

**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Minutes
March 2, 2022**

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

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Mr. Bill Cox
Mr. Joe Dillard
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Ms. Erin Jones
Mr. Jim Kovar
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Ms. Helena MacCrossan
Mr. Tom Reber
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Staci Rende
Ms. Mary Schubert
Mr. Nathan Shelley
Dr. Patti Smith
Mr. Fawaz Syed
Mr. Mark Welsh
Ms. Deborah Wright
Ms. Tamra Young
Ms. Katelyn Kellogg

Absent

Mr. Andy Deuel
Mr. Dale Rice
Dr. John Stallone

Guests:

Ms. Lilia Gonzales

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:49 a.m. and asked the committee to review the minutes. Mr. Tom Reber motioned for approval of the minutes as presented, Mr. Bill Cox seconded; minutes approved.
2. Mr. Peter Lange gave a briefing over a few updates.
 - 2.1. Peter - commented about the article in Battalion this week regarding Driver Shortages. We gave them that information about 5 weeks ago, so things have changed since then. As of last Friday, have hired 39 drivers so in much better shape. Adjusted salary for the fall to attract students and receive additional applications.
 - 2.2. Added 4 new buses to routes in the morning, will continue to add as we have drivers and need.
 - 2.3. Budgets are due Friday, 3/4.

- 2.4. Still doing well on our expenses and savings. Revenue for Feb. was where we expected to be and we are up in permit sales (net new permits of 3500 from where we were 2 years ago). Will continue to watch to see if an increase in Transit ridership impacts this number.
 - 2.5. Debbie – We have received a draft of the mobility master plan and is under TS review. Will get out to the committee soon for review & comment.
 - 2.6. Debbie - TS Strategic Plan - steering committee has been meeting regularly and making good progress. Logistics are underway for our Summit on April 1 so please continue to be on the lookout for your invitation.
3. Mr. Byron Prestridge gave an update on sustainable transportation. See presentation: <https://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx> (scroll to the bottom of the minutes and find “Related Presentations”).
 - 3.1. Veo
 - Bike Share program: Jan. 2019 million and half rides = equivalent 9065, 625 miles or 2 round trips around the moon, 36 trips around the earth
 - a. Fall semester trends
 - Cosmo - electrical throttle bike.
 - Bikes vs. Cosmo - at start of semester bikes led the number of rides but as the semester continued, the trend changed to cosmos leading the # of rides.
 - Cosmos being electric allows us to create "slow zones" to control speeds through certain areas.
 - b. Why do these work on campus?
 - Reduction in total # of bikes which improves the number of abandoned bikes left for us to impound
 - We have a large enough inventory of bikes & cosmos where students feel confident that they can walk out of a building and find a bike/Cosmo in the bike rack for them to utilize.
 - VEO has an off-site warehouse where they do most of the maintenance and charging for the removable battery pack on the Cosmos.
 - VEO has an app where they can find cosmos with low battery life, and they will find the bike and replace the battery while leaving in the field.
 - Fork caps have been replaced and improved to stop trapping water.
 - Bike seats and tethers have been received to allow replacements to be installed with additional replacements on order.
 - c. MARCOMM has done a great job of advertising this program (fun tik-toks, etc.)

d. Questions:

- Tom - price difference for bike vs. Cosmo?
 - Byron – Pedal Bikes are \$0.50/30 minutes, Pedal Assist is \$1.00 to unlock and \$0.18/minute, Throttle Assist is \$1.00 to unlock and \$0.25/minutes.
- Dr. Smith - wonder if there is a correlation between the new permit rate and seeing the increase and usage of the bike share program?
 - Peter - still getting my theory together. I still feel that Transit ridership is our biggest impact to net new permits as well as PRG coming online and capturing individuals who may have previously opted out of purchasing a permit.

b. Electric Vehicle Chargers

- Polo Rd. was our test of Liberty Access Technology, our new vendor. Testing technology as well as visibility and enforceability.
- Updating/retrofitting all garages to offer 4 EV stations with this new vendor are underway.

4. Mr. Bill Clark presented on Sustainability. While Mr. Clark prefers that his presentation not be posted online, he will allow us to provide it to the member of TSAC for private use. If you are interested in receiving this presentation, please reach out to Darla Guerra.

Mr. Clark is very passionate about sustainability and our responsibility to engage on the topic and find out how we can help. If you are interested in speaking with him, or having him present to your department/organization, please reach out to him.

4.1. Boy Scout code regarding outdoors and the environment "Leave no trace" Bill and his dad both were engineers, and their careers were in the petroleum industry as they started to realize the impact, they both made a conscious effort on reversing the negative impacts of fossil fuels.

Below are a few presentation highlights:

4.2. 7-8 years he's been advocating for the university to consider, review and improve our sustainability efforts on campus through transit, vehicles, and buildings. All efforts are pro-bono.

4.3. Sustainability benefits for Texas A&M:

4.3.1.Environmental Protection

- 2021 Global Warming Facts
- Droughts & wildfires are increasing in 13 states, costing billions
- U.S. states are running out of water.

4.3.2.Importance to Texas?

- Implementation of solar wind electricity & electric vehicles are increasing
- Billions of dollars and thousands of jobs are involved

- 80+% of utility-scale Texas electrical power projects are solar wind
- Car manufactures are shifting to electric vehicles

4.3.3.Importance to A&M

- Energy transportation often costs less than fossil fuel alternatives
- New technology lowers carbon emissions by 97+%
- Annual costs at A&M can be lower over medium to long-term
- A&M has a 100+ year tradition of support from the fossil fuel industry. This should be honored
- Former students who are fossil fuel leaders and employers have donated billions to the university
- Fossil fuel industries will have to invest trillions to transition to alternate fuel sources

4.4 <https://sustainabilityforlife.com/> - Website was created to help the public and focuses on showing 20% on dangers from pollution and 80% on innovation solutions. Mr. Clark has found that individuals are more like to change their behaviors if offered sustainable options rather than just telling them about the dangers without any solutions.

4.5 Questions:

- Peter - Talking with Bill a couple of weeks ago. Back to the EV piece and electric vehicles. Transit is tracking the electric buses compared to diesel buses that we received at the same time. The electric buses cost almost double a diesel bus. Since July electric vs. diesel the operating cost for the electric is about 1/3 operating costs. \$.30 per mile vs. \$1.00 per mile with diesel.
- Last electric bus grant for 6 additional vehicles didn't receive traction. Another grant is open now and application ends this Sunday for 10 new electric buses.

Bill asked about student perspective:

- Helena - A lot more involvement from undergraduates. For electric buses, there was excitement but hesitancy about how they would work, would they go the distance or disrupt schedules because they ran out of juice.
- Nathan - graduate students are almost all sustainable research and conversations often circle around the footprint we are leaving behind.
- Peter - We don't currently have a centralized Fleet management - meaning we don't control what the department orders, what they want is what we order, so we haven't moved the needle much on departments purchasing electric vehicles. We have discussed a grant setup to encourage departments (with financial incentive) to purchase electric over fossil fuel vehicles.
- Nathan - would like to get Bill's contact information to have him present to the GPSG.

5. Meeting was concluded at 1:00 p.m.