

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING

February 18, 2010

Attendees:

Ms. Rosey Saenz
Mr. Mike Caruso
Ms. Nicole Franzetti
Ms. Lallah Howard
Alternate for Mr. Konrad Johnson
Ms. Olga Martinez
Dr. Joe Newton
Mr. Darryl Peterson
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Rod Weis
Mr. Jeff Wilson
Dr. Susan Bloomfield
Mr. C.J. Woods
Mr. Steve Humeniuk for Tanner Wilson

Absent:

Dr. Doug Slack
Ms. Flora Reeves
Dr. R. J. Golsan
Mr. Jonathan Howson
Ms. Mary Tess Eggebrecht
Ms. Brandy Kosh

Guests:

Mr. Peter Lange
Mr. Doug Williams
Mr. Kenny Kimball
Ms. Debbie Hoffmann
Ms. Rose Berryhill
Ms. Casi Wilbanks

1.0 Business

1.1 Meeting called to order by Mr. Weis;

1.2 Mr. Weis asked for members to review the January 21st minutes before beginning the meeting;

1.2.1 Mr. Weis asked for corrections to the minutes; none noted.

1.2.2 Dr. Newton made a motion to approve the January 21st minutes;

1.2.3 Robert Pottberg seconded the motion; all voted in favor, minutes approved.

2.0 West Campus Visitor Parking

- 2.1 Mr. Weis explained Access and Revenue Control across campus and a plan for the West Campus Garage (WCG) conversion. Originally Transportation Services planned to complete WCG the next fiscal year but the current equipment is failing.
- 2.2 Peter Lange then gave a Power Point presentation about the plan to install revenue equipment in WCG now and to add new visitor parking areas to west campus surface lots. The new paid visitor parking software will allow upgrades such as pay by cell phone and pre-paid parking passes. Pay by Phone is a service designated for pay-by-the-hour in visitor parking spaces with a single phone call.
 - 2.2.1 The new Pay By Space (PBS) visitor spaces would be added in Lots 100 h, 61, 74 and 97.
 - 2.2.1.1 PBS Potential Visitor Spaces
 - 2.2.1.1.1 Lot 100 h – 25 to 116 spaces
 - 2.2.1.1.2 Lot 61 – 50 to 100 spaces
 - 2.2.1.1.3 Lot 74 – 57 to 114 spaces
 - 2.2.1.1.4 Lot 97 – 25 – 50 spaces
 - 2.2.2 Change the West Campus Garage to allow any valid permit after 4 or 5 pm
 - 2.2.2.1 Current rules enact night parking after 5pm
 - 2.2.2.2 Rec Center identified that their busy time starts at 4pm
- 2.3 Mr. Weis asked if anyone on the committee thought we should say no to idea of visitor parking in these areas on West Campus, if they thought it was not a good idea?
 - 2.3.1 Mike Caruso thought that the visitor parking in west campus surface lots should be implemented after it was determined how many visitor spaces were needed in Lot 100h; has a few concerns about true visitor parking needs in lot 61; Suggested to take your best educated guess with the number needed, monitor it and be prepared to add or subtract spaces to match demand; Mike then suggested to go with it.
 - 2.3.2 Mr. Lange stated that the benefits of using PBS machines is that they are easily moved; powered by solar energy and controlled by cellular signal.
 - 2.3.3 Mike Caruso made the motion to install the PBS machines in Lots 100h, 61,74 and 97;
 - 2.3.4 Dr. Newton seconded the motion; all voted in favor; motion passed
 - 2.3.4.1 Jeff Wilson asked what was the timeline for installation, by Fall 2010?
 - 2.3.4.2 Peter Lange stated that was correct

3.0 Registration Student Lot Update

3.1 Mr. Lange discussed that lots 82 and 64 will no longer be student selectable lots. This is because of the increased number of staff and departmental demand in these lots. Students already parking in the lots may renew their permits, should they choose; students will be eliminated through attrition

3.1.1 Another concern is for the safety of students utilizing lot 64; students parking in this lot have been observed crossing the railroad tracks and Wellborn Road to get to main campus.

3.2 Lot 71b was changed to 36f during the renovation construction on lot 36; it is our plan to return the lot to 71b, an any valid permit lot; all customers with permits for Lot 36 will be able to renew, if they choose.

3.2.1 Peter asked if the committee had any concerns with us changing the lot; committee members showed no concern and all agreed that the lot should return to number 71b

3.3 Members showed no opposition to changes for lots 82, 64 and 36f to 71b

4.0 Vehicles use of campus Walkways and Sidewalks

4.1 Dr. Price stated that campus vehicles on the sidewalks create a pedestrian safety issue; faculty members are sending her pictures of offenders. She feels that we need some controls on this issue. Police will not enforce something that is not a violation of law unless the area is signed. How do we determine where signs should be placed?

4.1.1 Dr. Bloomingfield stated the most pressing concern is pedestrian safety. Key priority is signage, communication, and trying to stop vehicles using sidewalks as short cuts.

4.1.2 Jeff Wilson inquired about an A&M policy, allowing A&M Vehicles only; DHL, Coke and others need to use the roadways

4.1.3 Mike Caruso suggested signs that state if you absolutely must be on sidewalks, drive no faster than 5 mph, use extreme caution, and for official business in a TAMU vehicle only

4.1.4 Dr. Price asked the members if they had any thoughts about this subject; Thompson Hall is one example of a problematic area and the Chemistry Building disabled access ramp is another

4.1.5 Dr. Newton asked Transportation Services staff if they had any guidance from other university transportation folks

4.1.5.1 Peter stated that all universities have this problem; he suggested tackling small areas at a time and making them compliant then moving on to other areas, once we learn from the process

4.1.6 Dr. Price stated that this issue also ties into the LSV (Low Speed Vehicles) plan because some of them are the ones apt to drive on sidewalks

- 4.1.7 Dr. Price asked if any members would like to volunteer to work on a subcommittee to look at what other campuses have in place and to identify “hot spots” at this campus
 - 4.1.7.1 Committee members will be, Dr. Angie Hill-Price, Rod Weis, Rosey Sanchez, Darryl Peterson and Mike Caruso
 - 4.1.7.2 Peter suggested that this subcommittee also reach out to UPD/EHS for an individual from each of their organizations to serve on the subcommittee

5.0 Visitor-Client Spaces and University Vehicles

- 5.1 Dr. Price stated that a policy is needed to regulate the issue that some departments are paying for their visitor spaces and other do not pay for their spaces. Vehicles parked in a garage, gated lot, or in a reserved numbered space pay for a permit; other university vehicles parking in a surface lot, pay nothing
 - 5.1.1 Vet School and Dean of AgriLife, two units most involved by way of client spaces and large quantities of University Vehicles.
 - 5.1.2 Unpaid visitor spaces are at the Vet School; a large lot; in need of repairs and they will be requesting that repairs be made and paid for by Transportation Services; the permit holder will be subsidizing this repair
- 5.2 The members discussed making a designated university vehicle parking location where space is more widely available.
 - 5.2.1 Lallah Howard asked if there was some way that we could look at the dollars that are being lost because of university vehicles not paying to park; Dr. Newton stated that it is nice to have real data.
 - 5.2.2 Peter Lange requested that the group let TS take a stab at what a university vehicle parking policy could look like using multiple solutions and include data with numbers of vehicles and where they are parking. Include pay spots and free spots. Pull data about per vehicle costs assigned through Fleet Leasing and what some of the totals might be that are assessed to departments. One difficulty will be because we don’t know how many vehicles some of the agencies have in their fleet.
- 5.3 Committee members felt that it would take a mandate from a higher level administrator to get buy in to change
- 5.4 Dr. Price stated that this is not a problem that we can solve today; asked members to talk to their constituents; get suggestions or ideas

Meeting Adjourned