

TSAC Minutes
October 5, 2016

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Mike Caruso
Mr. Ralph Davila
Mr. Joe Dillard
Ms. Susan Edmisson
Mr. David Glockzin
Dr. Zachary Grasley
Ms. Misty Skaggs for Dr. Eleanor Green
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Peter Lange
Dr. Clint Magill
Mr. Chris Nygren
Mr. Nick Page

Ms. Flora Reeves
Dr. Bob Strawser
Dr. CJ Woods
Mr. Landon Woods
Ms. Deborah Wright

Guests:

Ms. Lilia Gonzales
Mr. Christian Trevino

Absent:

Mr. Robert Pottberg
Dr. Rajesh Miranda

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:45 am, and asked for a review of the minutes from the September 7, 2016 meeting. Dr. Angie Hill Price motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Ms. Flora Reeves seconded; minutes approved.
2. Ms. Debbie Hoffmann showed some camera live-shots of Transportation Services' and Texas A&M Transportation Institute's (TTI) first in the United States un-signalized Dutch Junction. It is also the first to use solar luminescent green paint.
3. Ms. Lilia Gonzales, Campus Architect presented the Draft Campus Master Plan (CMP) update, see website: <http://www.transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx#presentations>
 - 3.1. She focused on the Transportation and Wayfinding aspects of the plan, which are found within three of the six elements in the plan.
 - 3.2. She made the point that the draft CMP update is not a redo of the existing plan, but will include policy changes and improvements.
 - 3.3. They gathered information by conducting 12 focus group meetings with about 100 members, conducting open forums, and querying the campus and the community.
 - 3.4. CMP release Timeline:
 - Oct 7, 2016: 1st Draft published
 - Oct 31, 2016: 2nd Draft published
 - Dec 15, 2016: Final Draft published

4. Dr. Hill Price asked if the plan would address a way to eliminate service vehicles from busy areas and restricting parking access.

4.1 Ms. Gonzales said she would meet with SSC to coordinate service vehicle access and achieve a balance.

5. Dr. Hill Price mentioned that Ross/Ireland isn't on the pedestrian/vehicle conflict map, and probably should be.

6. Dr. Zachary Grasley asked if wayfinding signage was still necessary in the age of smart phones and foot navigation apps. He suggested using robust apps or digital content.

6.1 Ms. Gonzales said it was a good point; that signs would not be eliminated, but they were looking at adding QR code technology in concert with traditional wayfinding. She said they were also looking at using an interface with a mobile kiosk.

6.2. Dr. Clint Magill and Dr. Hill Price mentioned that there are many people who cannot read maps and would need the traditional signage or audio instructions within a map app.

7. Dr. Grasley asked if the CMP update would address green parking and roadways, and other ideas such as plant-able pavers and permeable pavement.

7.1. Ms. Gonzales said they had looked into it and would continue to do so. A similar effort toward providing green spaces, resulted in a tray system at the Engineering Education Center.

8. Dr. Grasley mentioned the growth of West Campus and the resulting traffic bottleneck at Wellborn Road and the railroad track. He expects it will get worse.

8.1. Mr. Lange said that the direction the CMP executive committee is giving Ms. Gonzales is to plan for a future campus that will have less cars on campus and improved pedestrian conditions on University Drive. Specifically, the goal is not geared to make it easier to move around in single occupancy vehicles.

9. Mr. Chris Nygren asked why there would be dismount zones for bicycles near Evans library, and if so, why there were bike racks within it. Dr. CJ Woods added that he's seen an uptick in scooter ridership too.

9.1. Mr. Lange said the area near Evans is congested and narrow and doesn't lend itself to bike riding mixed in with high quantities of pedestrians.

10. Dr. Clint Magill suggested a stop sign be placed on Houston at the intersection of Old Main. Cars don't stop at Houston, and pedestrians can't see around parked buses.

10.1 Mr. Lange said a traffic study was done there about two years ago. We may have an opportunity through future TTI studies to see conflict points. Now that we have more buses servicing more riders, this area will get more attention.

11. Mr. Lange closed the meeting at 1:10 pm.

The next TSAC meeting will be November 2, 2016, Koldus 110-111