

TSAC Minutes
November 4, 2015

Present:

Dr. Fuller Bazer
Ms. Marisa Biondi
Mr. Zach Carlson
Mr. Mike Caruso
Mr. Joe Dillard
Mr. David Glockzin
Dr. Eleanor Green (Ms. Misty Skaggs)
Dr. Angie Hill Price
Dr. Margaret Hobson
Mr. Peter Lange
Ms. Robbie Lukeman
Mr. Robert Pottberg
Ms. Flora Reeves
Ms. Veronica Sprayberry

Dr. Bob Strawser
Dr. CJ Woods
Ms. Deborah Wright

Guests:

Dr. Tim Lomax
Ms. Madison Metzker-Galarza
Mr. Justin Tippy
Mr. Mark Matus
Mr. Travis Mendoza

Absent:

Mr. Wayne Beckerman
Mr. Ralph Davila
Ms. Hannah Wimberly
Dr. CJ Woods

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting and asked everyone to review the minutes. Dr. Hobson motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Glockzin seconded and all approved.
2. Mr. Lange Introduced Dr. Tim Lomax with the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, invited to give the committee a Gameday recap.
3. Dr. Lomax reported that part of his mandate is to manage traffic to improve the gameday experience, and he was thankful for everyone's partnership in making the Gameday traffic plan a success.
 - 3.1. Dr. Lomax reported that the Destination Aggieland App was taken over by Transportation Services as a year-round app, to include many activities on campus. It also has links to off-campus events and agencies, such as the BCS Convention and Visitors Bureau.
 - 3.2. Dr. Lomax reported that on gamedays, College Station becomes the 4th largest downtown in Texas. The goal is to reduce traffic congestion after the game by getting people off campus as quickly as possible. An example of the success of the plan has been the greatly reduced congestion time when comparing traffic after the 2013 and 2015 Alabama games.

- 3.3. His group is still working on promoting safety for the 30,000 - 40,000 pedestrians coming out of the passageway and in front of the West Campus Garage. He's coordinating with Parking Service Officers and Constables to make a traffic plan with good pedestrian routes.
 - 3.4. Dr. Lomax reported we still have an issue with pedestrians in general. The intersection at George Bush Drive and Wellborn Road is also a high pedestrian area. Many agencies/technologies will each play a part in the improvement, including but not limited to upgraded traffic cameras, controllers, better bus routes, contraflow, etc.
 - 3.4.1. Dr. Magill asked if we coordinate with Union Pacific during gameday. Dr. Lomax said they have a handshake agreement not to run trains through at peak times, and the Rail Division calls the Command Center to coordinate train traffic.
 - 3.4.2. Dr. Hill Price mentioned that on gamedays both lanes turn right from University Drive onto Highway 6. People are only using one lane to go south on Hwy 6. Maybe put signage further back to alert people both lanes are right turn lanes. This plan may be implemented year round. Dr. Lomax mentioned they may need to place another programmable message board further back.
4. Ms. Debbie Hoffmann from Transportation Services announced that The League of American Bicyclists has recognized Texas A&M University with a 'Bronze' Bicycle Friendly University award. She said they are anticipating a University-level ceremony and a corresponding installation of the inaugural plaque.
 - 4.1. Dr. Hill Price said she's fielded faculty complaints about bicycles on sidewalks, running through stop signs, etc. making congested areas dangerous. Mr. Lange said Transportation Services will implement an action plan and give an update at the next TSAC meeting. Ms. Hoffmann said her unit is working on producing maps and GoPro videos of bike-friendly routes to show safer and easier ways to navigate through campus.
 - 4.2. Dr. Strawser said somebody almost got hit by a bicycle and he saw a policeman cite two bicyclists for violations.
5. Ms. Hoffmann addressed the changes to the waitlist policy that will take into account mandated office moves occurring mid-year. People with parking passes affected by such a move would be inserted into a waitlist in accordance with their months of service. This may cause some customers to fall further down on the list. The changes to the policy were emailed to the TSAC members for comment/action. No one provided any additional comments by email or at the meeting, so Ms. Hoffmann asked for the

committee to vote. Ms. Hill Price motioned and Dr. Bob Strawser moved. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Ms. Madeline Dillard from Transportation Services discussed proposed Transit Route Changes for Fall 2016. Recognizing the limitations of her fleet, her unit's overarching principles for the changes are to:

- Serve densest student populations
- Adapt to student growth and apartment location change
- Minimize cost per passenger – use student service fees wisely
- Increase riders per bus-mile – get the best bang for the buck
- Shorten route times – more seats per hour
- Efficient, timely, dependable service – deliver what we promise
- Avoid congested intersections

The unit's operational focus is to serve more students and utilize student service fees wisely by:

- Providing cost-effective service on- and off-campus
- Adapting and reallocating buses to serve areas most heavily populated by students

Furthermore, new construction leads to shifting service areas:

- Vet School opening
- Holleman South corridor residential growth

(Her briefing is available as PowerPoint Presentation, emailed to committee members).

- 6.1. Dr. Hill Price asked if some of the changes near the Vet School route could be started now, and not wait until next year. Peter Lange said the Vet School is not complete, and we are not ready to reallocate buses yet.

6.1.1. Dr. Hill Price made the point that we need to let students know and get their feedback. Peter Lange said that we will get student feedback, and want to finalize by the Spring to implement in the Fall 2016 semester.

- 6.2. Dr. Magill asked about possibly increasing student fees for transit. Peter Lange answered that Transportation Services gets an allocation from the University "Student Enhancement" fee, with the current enrollment, it amounts to about \$70 per student. We have to ask for more if we need it.

- 6.3. Dr. Magill asked if the new apartments on Penberthy (Park West) would be on a route. Peter Lange said we are thinking about it, but they will not come on line until 2017. We could use routes 35, 36 or 40 to serve that area.

- 6.4. Mr. Caruso asked how much ridership we are seeing from White Creek. Madeline Dillard answered she didn't have the data with her today.
 - 6.5. Peter Lange queried the Student Government representatives about how to get this information to the students, and if we are briefing the changes in an understandable way. Ms. Marisa Biondi, (representing graduate students) suggested we do a 30-40 minute presentation to her constituents. Mr. Zach Carlson, (representing undergraduate students) suggested making some slides that put all the information in one place, and would not be afforded a 30-minute presentation for the undergraduates.
7. Ms. Hoffmann wrapped up the meeting by introducing Anne LeGare as the new point of contact for TSAC meetings, and Melissa Maraj as the new Transportation Services Communications Manager, and another representative for TSAC meetings.
8. Anne LeGare mentioned that the next TSAC Committee meeting is December 2, 2015, Koldus Rooms 110-111.