

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 18, 2011

Attendees:

Mr. Jeff Toole
Ms. Mary Tess Eggebrecht
Dr. Beverly Kuhn
Dr. Joe Newton
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Jennifer Slovacek
Mr. Oliver Thoma
Mr. Jeff Wilson
Mr. C J Woods
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Mr. Chris Russo

Absent:

Ms. Lallah Howard
Dr. R J Golsan
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. Rod Weis
Ms. Casi Wilbanks
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Sarah Saunders

Guests:

Ms. Debbie Hoffmann
Mr. Doug Williams
Mr. Clint Willis
Ms. Lana Wolken

Ms. Therese Kucera
Ms. Rose Berryhill
Ms. June Broughton
Mr. Ron Steedly

1.0 Business

1.1 Meeting was called to order by Peter Lange; Peter requested for members to review the minutes from November 17, 2010

1.1.1 Mr. Lange asked the members present for corrections to the minutes; Mr. Jeff Toole identified that Mr. C J Woods was listed twice as attending the November meeting; Oliver Thoma made a motion to approve the November 17th minutes with suggested attendance correction

1.1.1.1 Jennifer Slovacek seconded the motion; all voted in favor, minutes approved.

2.0 Updates

2.1 Peter informed the committee that the Utilities Upgrade-CHP project has substantially completed all road cuts; still have some minor closures on the West Campus-Olsen Loop area during the next 90 days.

2.2 Lot 97 construction project will completely rebuild the lot; the project began at the end of the fall 2010 semester and will rebuild the lot with concrete. We requested for the contractor to complete the first 10 feet for pedestrians to use as a walk way, this did not happen.

- 2.2.1 Transportation Services was aware that this was not done so then we requested for the contractor to place a temporary sidewalk and this has still not happened. We are checking with the contractor to rectify this issue by placing a crushed gravel base at the eastern end and hope to have a dry pedestrian path. Hopefully by mid February the contractor will have 10 feet of the lot complete and opened for a pedestrian sidewalk/walkway.
- 2.3 Lot 23 construction project is going better than expected. The drive lane from Spence to Ross should be completed by or around February 6th, will switch the entrance and give one way access to Lot 23.
 - 2.3.1 Dr. Newton asked about the gated access to Ross; Mr. Lange told the group that Doug Williams had an email back from the late 90's indicating that the area has been planned for limited access through Ross Street.
 - 2.3.2 Mr. Lange asked for Therese Kucera to inform the group about the process used for parking customers in the area;
 - 2.3.2.1 Therese stated that the customers were surveyed, met with, and asked about where they wished to park; most of the requests are fulfilled with the customer's first choice as to where they wanted to park. On a whole the customers in the area are very pleased with the communication and forethought that was used for their parking needs.
- 2.4 Lot 10 construction project is the addition of 12-14 handicapped spaces on the side of Heaton Hall. The project had a quicker start than thought but ran into some issues with telecommunication lines and electrical lines at the beginning. These have been replaced and the lot will have concrete and new TAMU lighting standards.
- 2.5 Transportation Services has committed to look at the Bizzell and Weisenbaker area. Complaints are regarding the pedestrian/vehicular conflicts in the area. We had an engineer survey the area and they recommended first the closing of Polo Road. They also completed a traffic study to see if the area warranted a 4 way stop. They recommended that stop signs were needed at Polo and Bizzell. We have short term, medium term and long term fixes for the area:
 - 2.5.1 Short term: we will improve the markings on the crosswalks; have ordered and will place constantly flashing lighted crosswalk signage to warn people. The flashing signs will be at the beginning and end of the area.
 - 2.5.2 Medium term: after looking at the intersection there is a need to add a four way stop at Polo and Bizzell. We have ordered some ground sensors that will cause flashing lights as you approach that will give an added visual notification for the area.
 - 2.5.2.1 Another challenge is the free right hand turn at the cross walk; giving access into lot 47

- 2.5.3 Long term: Closure of Polo Road; reconstruction of the lot, gaining turn lanes, and preventing cueing in lot; removing crosswalk for pedestrians on the end or other end near new main. As this progress we will need to open up the dialogue to the campus community. We have to have a consensus on closing Polo Road so that we can redo the lot and take all the challenges into consideration and plan for them. If the campus wants this then we need to plan to make it happen.
- 2.5.4 University Police Department, Environmental Health and Safety, Facilities Services are assisting us and will come up with a recommendation and then take it to the University.
- 2.5.5 The engineers have also recommended doing away with the bus drop area in front of Weisenbaker. Lots of issues with buses, pedestrians, vehicular use of the stop and a crosswalk in the middle of the drop.

3.0 Bicycles

- 3.1 Debbie Hoffmann introduced Ron Steedly to the Transportation Services Advisory Committee. Ron is the Manager of Alternative Transportation
- 3.2 She presented to the group that limited funding and staffing is available for the program initially but we are seeing compliance with the requests.
- 3.3 180 bikes registered to date
- 3.4 The program is collaborating with UPD and local bike shop owners for recommendations
- 3.5 Next areas to work on for compliance are:
 - 3.5.1 Lot 72, Psychology, Commandants Office, Hart Hall, Rec Center, Zachry, and Vet School
 - 3.5.1.1 Collecting data in these areas, assessing the needs
- 3.6 Looking into booting bikes that were improperly parked.

4.0 Transit Software-Mentor

- 4.1 Demo of camera systems was shown to the committee
- 4.2 All buses have the video side of the software installed; we can replay video and map it so that we can see where an incident has occurred. The cameras store about four weeks of video and then they overwrite it.
- 4.3 Pilot program planned for February 2011 on a couple of buses. All buses have signs indicating video and audio surveillance equipment is being used so customers are aware of the system as they board the bus.
- 4.4 Enunciators are on the buses; they are being programmed to announce approaching stops.
- 4.5 Peter explained that Transit was approached by a visually impaired student with suggestions from experiences they had in Austin and his ideas to improve the A&M experience for the visually impaired. The student asked if

we could put Braille markings on bus stop signs. Showed a mock up sign for the new Aggie Spirit signs. The poles have reflector material so that they will stand out for the drivers and customers.

4.5.1 Down the road the visually impaired will have the ability to use Google to hear the location of the bus using their phones

4.5.1.1 Oliver Thoma asked when would the real time data be available; Peter Lange stated hopefully this summer but if not, by fall 2011

5.0 Other Business

5.1 Summer 2011 construction projects:

5.1.1 Lot 38. We have met with staff from the vet school, discussed plans and we are moving forward

5.1.2 Lot 76, we have also met with staff from purchasing and have completed the schedule and plan

5.1.3 Lot 48 and 59 majority of the work in these lots will be mill off (not a complete tear-up) and replaced with asphalt; there is a minor area that will need to be completely replaced with concrete. We have not met with Athletics yet. This project will be completed in sections.

5.2 Possible Summer 2012

5.2.1 Lots 30, 23 and maybe Lot 55

5.3 Car Sharing

5.3.1 Debbie reported that this is a short term car rental program that can be utilized by students, staff or departments

5.3.2 The bid was awarded to Connect by Hertz; a meeting with Connect by Hertz is scheduled for today; the pricing will be somewhere from \$8-10 per hour, including gas and insurance

5.3.3 Hope to have it launched this Spring; This is a service to the campus, no cost to the University and Transportation Services is not benefitting or making any commissions off this service

5.3.4 Ron Steedly, the Alternative Transportation Manager, will be leading this program

5.4 Dr. Newton asked if a decision has been reached about the Northside Dorm project.

5.4.1 Jeff Wilson stated that Crocker, Moore and McInnis will start to come down in May and the new construction will begin in August. Peter reminded the group that while this dorm area is under construction that Res Life will have the 2nd Phase of the Garden apartments completed and it will be used as swing space for displaced undergraduates. The northside dorm will be a 2 year construction project.

5.5 Vehicles on Sidewalks

5.5.1 We are continuing to chip away at this issue. Bollards have been placed on West campus and will be placed on Main Campus as well. Pictures of the West Campus bollards were shown to the committee

5.6 Peter informed the group that at the next TSAC meeting the group would begin the discussion for a rate increase for Fall 2012. He stated that anytime you don't take the inflationary rate increases it makes it build up. He would like to receive the difference from what was initially approved but then reduced at the time of the last increase. The initially approved surface lot rate was \$280 permit but was later reduced to \$275. We need to begin the discussions in spring of 2011 – get our constituents to understand that it is for the following year, not Fall 2011. Financially, Transportation Services is okay, but if we are needed to build another garage then we will need to revisit what is required to sustain the operation.

6.0 Meeting Adjourned