

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

This was a Zoom Meeting

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Bill Cox (Mr. Rob Robideau)
Mr. Andy Deuel
Mr. Joe Dillard
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Erin Jones
Dr. Andrew Klein
Mr. Jim Kovar
Mr. Peter Lange
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Mr. Tom Reber
Ms. Flora Reeves
Mr. Dale Rice
Dr. John Stallone
Dr. Jerry Strawser
Mr. Mark Welsh
Ms. Tamra Young
Mr. Uthej Vattipalli (Rio O'Neal)

Absent

Mr. Eric Mendoza
Ms. Lisa Pierce
Ms. Deborah Wright
Mr. Fawaz Syed

Guests:

Mr. Jason Hayes
Mr. Byron Prestridge (presenter)

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:01 a.m.
2. Mr. Lange asked the committee to review the minutes from the February 3, 2021 meeting. Dr. Fuller Bazer motioned for approval; Mr. Tom Reber seconded; minutes approved.
3. Mr. Byron Prestridge updated the committee on the partnership efforts with Veo. You can find the full presentation on our website (scroll to the bottom of the page for presentations):
<https://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx>
 - 3.1. Veo has been our partner since 2019. They continue to work diligently to accommodate us, and the community, with affordable last mile options. Veo has made an extensive investment in the deployment of our fleet, tripled their warehouse space, added battery charging infrastructure and fire safes, as well as greatly expanding their replacement parts inventory.
 - 3.2. In the fleet we have 1850 Halo Pedal Bikes, 24 Halo E-Bikes (phasing out) and 275 Cosmo Throttle E-Bikes with plans to increase the throttle bike (see image below) inventory to 500.



3.3. Mr. Prestridge reported they have seen a noticeable reduction in violations after adding locks to all devices and fining customers who leaves bikes unlocked. We average one violation per 40 rides. From Feb. 15 – 27 there were 170 violations and over 6900 rides (~2.5%).

3.3.1. Mr. Lange asked about the violation rates seen at other Veo campuses. Mr. Prestridge responded he didn't have statistics regarding other universities, but nationally we are in range with other organizations with similar asset numbers.

4. Ms. Debbie Hoffmann provided an update on the Mobility Master plan Transportation Services is working with Walker Consultants to complete.

4.1. Ms. Hoffmann started with an apology for the misunderstanding that may have occurred when Walker Consultants was presenting a list of the constituent groups, such as our Advisory Committee. The intent was to communicate to those groups representing faculty, staff, and students so those groups could invite us to speak and engage with their constituents. Faculty, staff and students are the primary constituent groups.

4.2. The question *"In your view, what is the most significant transportation-related challenge our campus will face in the next 5-10 years?"* was presented to the committee prior to the meeting. Ms. Hoffmann invited each attendee to verbalize their response to the question. Responses are summarized below:

4.2.1. Concerns were expressed over uncertainties about the status of future on campus populations and activities. The university maintain approximately the same amount of in-person learning and expand enrollment to additional online students or will in-person attendance remain reduced, as it is today?

4.2.2. How does virtual learning fit into the future of our student population; do we continue to allow and promote at the level we are currently? Do we support a higher percentage of virtual students in addition to our on-campus students or does the number of virtual students come out of our on-campus students?

4.2.3. It was pointed out that A&M is a Tier 1 Research University and that the graduate students, faculty, and staff supporting those efforts will still be on campus. Undergraduate students who are interested in research endeavors will likely also be on campus.

4.2.4. The committee would like to see Transportation Services focus on flexibility. Flexibility to accommodate staff and faculty that are on campus regularly vs. those only on campus 2-3 hours/week. Options for parking other than an annual permit but with assigned parking location rather than having to hunt for a space.

- 4.2.5. Concerns about pedestrian safety on campus. The increase of bikes, scooters, hoverboards, skateboards, etc. create more safety issues for pedestrians.
 - 4.2.6. Concerns about mobility for faculty on campus and their ability to get to and from classrooms with little time between classes.
 - 4.2.7. How do we change culture from focus on driving to one pedestrian based, focusing on pedestrian safety? How to find balance with a model where parking revenues sustain Transportation Services?
 - 4.2.8. Car share and bike share are very useful resources for students who do not have a personal vehicle but need the ability for inner city travel.
 - 4.2.9. Several committee members expressed they feel students want to be on campus and the traditions and events that make A&M special are things you don't get through virtual learning.
5. Mr. Lange provided spring semester updates.
- 5.1. Budget – No major changes since February meeting. We are still trending up from where we were in fall 2020 but concerns are what fall 2021 will be like. We planned for 90% normalcy by fall but are considering we may have to lessen that to 50% of fall 2019. This could equate to an additional \$4-5M loss, making our total loss over \$20M.
 - 5.2. Transit –
 - 5.2.1. Ridership is at 8,000-9,000 rides/day and we continue to operate modified service levels facilitating social distancing.
 - 5.2.2. The old buses (35) have been sold via Surplus Property – two went to the fire school and the other 33 went to auction. There are still 12 buses on order and as those arrive it will allow us to decommission the last 8 older buses.
 - 5.3. Ball Street Repairs – Mr. Lange stated significant damage to the road was caused by buses and construction traffic. With budgetary constraints, we are only addressing the worst of the issues. We will address the entire road in 4 to 5 years as our budget stabilizes.
 - 5.4. Jones Butler/FM 2818 Intersection – FM 2818 construction has started but the work at the Jones/Butler intersection has been postponed until fall 2022. The bus route modifications we discussed last month for Route 35 are not needed at this time.
 - 5.5. Quiet Zone – Joe Routt will be closed starting Monday, March 15 for 3 to 4 weeks to complete crosswalk work at Wellborn Rd. Access to the hotel circle drive will be maintained via Wellborn Rd. to Old Main Dr. to Stallings Blvd. to Joe Routt Blvd.
6. Mr. Lange and Ms. Hoffmann asked for any additional questions or topics for next month's meeting.
- 6.1. Ms. Angie Hill Price asked for a budget presentation indicating the source of funding for street and sidewalk repairs. Mr. Lange agreed to report the funding sources for projects from the last two years broken down to show this information.
 - 6.2. Mr. Dale Rice requested a short document to explain Transportation Services budget and expenses. Mr. Lange said that he would have the document created and combine it with the information for Dr. Hill Price; both will be presented at next month's meeting.
 - 6.3. Ms. Erin Jones asked if the intersection at Joe Routt and Wellborn Rd. would still be closed for the spring game. Mr. Lange answered that it is the goal to have it open before that event.

7. Meeting was concluded at 11:59 a.m.