

Transportation Services Advisory Committee

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF MEETING

October 22, 2009

Attendees:

Dr. Susan Bloomfield
Mr. Mike Caruso
Ms. Nicole Franzetti
Mr. Konrad Johnson
Ms Brandy Kosh
Ms. Olga Martinez
Dr. Joe Newton
Mr. Darryl Peterson
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Rosey Saenz
Mr. Rod Weis
Mr. C.J. Woods

Absent:

Dr. R. J. Golsan
Ms. Lallah Howard
Mr. Jonathan Howson
Ms. Flora Reeves
Dr. Doug Slack
Mr. Tanner Wilson

Special Guests:

Mr. Billy Newton for Jonathan Howson
Ms. Mary Tess Eggebrecht for Tanner Wilson

Guests:

Mr. Peter Lange
Mr. Doug Williams
Ms. June Broughton
Ms. Debbie Hoffmann
Ms. Rose Berryhill
Mr. Kenny Kimball

1.0 Business

- 1.1 Meeting called to order by Rod Weis
- 1.2 Welcome
- 1.3 Introduction of new and returning members
- 1.4 Mr. Weis gave a summary of the committee's charge. "Members are to provide input and advice concerning policy and procedure to the Executive Director of Transportation Services and to assist in the development of plans that will ensure parking and transportation issues are addressed creatively, timely, fairly and transparently, and are regularly communicated to the campus community."
 - 1.4.1 Mr. Weis asked the committee members if anyone had questions for him
- 1.5 Mr. Weis discussed that the Speaker of the Faculty Senate normally sits as the co-chair of the TSAC.
 - 1.5.1 Dr. Angie Hill Price has served for the past two years. She returns this year as a designee from the Speaker of the Faculty Senate
 - 1.5.1.1 Mike Caruso made a motion to nominate Dr. Price as the co-chair again this year
 - 1.5.1.2 Robert Pottberg seconded the motion; all voted in favor, motion approved

- 1.6 Dr. Price asked the members to review the minutes from the May 28th , 2009 meeting
 - 1.6.1 Asked for corrections to the minutes; none noted
 - 1.6.2 Mike Caruso made a motion to approve the minutes as written
 - 1.6.3 Dr. Joe Newton seconded the motion; all voted in favor, minutes approved
- 1.7 Rod asked the members for a recurring meeting date; this will assist with meeting planning and with coordinating things better for the committee
 - 1.7.1 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30 am was suggested as a meeting date by Dr. Price; all agreed it would be workable
 - 1.7.2 Rod Weis asked for each member to identify an alternate to attend meetings with them so that when they are absent, they are familiar with the current issues
 - 1.7.3 Dr. Price asked for the members to make sure that the alternate is from the same constituency that they represent
 - 1.7.3.1 Rod Weis then asked for the members to send their alternates contact information to Rose Berryhill

2.0 Bike Rules and Regulations

- 2.1 Rod Weis stated that he would like to move forward with the draft for Bike Rules and Regulations; if we vote to move forward with the draft that does not mean we will post the rules on the web site and begin enforcing. It means that we will begin taking them to groups like, Faculty Senate, Student Senate, Graduate Student Council, and others who would like to hear about them plus hold open forums on the issue and move forward. There is a process that must be followed to get rules approved through the university.
 - 2.1.1 One of the 1st steps was identifying a funding source for the start up costs. It will cost over \$100,000.00 to start.
 - 2.1.2 Develop a five year strategic plan
 - 2.1.3 Market it to groups
- 2.2 Mr. Weis continued by stating that Transportation Services is not asking for any parking or transit fee increases this year
 - 2.2.1 The Transportation Services budget took two big hits
 - 2.2.1.1 A reduction by the Board of Regents in June or July 2009, from the approved increase in March that took effect this September
 - 2.2.1.2 A 30% reduction of visitor revenue from the University Center Garage because of the MSC closing for construction; both of these reductions are about 300,000 each to our budget - a total loss of 600,000
 - 2.2.2 We have identified that the start up for the Bike Program could come from Charters. Charters is an ancillary operation that is running a profit of about \$100,000.00
 - 2.2.3 Will not increase student transportation fee for transit this year but next year we may need to request a \$2 increase
- 2.3 Dr. Bloomfield asked if the money would be used to buy more bike racks
 - 2.3.1 In the future bike racks are a possible expense; bike racks are included in new construction plans
- 2.4 Dr. Price discussed that she is doing a class project on bike racks; she plans to have them make a prototype design and the steel will be donated by a plant that she has a

- good working relationship. Then another group will make the racks as a service project.
- 2.5 A committee member stated that they felt that most of the bike riders could support what was laid out so far, but what about the students who don't ride bikes? Will they balk at having to pay if they are not using the services? Mr. Weis stated that the transit system operates the same way. Everyone benefits from the transit system because of those riding the buses make available more convenient parking for those driving their cars.
- 2.6 Konrad Johnson said that he explains to all students that you do have the option of using the program and benefiting from it – it is their choice. Many other fees are the same way, like the Greek Life fee. Everyone is working to make this a better campus. Everyone would benefit from having a safer more beautiful campus.
- 2.7 Dr. Bloomfield asked if all students agree that there is a value in having a bike program and its effect of making this a “greener” campus. Students attending the TSAC meeting agreed.
- 2.8 Rod Weis reminded the group that TS personnel cannot stop a bicyclist for a moving violation, but we can educate. UPD (University Police Department) would have to enforce moving violations and EHS (Environment Health and Safety) needs be involved in this process.
- 2.9 Mike Caruso stated that this will be a drastic change from what the students are accustomed to now. How will you communicate and market it?
- 2.9.1 Rod stated that TS would do a mass communication effort; meeting with groups, open forums, battalion, etc.
- 2.10 Rod Weis explained that the first step would be to send the Bike Rules and Regulations through Lallah, through Dr. Kemos to Dr. Loftin. Set discussion meetings with the Student Government Association, Faculty Senate, Resident Hall Association and others
- 2.10.1 Review the rules with the office that adopts university rules
- 2.10.2 Set open forums
- 2.11 Dr. Bloomfield made a motion; to move forward with the recommended bike rules and regulations
- 2.11.1 Brandy Kosh stated that she identified some grammatical edits and will give them to Rose Berryhill
- 2.11.2 Konrad Johnson seconded the motion; all voted in favor, motion passes
- 2.11.2.1 Dr. Bloomfield made a suggest to share the rules with several community groups such as the League of Wheelman and the Brazos Valley Cyclists

3.0 Other Business

- 3.1 Rod Weis thanked the members for their service and stated that the previous TSAC committee made lots of progress
- 3.2 Before the next meeting he would like for the members to review the information they have on LSV (Low Speed Vehicles), University Vehicles, plans for a parking garage, permit use during home athletic events and how it affects the permit holders, and visitor parking for departments.

Meeting Adjourned