

TSAC Minutes
May 6, 2020

This was a Zoom Meeting

Members Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. Purna Doddapaneni (Mr. Uthej Vattipalli)
Dr. Eleanor Green (Ms. Misty Skaggs)
Mr. Mikey Jaillet (Ms. Oriana Koot)
Ms. Erin Jones
Dr. Andrew Klein
Mr. Jim Kovar
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Lisa Pierce
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Dr. Angie Hill Price

Mr. Tom Reber
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Deborah Wright

Absent:

Mr. Andy Deuel
Dr. Julie Harlin
Ms. Regan McGuill
Dr. John Stallone

Guests:

Ms. Lilia Gonzales
Mr. Jason Hayes
Ms. Tamra Young

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:30 a.m.
2. Mr. Lange asked the committee to review the minutes from the April 1, 2020 meeting. Mr. Bill Cox motioned for approval; Ms. Erin Jones seconded; minutes approved.
3. Mr. Lange gave an update on our Transit operations (while the university is taking Coronavirus precautions).
 - Dr. Jerry Strawser asked us to perform a budget exercise anticipating a 7.5% budget cut. Since our Transit operations are not centrally funded, but instead funded through the University Advancement Fee, (UAF) we have been planning for a 10% cut. Therefore, we are preparing for a potential loss of \$500,000 a year, for the next two fiscal years. We can mitigate this loss without across-the-board cuts, by using our Transit reserves, along with operational savings we have accumulated, and savings we anticipate with the reduced maintenance costs for our 37 new buses. We were already saving money by tweaking schedules, reducing service to match demand, and other operational efficiencies. From a big picture perspective, we do not anticipate any perceptible loss of service for our customers.
 - We are expecting a delay in the delivery of our diesel buses by a few months, but we still expect delivery by the end of 2020, to be put into service for spring semester, 2021.

- We are still working hard to retain our student driver workforce, which is critical to our Transit operation. Forty of our student drivers are graduating this month. When the university announced that fall semester was a “go,” we received four new student driver applicants. We have 51 in training right now, but 39 are out of town. The rest are in some process of training on site. We are in the process of getting them to return to the workplace to get them trained and through DPS testing.
 - Dr. Angie Hill Price suggested we advertise for student drivers through social media channels and Aggie Parent sites.
 - Mr. Lange replied that since students are not on campus, we have relied heavily on social media to advertise, and will reach out in other ways suggested.
 - Mr. Jim Kovar suggested we consider reaching out the Blinn Truck Driving course for drivers. Ms. Madeline Dillard said she would look into it.
 - Ms. Erin Jones asked if not having charters helped or harmed our bottom line figures. Mr. Kenny Kimball replied that not having charters saves us the cost of drivers, maintenance, and fuel, but losing the charter revenue does hurt our net figures.
- Dr. Andrew Klein asked if we have been discussing what Transit changes would have to take place in the fall, in regards to social distancing, sanitation, etc.
 - Mr. Lange said we have been planning and preparing using industry guidelines for entry on the bus, (through the rear door) number of riders, (no more than 20 per trip) and sanitation. We have already put these measures into practice now, but such extremes may not be conducive to efficient operations in the fall. We may also have to look at different modes of transportation, longer passing periods between classes, etc.
 - Mr. Kimball echoed Mr. Lange’s point that if we have to limit bus capacity in the fall semester to 20 riders per bus, we cannot overcome the problem with more buses, and we would have to reduce service. Other results might be increased permit sales, increased bike share, etc.
 - Dr. Klein said he is on a committee that is looking at what changes will be made in scheduling the fall semester.
 - Mr. Kovar asked if we could rent buses from local school districts to augment our fleet. Mr. Lange responded that the problem would be financial constraints, and we could not afford to do so.

4. Mr. Lange gave an update on Parking operations and the effect of the shutdown on our revenue.

- Opening Polo Road Garage for parking in the fall will open up some parking on the west side of campus, to include West Campus Garage, Lots 100, and Fan Field.

- Our Parking Service Officers are still serving the campus in an ambassador role, and only issuing citations for unauthorized parking in designated handicapped areas.
- Our facilities maintenance personnel have used the down time to re-stripe about 5,000-6,000 parking spaces and to accomplish other maintenance projects for our facilities.
- Our Customer Service office in Koldus is still open. We have installed sneeze guards and implemented social distancing, continued the online return process, and other creative options for our customers.
- In April, we reported to the committee that we were anticipating \$3.9 million in lost revenue. That figure is now \$5.2 million. Of that amount, we have already realized a \$3.1 million loss from March to April. The remaining \$2.1 million in losses is expected from May to September.
- Our Parking operations are not centrally funded, and our expected overall loss accounts for about 20% of our revenue. We are still looking to mitigate our losses by delaying large capital projects for about three years. We have maintained 15% as part of our debt service, per treasury department rules, and already had reserves for construction. We can recoup some of what we need and use reserves now, if we push construction of our next garages (due in 2025 and 2030) ahead by 2 years each. We are drawing down the reserves, while remaining compliant. In next two years, we will drop a little below the Texas A&M 90-day reserve rule, but not the Treasury service 15% rule.
 - Ms. Deborah Wright said she mentioned this temporary dip in reserves to her contacts at The Texas A&M University System, and they were not concerned.

Our current 3% per year increase in permit pricing will also help offset our losses.

5. Ms. Debbie Hoffmann gave a brief update on our garages. We have received and installed new equipment for visitor pay lanes in our West Campus, Central Campus, and Gene Stallings Boulevard garages. We anticipate installing the new equipment in University Center Garage this month, and will have the same equipment at Polo Road Garage. Ms. Hoffmann also mentioned that we have been going through all the processes and procedures to change the name of Cain Garage to Gene Stallings Boulevard Garage (SBG), which will go into effect in July.

6. Ms. Hoffmann also mentioned that in anticipation of social distancing measures in the fall, we think there could be an influx of students bringing private electric scooters to campus. We have looked at changing the University Standard Administrative Procedure (SAP) to address some of the problems we have been hearing about from this committee and building proctors concerning scooters (mud, storage, unsafe operation, trip hazard, etc.). Mr. Kimball has been examining the current SAP, and some changes are already in the works. Mr. Lange mentioned that scooter companies have been trying

to recoup losses by selling and leasing their scooters to individuals, rather than to organizations for shared use. Dr. Hill Price mentioned problems with skateboards and longboards in buildings. Please continue to share your thoughts on this with us. We are exploring getting a group together to discuss policy changes. Please send your comments to Anne LeGare (alegare@tamu.edu) and let her know if you would like to serve as a member of such a group.

7. After again thanking the committee members for their service this term, Mr. Lange concluded the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be September 2, 2020
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