

TSAC Minutes
September 5, 2018

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Joe Dillard
Dr. Zachary Grasley
Dr. Eleanor Green (Ms. Misty Skaggs)
Dr. Julie Harlin
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Erin Jones
Dr. Andrew Klein
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Clint Magill
Ms. Katie Morris
Mr. Purna Doddapaneni

Ms. Renee O'Banion
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Dr. Jerry Strawser
Dr. C.J. Woods
Ms. Deborah Wright

Absent:

Mr. Andy Deuel
Mr. Mitch Parker

Guests:

Mr. Jett Black
Ms. Lilia Gonzales

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:35 am and welcomed the new committee members. He remarked that the committee is a diverse, wide-reaching group, composed of representatives from faculty, staff, students, research agencies, and administrators from across the entire university. He highlighted that Transportation Services issues cut across all groups, and we are interested in constituents' feedback and perspective as we bring up those issues. Mr. Lange then introduced new committee members and asked everyone to introduce themselves and indicate whom they represent.

2. Dr. Jerry Strawser, Texas A&M University Vice President of Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer, addressed the group.

- First, he thanked everyone for their participation in the committee, and praised Transportation Services for its excellent customer focus and service. He reiterated that if the committee and its constituents have recommendations for Transportation Services, they will be considered and/or acted upon.
- Second, he thanked Transportation Services for all the planning and work that went into the Thursday Football game, August 30th. The operations went well and ran smoothly, thanks in large part to the proactive planning and continuous communications by Transportation Services and the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (Dr. Tim Lomax and Ms. Madison Metsker-Galarza).
- Third, he thanked Dr. Angie Hill Price for all her work with the faculty to convey all the messaging. In turn, she thanked Dr. Strawser for the continued emphasis on academics.
 - There was some side discussion (not related to Transportation Services' role in the Thursday gameday) about academic buildings being locked down to faculty and students, and inability to enter parking lots. (We have recorded these comments for future planning/operations).

3. Mr. Lange gave an overview presentation about the background, goals and responsibilities of the TSAC. See presentation: <http://www.transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations> Mr. Lange discussed the importance of committee members communicating discussions and decisions back to constituents. He stressed looking at not only the university-level impact of decisions, but also the operational impact on each area represented. Mr. Lange emphasized that the hallmark of the committee is its members are not afraid to ask questions or offer opinions. He asked members to send substitutes and to feel free to suggest agenda items. He also emphasized that much of what is discussed revolves around compliance with or consideration for the Campus Master Plan (CMP). He introduced Ms. Lilia Gonzales, University Architect, and said we've asked her to attend to participate in the discussion and to communicate the effects of our ideas/decisions on the CMP and other future plans for the campus.

4. After explaining the duties of the committee co-chair, Mr. Lange asked the committee to nominate someone to fill that position. Dr. Clint Magill nominated Dr. Hill Price; Ms. Flora Reeves seconded; motion carried. Dr. Hill Price will be co-chair of the 2018-2019 TSAC Committee.

5. Mr. Lange asked everyone who was on last year's committee to review the minutes from the May 2, 2018 meeting. Mr. Bill Cox mentioned an error in paragraph 1: Mr. Mike Caruso was listed as Ms. Mike Caruso. Mr. Joe Dillard motioned to approve the minutes as amended; Ms. Flora Reeves seconded; minutes approved.

6. Transportation Services staff gave an overview of the outcomes of some of last year's TSAC topics.

6.1. Motorcycle Parking – Ms. Debbie Hoffmann said our department has a standing rule that motorcycles may park in any motorcycle parking space. Our short-term examination of motorcycle parking was not to change the rules, but to add parking on both West and Main Campus. The lots where we increased motorcycle parking are: 50, 23, 30, 65, 67, and 104. Most recently, motorcycle parking became available at the Zachry building. Our goal whenever we add any parking is to stay within the CMP guidelines and goals.

6.2. ADA Parking – Ms. Hoffmann said we sent out an annual marketing campaign message concerning ADA parking last week. We have had a successful partnership with UPD and our Parking Services Officers to check ADA compliance by asking drivers for credentials. The disabled individual must be the driver or a passenger in the vehicle displaying the placard. Our department complies with state and federal ADA regulations. We continue to produce awareness campaign messaging.

6.2.1. Dr. Magill asked how a person with a disabled placard could have access to a gated lot to park in an ADA parking place.

6.2.1.1. Therese Kucera said people with disabilities can be accommodated with entrance to gated lots. She has accredited about 8 around campus.

6.3. Citation Rate Increase – Ms. Hoffmann reported we raised citation rates by \$5, effective September 1st. We have a \$10 discount program if the violator pays the fine in the first 14 days. Our citation increases are available to review at our website:

<http://transport.tamu.edu/parking/citation.aspx>.

6.4. Mandatory Bike Registration/ofc Bike Rollout – Ms. Hoffmann said we rolled out mandatory bike registration in fall 2017. We are not citing or impounding unregistered

bikes. Ofo Rollout – Ms. Hoffmann reminded the committee of our initial rollout in February 2018, and reported that by the end of this summer the fleet was significantly increased and 120,000 rides were logged. There were 8,000 rides per day during move-in, and 10,000 per day during the first week of the semester. We now have 2,500 ofo bikes with an expected 500 more to be added soon. We are seeing more off-campus ridership with the advent of the recent College Station bike share ordinance. Recently, our Alternative Transportation Manager, Ron Steedly, met with the Bryan City Council, which is considering adding bike corrals around the city.

6.4.1. Ms. Erin Jones asked if there was an ofo gameday plan.

6.4.1.1. Ms. Hoffmann said ofo will be fully staffed with additional personnel from Dallas to handle the gameday surge. They will stage bikes in or near large parking areas such as Aggie RV Park, Fan Field, and Bonfire Memorial, for people to ride to the game.

6.4.2. Dr. Hill Price asked if we can put an ofo parking area at the front of campus in hidden places.

6.4.2.1. Mr. Lange said we are waiting to see how the first weeks of class pan out for ofo compliance, particularly after the geo fence expansion. He wants to reevaluate the situation after the Clemson game before making any decisions.

6.4.2.2 Ms. Hoffmann noted that we scour campus for wrongly parked bikes to help maintain a safe and beautiful campus.

6.4.3. Ms. Katie Morris asked if there is a plan for supplemental bike racks throughout campus.

6.4.3.1. Ms. Hoffmann said we communicated to incoming students at the New Student Conferences, with Residence Life, and during Howdy Week that we would prefer students to use ofo bikes instead of bringing personal bikes to campus. We haven't seen a need for additional bike racks, but if anyone else sees a need, they can reach us at ofobikes@tamu.edu.

6.4.4. Others on the committee mentioned some residual problems with misplaced bikes, poor ridership, etc. Ms. Hoffmann reiterated that they should use the email address provided to report such behavior/problems.

6.5 Donations for Citations (Therese Kucera gave update) – We conducted our second annual campaign in April and collected 1,970 pounds of food for the Brazos Food Bank, which equates to about 1,650 meals. We were able to reduce about \$200 of citations.

7. Mr. Lange gave some updates concerning current events/projects.

7.1 RELLIS Campus – We have a new, 1,250-space parking lot, “Lot 1,000.” We have installed pay stations similar to those on main campus. We are in the second week of operation there, using License Plate Recognition (LPR) technology for permitting instead of physical hangtags.

7.1.1. Dr. Magill asked if people can register more than one license plate.

7.1.1.1. Mr. Lange said we are piloting up to 3 license plates for the RELLIS campus.

7.1.2. Dr. Zachary Grasley asked if special recognition hangtags will make a difference, as they do on main campus.

7.1.2.1. Mr. Lange said there is no difference. It is strictly LPR, not hangtag recognition.

7.1.2.2. Ms. Hoffmann noted that RELLIS add-on permits are available for purchase for those who already have main campus permits.

7.1.3. Dr. Grasley asked if there will be a pay station for those who want to pay on foot and not download an application for a one-time use.

7.1.3.1. Ms. Hoffmann said the user group didn't see a need for it, and we have no plans to provide it at this time.

7.1.4. Mr. Lange mentioned that we are still finishing the parking lot with some cosmetic work and landscaping. We are running Transit service to Blinn, then CIR, then TTI. We are averaging about 700 riders a day.

8. Mr. Lange mentioned the Doug Pitcock '49 Texas A&M Hotel successful opening, and reported it was about half full for the August 30th football game, and will be fully occupied for the upcoming Clemson game. Our partnership with the hotel is connected to valet parking operations in Cain Garage. On a daily basis valet parking is not a problem, but becomes challenging on gamedays. We also continue to tweak plans to overcome the associated problems with road closures close to Kyle Field.

8.1. Dr. Hill Price asked if the Corps March-In affects the hotel.

8.1.1. Mr. Lange said it affects inbound traffic. However the MSC Streets renovation has been a great improvement. The new, wide sidewalks provide a safe place for fans to get off the streets and watch the March-In.

9. Mr. Lange said the Polo Road Garage project started last year, and has made it through the CBE Schematic Design process. Construction will start this winter. The build-out will be about 72,000 square feet, and will encompass three facilities: Satellite Recreational Sports, Dining, and Transportation Services. The construction will take sections of Lot 50. Those permit holders will have to shift parking locations for about 18 months. The goal is to have the garage online by fall 2020.

10. Mr. Lange discussed Transit issues.

10.1. Last year, Transit's response to Hurricane Harvey during the first week of school skewed our beginning of semester figures a bit for comparison purposes this year. Next week, we will compare this year's 2nd week of ridership to last year's 2nd week of ridership. We are already seeing a bit of reduced ridership, however, and can attribute that in part to the new apartment complexes that have come online near the campus.

10.2. Our Transit budget is tight, causing us to streamline service. We are looking at possibly cutting service next year because of an aging fleet. We continue to monitor our operations to find efficiencies and optimization.

10.3. We are struggling to find bus drivers. On a good day we have 235 drivers, 33 of whom are budgeted positions. The remaining are student workers. We are not fully staffed, and are experiencing wage pressure to compete for student labor.

10.3.1. Dr. Strawser interjected that last year he was on the student enrollment growth task force, which looked at Student Business Services, Dining, and Transportation Services, specifically Transit. The task force shared with the president that if TAMU wants a high-level of Transit service, then there would be associated costs and budget needs that have to be met.

10.3.1.1. Dr. Magill asked where the funding for Transit comes from.

10.3.1.1.1. Mr. Lange responded that it came from the University Advancement Fee (UAF) and some charter revenue. Dr. Strawser pointed out that while UAF and tuition both grow with student growth, the UAF allocation to Transportation Services has not grown.

10.3.1.2. Dr. Julie Harlin asked what the likelihood was of going back to dedicated fees.

10.3.1.2.1. Dr. Strawser said probably zero. They are looking at a budget model that will automatically compensate non-education units for growth.

11. Mr. Lange introduced the topics we will be looking at for this TSAC term.

- Business Permits
- Visitor Rate Structure
- Contractor Service Pricing
- LPR

11.1. He noted that we discussed the first three topics last TSAC term, but we will be recommending how to implement changes for fall 2019.

11.2. Mr. Lange said the new topic this year will concern LPR.

11.2.1. Dr. Magill asked if LPR technology is currently in use at the Rec Center parking lot.

11.2.1.1. Mr. Lange affirmed that it was, and we've been using it there successfully for about 5 years.

12. Dr. Hill Price asked Mr. Lange to add a discussion topic this year to address Transportation Services privacy policies.

12.1. Mr. Lange noted that as mentioned, we've been using LPR for 5 years. The data we store is mainly on people with outstanding tickets. Anyone who is in our FLEX server (our parking enterprise information system since 2008) has their privacy protected as outlined on our website privacy policy. See:

<http://transport.tamu.edu/About/privacy.aspx>. He said that the data we need for business services stays on our server for 30 days. If the person has a citation, however, the data stays longer for collection purposes. He said we will take a look at the back of the ticket as an option for stating the privacy policy. He also said that as we discuss LPR, we can discuss our policies more in depth.

13. There was some general discussion about pedestrian traffic safety at Zachry and for traffic safety on Spence Street. Mr. Lange said the CMP vision for the future will be no on-street parking. Currently we have no plans or budget to make changes to Spence. However, he said he would look into a three-way stop at Old Main.

14. Some more discussion ensued about pedestrian and bike conflicts in several areas.

14.1. Mr. Lange pointed out that we provided dismount zones, and emphasized that education and enforcement were key to informing bicyclists about correct paths and contra-flow bike lanes. He reiterated that there is no "magic bullet" and no overnight fix, except to continue to work toward the goals of the CMP for bike lanes, dismount zones,

and wider sidewalks. He assured the committee that we are aware of the problems and are making progress. We coordinate the best we can, but there is no funding.

14.2. Ms. Gonzales pointed out that her team is always comparing design and future plans to the CMP and making sure pedestrian and bikeways are considered and implemented into final plans. Additionally signage and wayfinding are components.

15. Mr. Lange concluded the meeting at 1:00 pm, again thanking everyone for their service on the committee.

Next TSAC Meeting: Wednesday, October 3, 2018, Rudder Tower 601