guidance regarding the sequence of building these garages.

6.2.1 Dr. Newton asked what the effect of these new garages would be on permit prices. Mr. Lange indicated that we are asking for a 5% increase for the next three years.

7. Other Business

- 7.1 Mr. Lange informed the committee of a Ribbon-Cutting for the Wellborn Road Grade Separation Project to be held on Friday, October 18th at 9 a.m., southwest of the Albritton Bell Tower.
- 7.2 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6, at 11:30 a.m. in Koldus Room 110-111.

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