

**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Minutes  
November 3, 2021**

**This was an in-person meeting with a Zoom option.**

**Present:**

Dr. Fuller Bazer

Mr. Bill Cox

Mr. Joe Dillard

Dr. Angie Hill Price

Ms. Erin Jones

Mr. Jim Kovar

Mr. Peter Lange

Ms. Helena MacCrossan

Mr. Tom Reber

Ms. Flora Reeves

Ms. Staci Rende (Nathan Shelley)

Ms. Mary Schubert

Mr. Nathan Shelley

Dr. Patti Smith

Mr. Fawaz Syed

Mr. Mark Welsh

Ms. Deborah Wright

Ms. Tamra Young

**Absent**

Mr. Andy Deuel

Ms. Robbie Lukeman

Mr. Dale Rice

Dr. John Stallone

**Guests:**

Ms. Lilia Gonzales

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:32 a.m. and asked the committee to review the minutes. Dr. Fuller Bazer motioned for approval of the minutes as presented, Mr. Tom Reber seconded; minutes approved.
2. Transportation Services update
  - 2.1. Transit ridership numbers remain stable after the first few weeks of the semester and typically, we start seeing a decline in numbers at this point, but not this year.
  - 2.2. Permits sold are still up by 3,000 from 2019. We planned for the parking budget to be down 10% from 2019, we are holding at 8% down, so that is positive.
  - 2.3. Two home football games left, and SEC Nation will be in town for the Auburn game.
    - 2.3.1. Dr. Angie Hill Price stated we had done a great job with the Alabama game, much better parking experience. She mentioned the issues she continues to see with pedicabs (pulling up behind people on sidewalks, yelling at people to move, not yielding to pedestrians, etc.) and asked what guidance Transportation Services is providing to the pedicab companies or drivers. Mr. Lange stated pedicabs are interesting and a challenge for us. We have provided maps and had conversations, yet still seeing issues. Most of these companies are from out of town and have no

knowledge of our community, traffic patterns, etc. The City of College Station had considered requiring these companies to be licensed with the city, which would allow us to have a say in how they operate on campus, unfortunately the conversations did not come to fruition.

2.4. Transit is experiencing turnover and staffing shortages. Increasing student driver wages effective Nov. 14 to \$13/hour. Additionally, we are going to create some part-time (<20 hours/week) driver positions to give us additional stability. We have retired drivers who have expressed an interest in this idea.

2.5. MGMT report came out and Transportation Services was mentioned twice. Once was as part of a comment regarding outsourcing and second was regarding challenges implementing centralized IT for our operation.

2.5.1. Dr. Hill Price stated she shudders at the thought of Transportation Services even being a blip on the radar related to outsourcing. While SSC seemed like a good idea and we have saved money, the implementation, especially recently, is not going well.

2.5.2. Mr. Lange mentioned of the peer institutes mentioned at the end of the report, none have outsourced parking. He said while we know of a few entities that have outsourced parking, none match our size, complexity or offer the magnitude of services we provide. He referenced Ohio State University as an example of a large system that outsourced; bottom line is if outsourced, the university loses control over pricing, lots, construction, build outs, etc.

### 3. Perpetual Permits – idea & concept – Mr. Peter Lange

3.1. Mr. Lange said perpetual permits is a conversation and idea we have had for years, but having physical permits limited our ability to move forward.

3.2. Mr. Lange explained we currently, behind the scenes, auto renew all faculty and staff so no employee “misses” registration. If the employees do not complete registration on their own, this ensures their parking assignment is held, and they will be prompted by email to update the payment method.

3.3. He mentioned solving for a perpetual waitlist process is a little more complex and is going to require us to think through the process more. Currently the waitlist is created and cleared annually. Faculty/staff add themselves back during the annual registration process if they are still interested in moving to another parking assignment. A perpetual waitlist has the potential to get messy if the data is not current and still reflects individuals who have moved facilities, changed jobs, or terminated. He also explained currently, during registration, faculty/staff are added to the waitlist by months of service, and after registration they are added on a first come, first serve. With perpetual permits, we need to review this process to determine if we add all faculty/staff to the waitlist by months of service, regardless of when they add themselves?

3.3.1. Dr. Hill Price asked for confirmation a person would automatically, by default, keep what permit they currently have and if they want something differently, then they would need to act. Mr. Lange confirmed that would be the.

3.4. Mr. Lange stated he believes perpetual permits could improve the experience for departments with departmentally paid permits as well. However, students are much more complex and will take more time to review the possibilities and identify roadblocks before we make any changes to students.

3.4.1. Dr. Bazer stated he likes this idea. It’s easy and similar to a toll tag, keep your credit card on file and keep going.

3.4.2. Ms. Mary Schubert agreed with Dr. Bazer and said she would love to see this idea come to fruition.

#### 4. Redesign and configuration of Lot 47/51 – Ms. Debbie Lollar

- 4.1. Currently these two lots are in more disrepair than other lots. We would like to renovate this summer by closing the entire lot and moving permit holders into Polo Rd. Garage or Lot 50.
- 4.2. In the past, Lot 51 offered numerous pay-by-spaces; however, when we moved the paid parking into Polo Rd. Garage, we lost our barrier between the two lots. Our plan does include combining these two lots into one to eliminate confusion about where one lot stops and the other begins. We do intend to restore current reserved numbered spaces and departmental visitor spaces.
- 4.3. The initial design includes adding pedestrian pathways through the lot, east to west, and lining them up with sidewalk connections to Bizzell. Additionally, we will add motorcycle and bicycle parking; add and redistribute accessible spaces so they are closest to the accessible paths and also serve the newer, nearby facilities; bring lighting up to campus standards and add and improve landscaping.
  - 4.3.1. We will commit to leaving access available to Bonfire Memorial and complete the project by Bonfire Memorial Day.
  - 4.3.2. Dr. Hill Price stated by combining Lot 47 & 51 those in 47 will feel slighted to get pushed to the back of the lot. Also, how does this impact the traffic situation in the area? Ms. Lollar confirmed we do plan to combine Lot 47 & 51. She acknowledged the traffic issues in the area and stated we are talking about extending the right-hand turn onto University Dr. from Polo Rd., the traffic support at Bizzell & Polo, while not ideal is necessary at this time.
  - 4.3.3. Mr. Fawaz Syed asked how Transportation Services aligns with the Campus Master plan since it shows a building in this area. Mr. Lange stated we know when a new building comes online, it will likely go on Lot 47 which is why we are doing surface in asphalt. Ms. Lollar mentioned while a new building isn't imminent, we meet with the campus architect monthly to know and prepare for upcoming events. However, the lots are currently in such disrepair they must be addressed now.
- 4.4. Next Steps: Host meetings customers with for permits in Lot 47 and 51. Intend to go to bid by end of year so we can start construction in May.

#### 5. Parking changes for Men's Basketball – Ms. Lynn Wiggs

- 5.1. In the past, the lots around Reed have been for season pass holders or customers paying \$5. This season, customers with any A&M permit (ANY VALID PERMIT) will also be able to park in the lots closest to the arena, so make sure to have your barcode ready.

#### 6. Ron Steedly Retirement – Mr. Lange

- 6.1. Ron will be retiring Dec. 31, 2021. He has been with Transportation Services for 10 years and will be missed.
  - 6.1.1. Dr. Hill Price stated that Ron is awesome and will be missed.
  - 6.1.2. Mr. Bill Cox stated he continues to see abandoned bikes being removed and contributes that to a successful bike share program. He asked if we knew the number of personal bikes on campus. Mr. Lange stated he doesn't know the numbers but agrees, personal bike numbers are smaller.
  - 6.1.3. Mr. Tom Reber asked if we receive notification when there is an accident regarding a Veo bike. Mr. Lange stated if the accident is reported to the police, we will be notified. Mr. Reber stated he gets medical reports in real time and will talk with his team about getting us the information regarding accidents.

7. Questions or additional comments.

- 7.1. Mr. Lange mentioned at this time each year we start talking about Transit route needs and proposing changes. We then present those changes to various student groups throughout campus. However, no major changes are proposed for next year, so those meetings are not necessary. He mentioned when the southside REC comes online, we will need a bus stop, but Rt. 1 already goes by the area, so it will be simple to add a stop.

Meeting was concluded at 1:03 p.m.