



**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes 2/5/2014**

Attending:

Ms. Brittany Bounds  
Mr. Mike Caruso  
Ms. Courtney Charanza  
Mr. Jonathan Coopersmith  
Mr. Joe Dillard  
Mr. Matt Keller  
Mr. Peter Lange  
Ms. Melody Larson  
Dr. Beth McNeill  
Mr. Darryl Peterson  
Mr. Robert Pottberg  
Ms. Flora Reeves  
Dr. Bob Strawser

Mr. Travis Walters  
Ms. Hannah Weger  
Dr. C.J. Woods  
Dr. Guoyao Wu

Absent:

Dr. Angie Hill Price  
Dr. Beverly Kuhn  
Dr. Merna Jacobsen  
Dr. Joe Newton  
Mr. Rod Weis

Guests:            Mr. Kenny Kimball                      Ms. Therese Kucera                      Ms. Jolene Sears  
                         Mr. Ron Steedly                              Mr. Justin Tippy

**1. Welcome and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting**

1.1. Mr. Peter Lange welcomed the committee members and asked for a review of the minutes from the December 4, 2013 meeting. Mr. Mike Caruso motioned to approve the minutes as stated and Mr. Robert Pottberg seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**2. Update on Transit Charter Rates**

- 2.1 Mr. Kenny Kimball discussed the intention to raise rates for charters effective June 1, 2014. Charter costs are based on whether the group is affiliated with TAMU or is non-affiliated. Affiliates are currently charged \$80 per hour and non-affiliates are charged \$100 per hour; proposed increase is to \$100 per hour for affiliates and \$120 per hour for non-affiliates with a 2 hour minimum. Charters are available for local trips only.
- 2.2 The need for the increase stems from an increase in maintenance costs due to an aging bus fleet and a solid plan is to increase rates at least by inflation in the future.
  - 2.1.2 Mr. Caruso asked if there was ever any thought given to getting a bus intended for longer distances? Mr. Lange responded that there would have to be a commitment from departments to book a certain number of charters per year and that is not feasible. Also has to have luggage space for longer trips and is more costly to purchase.
- 2.3 Mr. Lange said he would send a memo through Ms. B.J. Crain to get approval for the increase and customers would be notified. Charters already on the books will be honored at last year's rate.

**3. Update on Transit Changes for Fall**

- 3.1 Mr. Lange said that the current plan is to move forward with proposed transit changes for fall as discussed at previous meetings and at student forums so that students are able to take the changes into consideration when planning living arrangements.
  - 3.1.1 Route 36 – the proposal is to combine stops at Jones Butler and Holleman for more efficiency. Riders from the stops that are eliminated will have a short walk to a bus stop on the same side of the road.
  - 3.1.2 Route 35 – the proposal is to use the new Penberthy extension and avoid the intersection of George Bush and Wellborn Road which is frequently congested and causes delays. The new route will utilize the Wellborn Road grade separation to avoid delays due to trains and will shift the campus pick up/drop off point from the Trigon area to the MSC.
  - 3.1.3 Route 33/34 – the 2 routes that serve the Southwood Valley area between Longmire and Wellborn Road will be combined to create a more condensed route between Longmire and Welsh. By combining these two routes, we eliminate stops, but the riders from these eliminated stops are within walking distance via sidewalks to new stops in less than 7 minutes.
  - 3.1.4 Route 31 – the proposal is to drop the Oney Hervey portion of the route on Holleman due to low ridership. We continue to communicate with the residents and explain the situation and provide options, such as parking at one of the park and ride locations and bussing from there. The new route will travel Southwest Parkway, and then loop around via side streets and back out to Southwest Parkway to serve both sides of the street.

#### **4. Transit Ridership**

- 4.1 Mr. Lange showed data that projects 6 million total rides this year. Generally, we see a drop off in ridership from fall to spring semester and that is not the case from Fall 2013 to Spring 2014. Ridership increased by 19% from Fall 2012 to Fall 2013.

#### **5. Update on Garages**

- 5.1 Mr. Lange said the garages to serve Kyle Field and the west campus housing project are moving through the CBE process. They will be discussed at the CBE meeting next Tuesday; there is not an increase for parking fees planned for fall. Our pro forma is prepared with these 2 garages and no increase in fees. If we build the two previously approved garages (to support the Engineering corridor and the Northside residence halls), an increase in rates for Fall 2015 will be in order.
  - 5.1.1 Dr. CJ Woods asked, “What is the timeline until groundbreaking for the west campus housing garage if CBE approves?” Mr. Lange answered that the pro forma must be submitted by March 20<sup>th</sup> for the May board meeting and that the timeline is very tight and could be beyond the realm of possibility for a Fall 2015 opening if plans aren’t finalized soon.

#### **6. Update on Lot 62**

- 6.1 Mr. Lange recapped the impact of construction on permit holders in lot 48 last fall and lot 62 most recently. He said the construction fence area has been growing and we have had to recall permits for 62.
  - 6.1.1 Ms. Therese Kucera summarized that 250 permit holders, not including faculty/staff and graduate students, have been contacted via email to trade their Lot 62 permits for West Campus Garage or Lot 61. A “last in, first out” plan was utilized and we have had about 121 people return them so far; they have until Friday to return the lot 62 permit. We have been able to add 52 spaces in lot 62 by changing out some spaces that were utilized for athletic ticket pick up and eliminating a few handicapped spaces.
  - 6.1.2 Lot 62 will be eliminated entirely after 2014 football season and we are analyzing how to handle a partial year of parking in that area.
  - 6.1.3 Ms. Kucera also indicated that we are coordinating with Athletics to reallocate the BBB permit holders who must be moved; many of them are taking assignments in West Campus garage and we are extending night privileges until 7:30 am to accommodate athletes who lift weights in the morning.

#### **7. TTI Game Day Traffic Study**

- 7.1 Mr. Lange updated members on a traffic study commissioned by TAMUS, TAMU, Athletics, City of Bryan, City of College Station, Tx DOT, Convention and Visitor’s Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce. The

study will focus on the game day experience as a whole, rather than just the traffic aspect of game day; an important aspect of the study will be pedestrian safety. It is bringing in many participants from all aspects of the community and may result in “Disney Style” way finding, while getting fans closer to the stadium via shuttles and improving traffic with contra flow lanes before and after the game to expedite vehicle traffic. (The study conducted earlier this fall by city of CS and TS focused more on traffic timing for lights, areas of traffic congestion, number of cars in lots, etc.)

## **8. Update on Bike Registration**

- 8.1 Ms. Brittany Bounds summarized her feedback from students and student leaders regarding the proposed bike registration. She said students are resistant to mandatory registration and are extremely resistant to a fee associated with registration. Some students seemed to think a registration fee might make students more responsible to keep their bikes in good shape.
  - 8.1.1 Mr. Lange asked what she would recommend in this circumstance and Ms. Bounds said that registration with no fee would be ideal.
  - 8.1.2 Mr. Matt Keller stated that the issue isn't mandatory bike registration, but more a question of whether or not to charge a fee. And Mr. Ron Steedly replied that we get some proceeds from the bike auctions, so there is really no need to charge for a bike permit.
  - 8.1.3 Mr. Caruso asked if there was a model to follow from other universities and Mr. Lange answered that we hope to get more answers from the consultants being engaged through a Request for Proposal.
  - 8.1.4 Dr. Woods suggested that there not be a charge to register a bike, but a charge to get a bike out of impound would be acceptable; could serve as a disincentive fee.
  - 8.1.5 Ms. Bounds suggested that students may be more inclined to register a bike if there was a prompt when registering for their parking permit. If there was a “Click here to register your bike for free” button.
  - 8.1.6 Mr. Lange stated that Transportation Services is issuing a Request for Proposal to engage the services of a consultant to create a Bicycle District Plan and will gather recommendations from them on what is standard practice at other universities. We will work with consultants in regard to some of the ideas which were shared today. Bike registration could be launched in the fall and doesn't have to be done all at once, could be phased in.

- 9. **After a reminder that the next TSAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am in Koldus 110/111, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.**