



**TRANSPORTATION
SERVICES**
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Transportation Services Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 6, 2013

Attending:

Ms. Brittany Bounds
Mr. Mike Caruso
Ms. Courtney Charanza
Mr. Joe Dillard
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Matt Keller
Dr. Beverly Kuhn
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Beth McNeill
Dr. Joe Newton
Mr. Darryl Peterson
Mr. Robert Pottberg

Ms. Flora Reeves
Dr. Bob Strawser
Mr. Travis Walters
Ms. Hannah Weger
Mr. Rod Weis
Dr. C.J. Woods
Dr. Guoyao Wu

Absent:

Mr. Jonathan Coopersmith
Dr. Merna Jacobsen
Ms. Melody Larson

Guests:
Ms. June Broughton
Ms. Therese Kucera
Mr. Justin Tippy

Ms. Debbie Hoffmann
Ms. Jolene Sears
Mr. Doug Williams

Mr. Kenny Kimball
Mr. Ron Steedly

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Peter Lange welcomed the committee and introduced two new members, Ms. Hannah Weger, Designee of the Speaker of the Student Senate and Courtney Charanza, Representative of the University Staff Council.

2. Approval of Minutes from October Meeting

- 2.1 Mr. Lange asked for a review of the minutes from the previous meeting. Mr. Travis Walters motioned to approve the minutes as written. Dr. Angie Hill Price seconded the motion and the minutes were approved by committee members.

3. Nomination of Co-Chair

- 3.1 Mr. Lange reminded the committee that a nomination for Co-Chair of the committee was needed and has traditionally been filled by a faculty member. Dr. Joe Newton made a motion to nominate Dr. Angie Hill Price, who has served as a past co-chair, and Mr. Mike Caruso seconded the motion. Dr. Price was unanimously approved as Co-Chair of the committee.

4. Proposed Transit Changes for Fall 2014

- 4.1 Mr. Lange reminded the committee that off campus transit changes were approved for this Fall semester, but were not implemented in order to give students time to consider transit routes when making their housing decisions. Transportation Services hosted an open forum in October to present the proposed transit changes for Fall 2014. The forum was attended by a few students, faculty and staff members who provided valuable insight regarding the proposals. Mr. Lange will gather feedback from Student Senate and Graduate Student Council. Ideally, the changes would be approved before the Spring semester so students can be notified of the

changes and plan their housing for the next year accordingly. Dr. Price asked for a motion to endorse the changes as written; Mr. Caruso motioned to endorse the changes and Ms. Flora Reeves seconded the motion. The motion to support the Transit Changes for Fall 2014 was approved by the committee.

5. Bus Purchase Process

- 5.1 Mr. Lange explained that we are looking to purchase approximately 10 buses at about \$450, 000 each to replace our aging fleet and we have been asked to participate in a new process by Procurement Services. Basically, companies who have been pre-screened participate in an online “Reverse Auction” to determine the lowest bidder for our specific order. There is no obligation that the final bid is taken and the final say in the purchase still lies with the department.

6. Bike Master Plan

- 6.1 Mr. Ron Steedly explained to the group that there has been an increase in the bike population since last spring and there is an increase in the demand for spaces to park bikes. We knew there would be an increase, which is the reason Bike Share was implemented, and that program is growing. A new dorm on West Campus has the potential to add 3,000 new bikes. There is a need for an external group to evaluate our campus and propose a Bicycle Master Plan in order to plan strategically for future growth.

7. Updates

- 7.1 **Garage Update** - Mr. Lange asked Ms. Brittany Bounds to expand on the information they received at a meeting with Dr. Loftin and other administrators in regard to the timing of garage construction and the impact on permit prices. Ms. Bounds indicated that CBE was at a standstill in regard to the decision due to the potential increases for permit holders and submitted two recommendations to Dr. Loftin that were equally supported by the council. Dr. Loftin has asked for more feedback from faculty and staff groups in order to make a determination of the best way to proceed from the scenarios which have been presented.
- 7.2 **Hertz Car Upgrades** - Hertz replaced all 6 vehicles with new models. Usage was down a bit, but could have been due to the reliability and condition of vehicles. We currently have 1826 members.
- 7.3 **Starline/MegaBus** - We are still working with both companies to provide weekend bus service to Houston, Austin and Dallas.
- 7.4 **Lot 48/62** - Ms. Debbie Hoffmann addressed the change in number of spaces available for those who park near Kyle Field. With construction at Kyle, it was thought we would only lose 80 spaces; we will actually lose 232 spaces and it is necessary to revoke 175 permits for Lot 48. Some of those permit holders were offered the chance to move to University Center Garage at the same price as the surface lot permit for the remainder of this year. Others were moved to West Campus Garage and Lot 61. When construction begins near Lot 62, we will lose portions of the south end of the lot and by February 2014, will lose nearly the entire south side of Lot 62. Those who have permits for Lot 62 are primarily undergraduate students and they will be offered alternative parking assignments also if it is determined permits must be recalled.
- 7.5 **New Twitter Account** - Transportation Services has created a new Twitter account titled “GetToAggieGame” in order to provide real-time updates to fans regarding game day parking. Tweets are sent out as facilities and lots fill up so that those arriving on campus can make alternate plans.
- 7.6 **New Bus Wrap** - Aggie Athletics unveiled a new bus wrap this week, funded by Marketing and Communications. It features images of men’s and women’s basketball players on the sides and has been well-received.

After a reminder from Mr. Lange that the Committee would meet again in December, the meeting was adjourned.