

**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Minutes
October 4, 2022**

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

Present:

Mr. Corbin Armstrong
Dr. Fuller Bazer
Ms. Mary Cearley
Mr. Ed Costello
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. Nick Farmer
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Erin Jones
Dr. Andrew Klein
Ms. Katelynn Kellogg
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Mr. Tom Reber
Mr. Dale Rice
Mr. Ethan Tan
Mr. Mark Welsh
Ms. Deborah Wright
Ms. Tamra Young

Absent

Ms. Flora Reeves
Mr. Graham Wolfe

Guests:

Ms. Lilia Gonzales

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:37 a.m.
 - 1.1. April minutes were approved by Mr. Bill Cox and seconded by Mr. Tom Reber.
 - 1.2. September minutes were approved by Mr. Tom Reber and seconded by Mr. Bill Cox
2. Mr. Lange introduced new members Mr. Nick Farmer who will be representing Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) and Mr. Tyler Kappell who was filling in for Corbin Armstrong.
3. Mr. Lange provided information regarding the Campus Parking and Transportation Association (CPTA) conference that Transportation Services had just hosted on campus.
 - 3.1. 28 universities were in attendance along with 36 vendors
 - 3.2. We had several community partners who participated and presented on various topics.
 - 3.3. We provided a tour of Kyle Field on Sunday and dinners at University Club, Messina Hof and the Equine Complex.

3.3.1. We received great feedback from everyone about how our campus is very beautiful, clean, friendly, and accessible.

3.3.2. A lot of individuals went off on their own on Saturday and Sunday to tour the campus. They were really impressed with Aggie Park, the Rec Centers, and mobility through campus (sidewalks, ease & accessibility, VEOs, etc.)

4. Spring Updates – Mr. Peter Lange

4.1. A meeting with student leadership is being scheduled to discuss Transit issues they are encountering. Mr. Lange provided additional information regarding the issues students are encountering.

4.1.1. Last week there were 175K transit rides, about 38K rides/day. We are continuing to aggressively recruit and hire Transit drivers. Transit has been given a goal to hire 80 students by Thanksgiving; to date they have hired 35.

4.1.2. We know ridership by stop, date, time, and route and use this data to plan accordingly.

4.1.3. The main complaint is buses are running late or are overly crowded. Mr. Lange explained construction projects around town are a component of the issue.

4.1.3.1. The construction on 2818 is impacting Route 40 and Route 36. We made route adjustments where possible for Rt 40 to avoid areas congested due to construction.

4.1.3.2. TxDOT is aware of the issues and the impact and are working to fix issues, however; they have had their own issues with equipment and wrong items ordered. Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) is very engaged in this project and helping to communicate with TxDOT to encourage action to improve congestion.

4.1.3.3. The closure of Bush/Wellborn is a future, impactful project which is projected to start in 2028 but could start sooner pending the bond election in November.

4.1.3.4. Ms. Deborah Wright: Is there an anticipated start date? Peter: although they have it slated for 2028, they have enough of the prework for this project completed, they would like to move it forward to 2024. Keep in mind that FM 2818 will have to be completed first and a 2024 start doesn't mean that road closures start at that time.

4.2. Parking Update:

4.2.1. On-campus events are occurring at pre-pandemic levels.

4.2.2. We are continuing to process waitlist moves, allowing faculty, staff, and students to exchange their parking assignments for locations they prefer more. Lot 100 is again available for on-demand sales, and we anticipate WCG to be back on sale within the next few weeks. We have increase permit sales in Polo Rd. Garage and have been offering grad students assignments in Lot 51, allowing us to offer more undergraduates assignments in Lot 50.

4.2.3. We are still struggling to hire workers for events. This fall, we raised the rate of pay for events to \$18/hour.

5. Mobility Master Plan Debrief – Ms. Debbie Lollar

5.1. To see this presentation, visit our website: <https://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and find “Related Presentations”.

5.2. Embarked on our Mobility Master Plan the fall after COVID, which extended the project by a year, but felt getting feedback and engagement from the seniors at that time was important.

5.3. *New Information to share.* We received an implementation plan from Walker Consultants and have shared with the Transportation Services team asking them to help identify the following:

5.3.1. Items we could address early on and with some ease.

5.3.2. Larger priority items that we need to prioritize in our budgeting.

5.3.3. Prioritize the initiatives we have identified as short-term (1-3 years), mid-term (4-6 years) or long-term (7-10 years). There are several items on the implementation plan that have already been accomplished through Phase I of the Lot 47/51 redesign.

5.4. Questions/comments

5.4.1. Dr. Hill Price: Did you see the student holding up the sign yesterday that said "Stop Putting Stop Signs" on Bizzell? Debbie: I had not, thank you for bringing to our attention.

5.4.2. Peter: Some of the issues Walker Consultants identified as problematic have previously been solved elsewhere on campus. In these cases, we can apply these same solutions reasonably quickly to the similar areas called out in the report.

5.4.3. Mr. Bill Cox: It seems like they (Walker Consultants) gave good recommendations to consider as our starting points. I feel that as Transportation Services starts to address these recommendations, we can be confident that you will make sure the right people will be around the table to give input in solutions implemented.

5.4.4. Mr. Tom Reber: I appreciate that you mentioned safety as a first priority. Agree that it's an issue and while it's not necessarily a Transportation issue but rather a campus issue, I appreciate you making safety priority. Debbie: You are right and as we come to the elements that are campus culture, we will be reaching out to this committee for your help to implement and promote.

5.4.5. Mr. Bill Cox: Agree that something must be done on Ross St., but we need to continue to consider the facilities in that area, i.e., Chemistry and the # of deliveries they receive. How do we accomplish the goal of safety and change to Ross St. without impacting the service needed to promote research?

5.4.6. Mr. Welsh: I would just like to congratulate Transportation Services on completing the master plan. That's a large task. Good job completing it.

6. Registration and Use of micro-mobility devices on campus – Mr. Byron Prestridge

6.1. To see this presentation, visit our website: <https://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx> (scroll to the bottom of the page and find "Related Presentations").

6.2. Questions/comments

6.2.1. Dr. Hill Price: We are having issues with PEV in Zachary. Students are bringing them in to the building and riding them through hallways. Then they are unable to park them so they prop them up on the wall, leaving marks. What about a storage shed with a solar panel roof? Debbie: That is a really good idea.

6.2.2. Mr. Byron Prestridge: We are working on a Green Fund grant application for a pilot solution to put at the Commons and Hullabaloo for electric chargers incorporated as a bike rack. Peter: Is it to

early/late to put in for a short-term solution to use at Zachary? Byron: I don't think it's too late, we can certainly look into it and see what options are available.

6.2.3. Dr. Klein: Can we talk about safety and the issues we are encountering with the PEVs not obeying traffic rules? Byron: I agree that the rules are being ignored and we are open to ideas. We are seeing on REDDIT a lot of peer pressure for individuals to do things right which has been a shift in the paradigm. A couple of years ago it would have been considered funny but now peers are encouraging proper behavior.

6.2.4. Ms. Lilia Gonzales: Is this something we should consider for new projects and addressing PEVs in buildings? Byron: Absolutely, the issue is we just aren't quite sure what the answer is.

6.2.5. Ms. Katelynn Kellogg: I ride a scooter, moped, and ride the bus I am a multi-modal user. I rode my scooter over here from my office but there wasn't a place to secure my scooter. The bike rack doesn't go low enough to hook my u-lock to the rack and the tire. Peter: What if we fabricated another loop to add to the existing racks? Byron: That absolutely could work, I'll get with our team to fabricate something. Debbie: It would be interesting to add a QR code on the fabricated item asking for feedback.

7. Any future topic requests?

7.1. Transit fall updates will be given in November or December.

7.2. Dr. Klein: At a faculty meeting last week, faculty expressed issues/concerns with HSC students getting to that facility on nights/weekends using the buses. Mr. Lange: we haven't heard of this issue/concern, however; we will investigate this.

7.3. Ms. Mary Cearley: The circulator bus running at RELLIS is working but the feedback is that it's taking about 20 minutes longer to get to the MSC. Mr. Lange: The issues we noticed was the timing of our circulator bus and the one coming from campus were not synced up. We will continue to watch this and work with TTI to continue making improvements.

Meeting was concluded at 1:00 p.m.