

**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Minutes
September 7, 2022**

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

Present:

Mr. Corbin Armstrong
Dr. Fuller Bazer
Ms. Mary Cearley
Mr. Ed Costello
Mr. Joe Dillard
Ms. Erin Jones
Dr. Andrew Klein
Ms. Katelynn Kellogg
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Mr. Tom Reber
Ms. Flora Reeves
Mr. Dale Rice
Mr. Nathan Shelley
Mr. Ethan Tan
Ms. Tamra Young

Absent

Mr. Bill Cox
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Mr. Mark Welsh
Mr. Graham Wolfe
Ms. Deborah Wright

Guests:

Ms. Lilia Gonzales

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 11:41 a.m.
2. Mr. Peter Lange welcomed new members and thanked returning members for continuing their service and commitment to TSAC. Mr. Lange then went on to explain the purpose of TSAC and the roles and responsibilities for the committee members.
 - 2.1.1. Mr. Lange then asked for volunteers or nominations for co-chair. Mr. Andrew Klein volunteered and was voted on unanimously for the role.
3. Mr. Lange then provided fall updates.
 - 3.1. 3rd week of classes, 1st week was mid-week start, not a "true" week. The actual second week of class felt most like a true first week of class.
 - 3.2. Transit ridership - still below fall 2019 numbers but higher than it's been fall of 2020 and 2021.
 - 3.2.1. Nathan Shelley: for mid-week starts going forward, would think it would be helpful to increase Transit hours those first days of the week before classes begin. Peter: We saw that trend as well and have addressed it, if we have a mid-week start, we'll need more Transit hours.
 - 3.2.2. Joe Dillard: Do you have any numbers or stats for trends with weather? Peter: Yes, with bad weather it pushes people to drive and park in a garage close to where they are trying to go.

- 3.3. Parking permit numbers are about where they were last year which is still over where we were in 2019.
- 3.4. Event parking – we are seeing the numbers tick back up, especially for football. We have individuals arriving just to tailgate and transit ridership for the game against Sam Houston State University (SHSU) was higher than any of our games last year.

3.5. Upcoming topics for this year:

3.5.1. One thing we want to look at this year is modifying our priority for students. Currently we give permit ownership higher priority over a new student without a permit. Example – a sophomore with permit would receive a higher ranking when trying to change their permit than senior who hasn't had a permit. Our current process is over 19 years old - and we would like to align it with expectations.

3.5.1.1. Ms. Debbie Lollar clarified current permit holders will still renew their permit without issue, but if they want to change, they will be prioritized by their classification only.

3.5.2. Bus replacement plan. This last year we were able to replace almost half the fleet thanks to a grant through BTM. Now we need to address the other half of the fleet.

3.5.2.1. Part of the bus replacement conversation must include the Transit facilities on Agronomy Road. The facilities are original and do not meet the needs of the expanded operation.

3.5.3. Sustainable Transportation – Next month we plan to present about electric mobility devices. This presentation will include defining what is a mobility device vs. vehicle, where to park, where to charge, and more.

3.5.4. Booting & Towing criteria - we would like to make some adjustments to the policies and requirements. We want to improve this process and lessen negative impact while still maintaining compliance.

3.5.5. Construction updates will continue to happen throughout the year such as impacts to roads, lots, new buildings, new facilities, and impacts around town.

3.5.6. Upcoming bus route changes & updates are discussed late fall (Nov/Dec).

4. Questions/Comments:

4.1. Ethan Tan: Food for citations: has there been any more talk about bringing the program back? Peter: Yes, we want to bring back our Donations for Citations program. It is typically a spring event.

5. Event Rate Discussion – Ms. Lynn Wiggs

5.1. To see this presentation, visit our website: <https://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx> (scroll to the bottom of the page and find “Related Presentation”).

5.2. Questions/comments?

5.2.1. Tom Reber: You say non-athletic events. Do you mean non-athletic department events? You mention sports clubs, but they think they are an athletic event. Lynn: you are correct, athletic department events.

5.2.2. Joe Dillard: You mentioned on a previous slide permit holder, can you explain what that means? Lynn: We make accommodations for our customers with annual permits to park without paying at most special events.

5.2.3. Would this new rate apply to high school graduations? Lynn: Yes, it would.

5.2.4. Will you still offer pre-paid options? Lynn: Yes, we will continue to encourage pre-paid parking. We prefer and promote pre-paid parking because it allows us to better estimate attendance, limits cash handling, allows individuals to know where they are parking which reduces traffic congestion. Peter: In fact, we could discuss incentivizing pre-paid parking for various events.

6. Ms. Debbie Lollar gave a brief update regarding the Mobility Master Plan and the TS Strategic Plan.

6.1. Mobility Master Plan - we have received our final version and would like to send to this committee for review and comments. TS leadership is reviewing the 38-page implementation plan to prioritize recommended projects. Once the priorities are identified, we would like to present to constituent groups to get comments from both our on-campus and community partners.

6.2. Strategic Plan - Many of you participated in our retreat on April 1st along with numerous other campus community and partners. We are nearly through drafting the Strategic Plan. We have our draft initiatives, strategies and are currently working on the objectives to reach our goals. Once the Strategic Plan is finalized, we will also present this information to constituent groups.

7. Additional Questions/comments?

7.1. Ethan Tan: Do you have any numbers or stats on motorcycle permits issued? Are you considering increasing motorcycle parking? Seems like a lot more mopeds on campus this year. Peter: Currently we have 900+ permits active, and last year we had 1200+ so we are down this year.

Debbie: motorcycle parking is not issued the same as vehicular parking where you have a designated area. Having a designated area, you know where to go and know you'll find parking. On-campus motorcycle parking does not fill up, but customers must look for open areas. Debbie mentioned it might be the right year to have the conversation if how we are handling motorcycle parking is the best way. Might also be the right time to have the conversation about differentiating moped and motorcycle parking.

7.2. Katelyn: as a motorcycle rider, excited about new parking along SBG but ledge is too high. Peter: we are adding spaces over there, so we'll look at the curb as well.

7.3. Nathan Shelley: do you know what is going on with Wellborn/Holleman construction? Causing major delays getting to campus. Peter: yes, as you know this summer, they had to close Holleman Drive at Wellborn Road to bring the road to grade. The reason for the additional delay in opening the east bound leg of Holleman Drive is because the mast arm ordered for the traffic light was incorrect. The Westbound opening of Holleman Drive is dependent on Union Pacific (UP) and will more than likely be opened late this fall.

7.4. Mary Cearley: can you talk about Quiet Zone? Peter: we have finished all TS construction. Work continues on the contract for the wayside horn at Bush and Wellborn Road. UP has work to finish on Kimbrough. We are now working with UP on signal work for Bush/Wellborn and have now completed and submitted the preemption worksheets. UP is requiring updated preemption equipment in the signal cabinets. This network design must wait until the preemption worksheets are approved. We now believe this project will not be complete until 2024.

7.5. Peter asked to include a Community Construction Update for an upcoming TSAC meeting.

Meeting was concluded at 12:55 p.m.