

TSAC Minutes
February 4, 2015
Room 301 Rudder Tower, 11:30 am

Present:

Dr. Deb Banerjee
Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Mike Caruso
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. David Glockzin
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Dr. Margaret Hobson
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Beth McNeill
Mr. Michael Murtha
Dr. Mark Moran for Dr. Joe Newton
Dr. Bob Strawser
Mr. Travis Walters
Mr. Lorenzo Washington
Dr. CJ Woods

Absent:

Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Mr. Chris Lyons
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Veronica Sprayberry
Mr. Rod Weis

Guests:

Mr. Stefan Nutbrown, Gotcha Ride
Ms. Madeline Dillard, Transportation Services
Mr. Kenny Kimball, Transportation Services
Ms. Therese Kucera, Transportation Services
Ms. Jolene Sears, Transportation Services
Mr. Ron Steedly, Transportation Services
Mr. Douglas Williams, Transportation Services

1. Mr. Peter Lange asked for a review of the minutes from the December meeting. Members reviewed the minutes and approved them as written.
2. Mr. Ron Steedly, Alternative Transportation Manager, introduced Mr. Stefan Nutbrown with Gotcha Ride. Gotcha Ride started offering service on campus in the fall; they began slowly, mainly offering service at night to supplement the Carpool program. They would like to meet with campus groups to promote the service and provide more information. He said for spring semester, Gotcha Ride will concentrate on hiring drivers to operate during the day. They pay drivers \$10 per hour and some drivers made as much as \$100 on game days from customer tips. They will launch an app this semester to allow passengers to schedule rides. The goal is to grow from 3 vehicles to 6 vehicles and 15 drivers.
3. Mr. Steedly provided an update to the Bicycle District Plan progress. We received an Action Plan from Alta in the fall and there are recommended items that can be accomplished short term, including:
 - 3.1 Adding markings at Old Main and Texas Avenue to guide bikes to the bike lane.
 - 3.2 Extend the markings at Olsen and University.
 - 3.3 New Main and Houston will be remarked as "One Way Except Bicycles" so that cyclists know they can use contraflow headed south. Will also add signs to area to keep bicycles on streets instead of sidewalks along Military Walk.

- 3.4 At Penberthy and Chandler, will add shared markings between area where bike lane ends and begins again closer to George Bush.
- 3.5 Members had questions about bikes on campus, including:
 - 3.5.1 Dr. Angie Hill Price asked do rules apply to SMV's the same as bikes? Yes, but they must follow the street markings for cars.
 - 3.5.2 Dr. Beth McNeill asked if one of the sidewalks parallel to Military Walk be used exclusively for bikes? Mr. Steedly said that is a possibility.
 - 3.5.3 Mr. Joe Dillard asked if there are current University Rules and Regulations concerning bikes on sidewalks? It is allowed as a state law, but we are aware of areas of concern for pedestrian and bicycle conflicts. An example is the area of the Rec Center and the Pickard Passageway, there isn't a transition to get bikes back to the correct side of the street.
 - 3.5.4 Mr. Steedly explained our goal is to make markings consistent so it is easier to navigate the bike lanes. If we get to a point that all areas are clearly marked and accessible by bikes, we can require the use of bike lanes when it is adjacent to a sidewalk.
 - 3.5.5 Mr. Dillard asked can bikes be prohibited on certain roads or streets? Yes, but then enforcement is an issue.
 - 3.5.6 Dr. Banerjee inquired as to the cost of markings? They are inexpensive and can be done with little cost and time.
 - 3.5.7 Dr. McNeill commented that she has heard positive comments regarding the "No Overnight Parking" for bikes in areas adjacent to buildings and dorms. Most people understand that long term parking has to be on the perimeter of campus.
 - 3.5.8 Mr. Lange said Alta recommended mandatory registration for bikes and they were overwhelmed with the number of bikes on campus. There is real value in being able to communicate directly with bike owners regarding construction, cleanout of racks, etc. that would be accomplished with registration.

4. Ms. Therese Kucera, Customer Assistance Manager, shared information about changing the marking of signs with additional designations for night parking, from a student request. Her team reviewed sign markings in lots on campus, and many signs have combinations of markings, depending on the type of spaces in each lot.
 - 4.1 Ms. Kucera said we could add a designation in the lots that are regular spaces only, no reserved numbered spaces. For example, Lot 55 would be straight forward but Lot 54 has numbered reserved spaces and the addition to the sign could cause confusion.
 - 4.1.2 Dr. Hill Price agreed that adding "Any Valid Permit, 5 pm – 6 am" would make students think it applied to any space in the lot, even Service spaces.
 - 4.1.3 It was suggested we use the verbiage "Any Valid Permit, 5 pm – 6 am, Unmarked Spaces Only" and start marking only the lots in high demand areas with no numbered reserved spaces, such as Lots 18, 48, 65, 67, 69, 73, 98.
 - 4.1.4 Dr. Hill Price asked when will the modifications to the signs will be complete? We will put in a work order with our unit that handles signs and will report back to TSAC next month.

5. Ms. Madeline Dillard reported that approval was received from Dr. Jerry Strawser to endorse the partnership with Brazos Transit District, allowing riders with BTD passes to use our transit buses, beginning 2/16. BTD will provide a shuttle from their station to campus so that pass holders can access Aggie Spirit routes.
 - 5.1 Mr. Lange reminded members that we are doing this to qualify for grant money from the Texas Mobility Fund. If awarded, BTD would purchase 60 buses over three years to be operated by A&M.
 - 5.1.1 Dr. Hill Price asked if there was clarity on how the BTD pass holders would be notified of the rules. Ms. Dillard said we are providing a "How to Ride" guide with all information.
 - 5.1.2 Mr. Travis Walters asked if drivers will have to see student ID's too? Ms. Dillard said we will ask everyone to flash their ID as they board and will not enforce "no ride without ID" until after Spring Break.
 - 5.2 Ms. Dillard said of the 10 new buses on order, 1 has arrived and will be on routes starting 2/9; the remaining 9 will arrive by the first week in March. The new buses will provide capacity for more riders and greater flexibility with the bus fleet.
 - 5.3 Spring ridership is up from last year, we are carrying over 250k+ riders per week. The schedule for Fridays was shortened due to a lack of demand and those hours were moved to other times during the week, extending the regular service hours by up to an hour and 15 minutes to clear the end of day crowds. It seems to be working better; will check the data on ridership and share at a future date.
6. Mr. Lange said the *Get to the Grid* ridership increased last year for football season; as a result, Post Oak Mall has declined to host the service for next year, citing overcrowding in their lots which they believe is hindering business for mall stores. We have had good conversations with community members in a search for alternatives. Blinn College has the most parking available after the mall, but the location is too far away to be feasible. Central Baptist Church is the next biggest location and they declined our offer. The City of College Station's Veteran's Park has 1200 paved spaces, plus 600 or more on grass and they are very receptive to the opportunity. The park isn't used on Aggie game days, due to a lack of hotel rooms available for tournaments, etc. The city has said they won't charge for the use of the lot and they will open up the pavilion to use as a central boarding location and will offer refreshments, restrooms, and tables. When we have more details, we will give an update.
7. Regarding the proposed permit rate increase, Mr. Lange said Interim President Hussey asked us to continue talking to groups and gathering feedback; he would like closure in the next couple of months on the matter.
 - 7.1 Dr. Hill Price asked if a decision was made about TS taking over the maintenance of roads and sidewalks. Mr. Lange said we already had a request from Res Life to repair sidewalks near dorms, although a formal decision hasn't been made. He said it wouldn't make sense to take over maintenance of the plazas, Military Walk, etc., but if work is being done on a street, we would ensure the adjacent sidewalks are in good repair.
8. Mr. Lange said Transportation Services will build 2 parking lots (separated by a boulevard) in support of the White Creek dorm project on west campus. We will also

construct a connecting sidewalk from the dorms to Adriance Lab Road to provide a continuous walkway to the Northgate area. The project will go to bid and construction will begin in March to be completed by August.

9. The gates at the Fish Pond/Sbisa are now being raised from 6 pm – 6 am, like the Ross Street gates, Mr. Lange said. We haven't had reports of any issues or concerns.

10. Mr. Lange said the request from Architecture to eliminate parking between their buildings has been slated to occur with construction in the area in summer 2016. The design decisions for the construction will occur spring 2015.
 - 10.1 Dr. Hill Price asked if there was a drawback to the proposal and Mr. Lange said 4 disabled spaces would have to be moved to an adjacent lot and an emergency accessibility plan would have to be finalized.

11. Mr. Lange reminded members of the next meeting on March 4th in Rudder 301. When no further business was offered, Dr. Hill Price motioned to adjourn; Dr. McNeill seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:04 pm.