

**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Minutes
December 1, 2021**

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

Present:

Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Andy Deuel
Mr. Joe Dillard
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Erin Jones
Mr. Jim Kovar
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Ms. Helena MacCrossan
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

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Tom Reber
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. Patti Smith motioned for approval of the minutes as presented, Mr. Bill Cox seconded; minutes approved.
2. Update on football season trends – Mr. Peter Lange
 - 2.1. Parking Numbers - Total football revenue without any price hikes were up (~\$180,000). Transportation Services remains positive as to what those numbers mean.
 - 2.2. Transit Numbers –
 - 2.2.1. Transit numbers on the regular semester are trailing about 20%.
 - 2.2.2. For football, transit was down about 15% - part of that is we stopped Momentum.
 - 2.2.3. Downtown Bryan shuttle continues to grow every game. It didn't follow the big game trends. The biggest ridership game was Prairie View A&M.

2.2.4. We answered several emails about not running Momentum Bank and told customers about the Downtown Bryan shuttle. Most of these emails came during the first couple games and then we did not receive anymore.

2.3. Traffic changes/issues/resolutions –

2.3.1. Pregame traffic was about what we expected. Did see some issues around Stallings Blvd. Garage but after some tweaks we were able to clear this up.

2.3.2. Overall, we should not see any major pregame changes next football season.

2.3.3. Postgame works well (10th year of TTI plan) – we tweak from game to game, but it continues to work well with great partnerships in the community.

2.3.4. Some of the traffic challenges were interesting:

2.3.4.1. PRG – even though we are parking less cars, we had more traffic problems. PRG was the last place to clear which historically is not as much of a challenge. Part of this, is that we have tons of cut through traffic on Bizzell northbound and southbound. Next year, will modify postgame traffic to better manage the cut through traffic on Bizzell.

2.3.4.2. Many of the traffic challenges on Bush have to do with all the other regular traffic that is out and about.

2.3.5. Parking Services took the biggest hit in terms of staffing challenges.

2.3.6. Don't anticipate any football parking changes next year.

3. Electric Bus update – Ms. Madeline Dillard

3.1.1. Transportation Services has been operating electric buses for about 4.5 months and they are performing as expected (which is a good thing).

3.1.2. Cost per mile for electric bus: \$0.07 per KWh (this totals to about \$0.16 per mile); compared to diesel bus that is about \$0.64 per mile.

3.1.3. Miles per gallon on electric buses is about 15 MPG, although Proterra advertises 25 MPG we have not been able to get this. Likely because we run our buses much more than what Proterra calculates. This number is a kilowatt to diesel conversion.

3.1.4. No major mechanical issues on the electric buses so far. Only mechanical issue was the windshield wiper motors on two of the electric buses went out, but we replaced all three and now we can run them in the rain.

3.1.5. Three buses combine average 2.26 KWh per mile. All three buses combined have driven about 20,000 miles and consumed about 45,000 KWh.

3.1.6. Transportation Services ran all three electric buses on all the gamedays (used in Downtown Bryan).

3.1.7. The chargers have been the biggest issue (Proterra recommends 2 buses to 1 charger, but we got 3 chargers which was 1 bus to 1 charger).

3.1.7.1. We have all 3 chargers working now, except the dual charger is not working as it was intended. This just needs a software update by Proterra.

3.1.8. Maintenance cost for PM for all three buses has been under \$10,000 and for all three chargers is under \$800 dollars.

3.2. Bill Cox: what type of ROI (rate of investment) are you getting moving from diesel to electric?

3.2.1. Peter: the ROI works when you get grants because electric buses are very expensive.

3.2.1.1. One thing no one knows about yet is what happens to the batteries over time? They are replaceable but that's the challenge. What happens in 10 years when the batteries decline. What replacement looks like and how much it costs is the bigger challenge.

3.2.2. Madeline: we are looking at closer to 6-years for replacement because we run the buses more than Proterra plans.

3.2.3. Kenny: the only way the cost of electric buses works is if we get grants.

3.2.4. Peter: Transportation Services put in for another grant – 6 more buses plus chargers.

4. Lot 47/51 Redesign, Customer Meeting update – Mr. Peter Lange

4.1. Transportation Services hired Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA) to complete a preliminary design.

4.2. Transportation Services hosted 3 user meetings for all permit holders in 47/51 on 11/18/2021.

4.2.1. Transportation Services received lots of solid and constructive feedback. Received lots of feedback from the traffic issues in this area.

4.2.2. Lilia: some helpful and great ideas that we had not thought about. Overall, impression of feedback was favorable with what we are trying to do. Constituents saw how the design aligned with the campus master plan.

4.3. Peter went through the presentation.

4.3.1. Trying to alter the design of 47/51 so that people have a better way of exiting and entering, add bike parking, and a bus shelter.

4.3.2. We received complaints about the lack of entries and exits from the lots – we were asked if we could add entry/exit of Bizzell near Bonfire Memorial. Transportation Services is pursuing this option and is looking at areas with less trees or trees that are in decline.

4.3.3. Student: I looked at the lots to see where we could add entries and exits, but there are not many options.

4.3.4. Lilia: need to make sure whatever we are choosing that we are aware of the significance of Bonfire Memorial.

4.3.5. Clint: looking at elongated the NE entry to give better sight line for entry exit and slow down vehicles to enhance safety.

4.3.6. Student: Are there any thoughts about expanding the intersection at Polo/University?

4.3.7. Peter: Transportation Services is looking at Polo and Bizzell at narrowing the intersection to help with pedestrians crossing from Zachry. Installing signals is not off the table.

4.4. Plan of action during winter break:

- 4.4.1. Over the next few weeks – during the Christmas break - we are going to convert the center lane at Polo/University to a left/right turn and straight through. This does not require altered signal timing from the City of College Station.
- 4.4.2. The bigger plan is to expand the queuing space on Polo Rd. to create double lanes on Polo Rd.
- 4.4.3. Clint: during the winter break we are going to do root pruning so we can take care of trees before construction.
- 4.5. Student: what has the city implemented to help with our campus traffic problems?
- 4.5.1. Peter: City has implemented the dynamic “No turn on red” signs which has helped us push through more traffic. We also requested to turn off the “No right on red” when left turn is going, so we can move vehicles. Also requested permissive yellow.
- 4.6. Bill Cox: there are still people crossing diagonal at Bizzell and University, is the city doing anything to stop this?
- 4.6.1.1. Peter: No.
- 4.7. Question: Where will people park once the building on 47 is built?
- 4.7.1. Peter: Campus Master Plan says we will push parking out towards the outskirts.
- 4.8. Joe Dillard: What is the capacity at 47/51?
- 4.8.1. Clint: ~900 vehicles. We are losing about 100 spaces in the lot and this number may change as more changes are incorporated into the design. The new lot will include:
- Enhanced landscaping
 - New campus standard lighting
 - Tesla charging stations
 - Wider parking spaces that meet the standard of 9 feet
 - Added motorcycle parking.
- 4.9. Peter: during construction we will be able to use the garage to park people. Want to complete the construction during the summer. Will need to do some phasing to retain access to Bonfire Memorial.
- 4.10. Student: there is lots of pedestrian traffic on Bizzell that slows down vehicles – what are the plans to mitigate this issue?
- 4.10.1. Clint: we are reducing some of these conflicts, especially south Bizzell where the new bus stop is going.
- 4.11. Student: why are we making the spaces bigger?
- 4.11.1. Clint: spaces need to be larger because vehicles have gotten bigger over time.
- 4.12. Helena: are most of the spaces on campus 9 feet?
- 4.12.1. Clint: yes – most are 9 feet.
- 4.12.2. Helena: what about Lot 30 and Lot 40? Lot 30 yes, and Lot 40 we restriped these lanes and most of them are closer to 9 feet.
- 4.13. Bill: long term – does Transportation Services still have plans to expand parking in PRG?

4.13.1. Peter: yes – the first lanes of 50 (Peter showed map) are available for expanding parking.

5. Promotion Announcements

5.1. Marketing & Communications Manager – Mr. Tad Fifer

5.2. Parking Services Manager – Ms. Monica Bell

6. Aggie Park construction update - Throckmorton/Lewis St. closures during the winter break (Dec. 20, 2021 – Jan. 17, 2022) – Mr. Peter Lange

6.1. They are doing utility line work over the Christmas break where they will cut across Coke/Throckmorton.

6.2. There will be a complete closure for a portion of Lewis St.

7. Bill: Can you provide an update on Stotzer/Agronomy?

7.1. Peter: there was a water blowout yesterday (11/30). We were able to maintain N/S traffic on Agronomy and E/W traffic on Stotzer, but this morning had to close as the water leak caused a sink hole and we had to close lanes on Agronomy and Stotzer.

7.1.1.They are going to abandon the pipe – contractor is onsite and doing an emergency repair to try and get the road reopened fully on Agronomy and resume to normal by **12/2**.

7.1.2.Bus routes 6 and 47 are experiencing delays.

7.1.3.All bus stops along Agronomy Rd. are open.

8. Question: What is red coach?

8.1. The new mega bus to Dallas (big cities).

9. Helena: Can you please provide insight on the Rock Prairie closure that was announced yesterday (11/30) – wondering about the potential effect on Route 34?

9.1.1.Peter: hope is that we can do what we are doing now – hopeful that it shouldn't be delayed but aren't entirely sure how this will impact the route.

10. Meeting was concluded at 1:00 p.m.