

**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Minutes
November 1, 2023**

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

Present:

Ms. Ava Blackburn
Mr. Ed Costello
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. Andrew Moore
Ms. Jamie Norgaard
Ms. Amanda Pelton
Mr. Evan Cox
Ms. Katelyn Kellogg
Ms. Korina Kocurek for Ms. Mary Cearley
Mr. Peter Lange
Mr. Tom Reber
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Jessica Simpson

Online:

Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Tamra Young for Ms. Deborah Wright

Absent:

Mr. Nick Farmer
Mr. Andrew Applewhite
Mr. Tim McLaughlin
Ms. Mikayla Slaydon
Mr. James "Jim" Kovar
Ms. Mary Cearley
Ms. Erin Jones
Mr. Andrew Klein

Guests:

Ms. Lilia Gonzales

Called to Order 11:45 a.m. by Mr. Peter Lange

1. Review/Approve Minutes from October 4, 2023, Meeting – Mr. Peter Lange
 - 1.1. Approved by – Mr. Bill Cox
 - 1.2. Seconded by – Mr. Tom Reber
2. Updates – Mr. Peter Lange
 - 2.1. Welcome everyone! We have some new faces here today, Ms. Jamie Norgaard representing the University Staff Council, Ms. Jessica Simpson replacing Dr. Tracy Hammond, and Ms. Korina Kocurek subbing for Ms. Mary Cearley.
 - 2.2. I'd like to give a quick Fall update. Our transit ridership is up 22% for the current year, an average of 1 million rides a month. Route 1 has the biggest ridership. We have been running consistently with the correct number of buses. There have been some significant route switches for routes 34 & 40 due to construction. We have extended route 40 to go to the Barracks and added an additional bus. Routes 15 & 31 have been running extra buses and we have now made that permanent. Our driver situation is fantastic, we are in really good shape. We are running everything we say we are and adding even better service. On a regular day we carry about 43-45,000 passengers.
 - 2.3. We have been able to go through our lot waitlists and put lots back on sale. We have about 1250 more permits this semester, equating to about a 3% increase. Not everyone has a permit,

about half are regular day permits. With about 32,000 of those being students. The extra permits are from lot 100, West Campus Garage, Polo Rd. Garage, Stallings. West Campus Garage is up about 300 permits, the waitlist is gone and is back on sale.

- Mr. Cox – With continued student body growth, how long will it be until we are at capacity?
- 2.3..1. Mr. Peter Lange – We are already at capacity. We shut off sales to Lot 100 and West Campus Garage and offered Fan Field. Fan Field is our new overflow area and we have sold 360 permits there.
 - 2.3..2. Ms. Debbie Lollar – We have a priority assignment process. We would not go to hunting license; we would just not sell more permits.
- 2.4. Football games, 5 down 2 more to go. We have over 300 Transportation Services employees working on game days. This season we implemented new technology, handheld devices that include credit card sales. About 70 of our locations use them and about ¼ of the sales are credit card transactions. These devices also allow us to have real time counts. We have also made a big effort to park more people at the front of campus and added ParkMobile. This is a good place to park which also includes bus service. The median changes located on University/Tx Avenue work well with this area.
3. TxDOT Project Updates – Ms. Deb Albert
 - 3.1. Mr. Peter Lange – I would like to re-introduce Ms. Deb Albert to our meeting. She is a Research Engineer at Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) and is heavily engaged with the community and Transportation Services. She has really embedded herself with the cities of Bryan and College Station, and TxDot to keep her fingers on the pulse of projects happening. I would like each of you to think of possible ways that the university can mitigate the impact of these projects.
 - 3.2. Ms. Deb Albert (PowerPoint Presentation) – There are a lot of construction projects in BCS. We are moving from a sleepy college town to a busy one. I highly advise you all to utilize your traffic apps.
 - FM2818 – Project began in February 2021. It is currently in phase 3 of 4. Phase 4 will begin later this fall, right before Thanksgiving. Expected completion is Summer 2024. Six lanes will be replacing the current 5 lane roadway, an overpass to connect Jones-Butler and South Holleman, and a taller Stotzer underpass. Also including 3 intersection improvements – Luther, Holleman, and George Bush drive. There will be a lot of safety and efficiency improvements.
 - FM 2818 Current Conditions – The old Northbound lanes are now carrying southbound traffic. The major thing left to do is to build the retaining wall/flyover ramp with the possibility of it being completed by Thanksgiving. Other remaining work -The Jones Butler bridge roadway under, drainage, permanent signals.
 - 3.2 .1 Mr. Peter Lange – The Jones Butler connection has another project associated with it.
 - SH 6 Central BCS Expansion – this is a future project with the design nearly complete and a cost estimate of \$480M. Construction has been pushed back to early 2025, with a 4-year schedule. This project is a very high priority. Phase 1 and Phase 2 are expected to be done at the same time. Interchange enhancements to SH 21, FM 158, and Briarcrest drive. Addition of U-turn lanes to SH 21. Widening of the bridge and adding U-turn/dual left turn lanes on William Joel Bryan. Briarcrest Drive includes a bridge replacement, U-turn lanes, and braided ramps.

- SH 6 Interchange Enhancements – University Drive and Harvey Rd. interchanges. Harvey will expand lanes, double exit ramp – University Dr. and Harvey Rd. SH 6/SH 40 will have a displaced left turn for east bound traffic. This project will be combined with the Arrington/SH 40 project. Designs are still subject to change.
 - Dr. Angie Hill Price – How will this impact those driving in from Navasota to campus?
 - Mr. Peter Lange – I attended a TXDot forum where they talked about I-14. They are listening to citizen’s input. Our hope is the main lane construction of SH 6 because there is room everywhere but the center. The main lane construction will not be as impactful as the bridge and side street traffic. There is an increase in big truck traffic (18 wheelers) through this corridor. I-14 would be a bypass through BCS that would help with moving truck traffic away. Let’s hope that with the main lane construction that the two lanes would be maintained through the entirety of the project.
 - Dr. Angie Hill Price – The exit to get to Texas Avenue is messy.
 - Ms. Deb Albert – People will need to get creative with alternate routes.
 - Ms. Jessica Simpson – There has been whisper of a commuter rail?
 - Mr. Peter Lange – Texas Central rail project, which will be west of I-45.
 - Ms. Jessica Simpson – This will not be inner city?
 - Mr. Peter Lange – Nothing in BCS
- Bush/Wellborn Interchange - This project will be fully funded in FY2026. This project will be very impactful with 24/7 construction and full road closures.
 - Mr. Joe Dillard – What is the timeline?
 - Ms. Deb Albert – There is no schedule yet. We are encouraging them to do some early work.
 - Mr. Joe Dillard – Is this information on the TXDot website?
 - Ms. Deb Albert – The website is www.bwx-bcs.org
- I-14 Future Corridor Study – There are multiple open houses scheduled. The comment period is from October 18th through November 20th.
- Campus Projects – Penberthy/George Bush to Kimbrough improvements. Exploring the expansion of two lanes in each direction and improved bike and pedestrian amenities.
- Quiet Zones – There are a few efforts going on in the BCS area. The signal cabinets for George Bush Dr. and F&B Road have been received and are awaiting installation. The Inter-local agreements with the cities of Bryan and College Station are currently on hold due to pending information from the railroad.
- George Bush Dr. Buffer Lanes – This project will give separation for vehicles and bicycles/pedestrians, taking away free sweeping right turns. The design is currently underway with construction expected to begin in 2024.
- College Station Projects:
 - Luther and Marion Pugh – Reconstruction of the roadways to begin in 2024. The Luther design has been completed with the Marion Pugh design still pending.
 - Lincoln Avenue – Reconstruction to include a roundabout. Project completion date of Fall 2024.
 - Wellborn Road and Deacon – Construction on a new intersection and removal of the railroad crossing at Cain. Completion is expected at the end of 2024.

- Wellborn Road – Widening of roadway and medians. Expected let date of December 2026.
- Jones Butler and Holleman South – Construction of new roundabouts and roadway extension to the underpass. Currently waiting on the completion of 2818 construction.
- Jones Butler and Holleman West – New roundabout construction with estimated completion in 2025.
- Bryan Projects:
 - William Joel Bryan – This project is currently underway with the reconstruction of the roadway to include 2 roundabouts and HAWK beacons. Expected completion in 2025.
 - Ms. Jessica Simpson – What are HAWK beacons?
 - Ms. Deb Albert – They are flashing signals for pedestrian’s road crossing.
 - Mr. Peter Lange – They look like a traffic signal that cycles through activation in red and yellow lights.
 - Texas Avenue improvements – Construction of new raised medians to facilitate U-turns.
 - South College and Villa Maria – Reconstruction of the roadway to include medians and 2 new roundabouts. Expected completion date of December 2023.
 - University Dr. and Texas Avenue – Removal of the median break at Live Oak with an additional 450 ft at the turning lane.
- Concluding remarks:
 - Ms. Deb Albert – Thank you all. The presentation includes links for additional project information with the City of College Station and the City of Bryan. The presentation will be added to the TSAC site, and we will be sure to send a copy to everyone via email as well.
 - Mr. Peter Lange – So back to Dr. Angie Price’s question “What are we doing about Highway 6?”. With football we can control and mitigate the 2818 traffic.
 - Ms. Jessica Simpson – What about commuter busses to help with football traffic?
 - Mr. Peter Lange – We are working on a plan for transit to move away from Bush/Wellborn. Possibly a park and ride or shift class times.
 - Mr. Bill Cox – if we don’t address the class schedule it could be a problem.
 - Mr. Peter Lange – Possibility of flipping all residents from South Side Garage to West Campus Garage and/or a park and ride for staff? These are the types of things we are discussing. What other things could happen to mitigate these big impact projects.
 - George Bush Project:
 - Mr. Peter Lange – There is a university main sewer line running north of Blue Bell Park and east/west by the railroad tracks.
 - Ms. Jessica Simpson – How much will this drive residential choices?
 - Mr. Peter Lange – Could it affect additional dorms?

- Mr. Bill Cox – It will be painful but even more painful if we don't do anything.
- Mr. Joe Dillard – You mentioned a 3-month time frame after the let dates?
 - Ms. Deb Albert – Yes, it is typically a 3-month time frame after the let date.
- Dr. Angie Hill Price – I am wondering how many people pass through the George Bush intersection as a convenience or a must? Can they find other paths?
- Mr. Peter Lange – TTI is worried about the cut through traffic. This is a real concern for this project, unofficial cut through traffic is a concern for the neighborhoods.
- Mr. Bill Cox – People who park at UCG cut through Holleman/Penberthy/Jones Butler; will this be done before?
 - Ms. Deb Albert – Will be completed in 2024
- Mr. Peter Lange – The impact is on the daily. We need to think about the out-of-town visitor traffic, this is a harder group to communicate with.
 - Mr. Bill Cox – How about some signage as they are entering the BCS area?
 - Dr. Angie Hill Price – Signage on Hwy 6 would be beneficial.
 - Mr. Bill Cox – It would be challenging with those entities
 - Mr. Peter Lange – TTI would have better success with the closures.
 - Dr. Angie Hill Price – How about when you purchase parking passes for events, including directions with various options?
 - Mr. Peter Lange – We will discuss with the Sr. Administrators of the University
 - Ms. Deb Albert – As traffic engineers we always think we know how others want to be notified, but we are trying to meet people where they are to share information.
- Mr. Peter Lange – Thank you all for your feedback and participation!

Meeting adjourned – 1:00 PM