

**Transportation Services Advisory Committee Minutes  
February 3, 2021**

**This was a Zoom Meeting**

**Present:**

Dr. Fuller Bazer  
Mr. Bill Cox (Mr. Rob Robideau)  
Mr. Joe Dillard  
Dr. Andrew Klein  
Mr. Jim Kovar  
Mr. Peter Lange  
Mr. Eric Mendoza (Ms. Oriana Koot)  
Mr. Rio O'Neal (Mr. Uthej Vattipalli)  
Ms. Lisa Pierce  
Mr. Robert Pottberg  
Mr. Tom Reber  
Mr. Dale Rice  
Mr. Fawaz Syed  
Mr. Mark Welsh  
Ms. Deborah Wright  
Ms. Tamra Young

**Absent:**

Mr. Andy Deuel  
Dr. Angie Hill Price  
Ms. Erin Jones  
Ms. Flora Reeves  
Dr. Jerry Strawser  
Dr. John Stallone

**Guests:**

Ms. Lilia Gonzales

1. Mr. Peter Lange opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m.
2. Mr. Lange asked the committee to review the minutes from the December 2, 2020 meeting. Mr. Mark Welsh motioned for approval; Mr. Tom Reber seconded; minutes approved.
3. Mr. Lange provided spring semester updates.
  - 3.1 Budget – Tracking where we left off in November, about \$16.5 million loss which includes last year and this year. We are seeing some uptick in transactions and visitor revenue. Permit sales are up about 700 permits from November, however still down about 3500 permits from a year ago.
  - 3.2 Transit –
    - 3.2.1 Ridership is about double where we left off in the fall and averaging about 10,000 rides per day. While it's a nice uptick, it is still only about 25-27% of normal activity.
    - 3.2.2 We have adjusted service to accommodate ridership but trying to not make it noticeable. Continuing to run service level so we can have social distancing on the bus. We continue to require face coverings and compliance has been very high.

- 3.2.3 The remainder of the new buses came in over the break, so we now have all 35 40' diesel buses commissioned and on route. We have decommissioned 35 of our oldest buses.
- 3.2.4 There are 9 more Gillig buses on order with delivery expected early fall 2021.
- 3.2.5 The 3 Proterra electric buses are scheduled to arrive end of May 2021. The charging infrastructure for these buses is very intricate and complex; currently we have 2 of 3 working. Thank you to our friends and partners with Capital Metro in Austin who brought one of their electric buses down here with faith that we would be able to provide a charge big enough to get them back home. Working with our partners from Proterra, after a couple of days we were successful.
- 3.2.6 The Transit team has done an amazing job with their hiring process. We became our own testing center for the driving portion of the Commercial Drivers License (CDL) process.
- 3.2.7 Mr. Dale Rice asked how long it takes to train a new student and have them on route. Ms. Madeline Dillard responded that they go through 32 hours of training (contingent on trainee and trainer's schedules) then they take the road test for their CDL. By becoming our own testing site, the training time has been cut in half. Now it is about 1 month from start to when they are on route.

### 3.3 Polo Rd. Building (PRB)

- 3.3.1 The Transportation Services units are settled in and at home on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. If you haven't been by and would like a tour, we would welcome the chance to show you around.
- 3.3.2 Rec Center is open and has a nice 30,000 sq ft facility.
- 3.3.3 Five dining concepts downstairs, which includes Shake Smart, Grab n Go Market, Salata, Houston Subs and Panda Express (coming in 30 days).

### 3.4 Supercharger

- 3.4.1 Tesla electric supercharger. We are currently working a presentation through the Council for the Built Environment and we now have an individual donor who wants to fund \$150,000 towards this initiative. Tesla's cost to complete the installation would be about \$650,000. This will fund 8 charging pumps and will be placed in 8 spaces in Lot 51.



- 3.4.2 The supercharger can charge 10 miles/minute so you could charge 200 miles in 20 minutes. We would be the first in the country to have a supercharger on a college campus. Typically, superchargers are found along interstates so this would be one of the few exceptions in Texas.
- 3.5 Quiet Zone – This project is funded by the University and System but is managed by Transportation Services. More information was provided in February 2020 ([minutes](#)) and while the project is behind schedule, progress is being made.
  - 3.5.1 At the General Services Complex (GSC) you will soon see work starting on the sidewalk as well as a new driveway around the diesel tanks out there.
  - 3.5.2 We did receive the Right of Entry paperwork for the George Bush intersection and will be out there for the next 60 days. We anticipate receiving the Right of Entry paperwork for F&B intersection soon.
  - 3.5.3 We are still ahead of both the City of Bryan and College Station as far as progress of paperwork and approvals.
- 3.6 Mr. Lange asked his team if there were any additional updates to share.
  - 3.6.1 Ms. Debbie Hoffmann mentioned the committee members received an invitation to an engagement opportunity, with Walker Consultants, about our Mobility Master Plan. The event is scheduled next Wednesday, February 10 @ 11 a.m. Recognizing not everyone has availability during this time, we are hopeful that most of the committee will be able to attend.
  - 3.6.2 Mr. Lange mentioned the Route 36 renaming to Matthew Gaines effective January 5. Transportation Services and Transit have received numerous press engagements from this change and received recognition in a positive article by KBTX.
  - 3.6.3 Ms. Hoffmann brought up the Crowdfunding Campaign. The university is starting to embark on allowing student organizations and departments to submit applications for Crowdfunding, very similar to a GoFundMe account. We were notified last week our project was selected, along with 16 other projects, and it goes live February 15.
    - 3.6.3.1 The project we submitted was to use the funds as grant money for departments purchasing an electric vehicle for their unit or fleet.
    - 3.6.3.2 Transportation Services is currently preparing the webpage to go live February 15.
- 3.7 Ms. Hoffmann updated the committee on the permit pricing changes which were submitted and approved by Interim President Junkins. This proposal was presented to President Young prior to his departure and he was supportive and liked the approach we were taking; however, he did not approve since he was leaving office. You can find the full presentation on our website (scroll to the bottom of the page for presentations): <https://transport.tamu.edu/About/tsac.aspx>
  - 3.7.1 Our focus with this effort was on underpriced permits and/or free permits.
    - Underpriced permits:**
      - 3.7.1.1 Contractor, Service and Vendor

- 3.7.1.1.1 Contractor, Service and Vendor with surface access only: \$339
- 3.7.1.1.2 Contractor, Service and Vendor+ with surface access and garage access: \$439
- 3.7.1.2 Night
  - 3.7.1.2.1 Night with surface access only: \$125
  - 3.7.1.2.2 Night+ with surface access and choice of one garage (Stallings, Central, University or Polo Rd. garage): \$218
- 3.7.1.3 Motorcycle
  - 3.7.1.3.1 Motorcycle: \$130
- 3.7.1.4 Campus
  - 3.7.1.4.1 Campus with surface access only: \$339
  - 3.7.1.4.2 Campus+ with surface access and garage access: \$546
- 3.7.1.5 Business
  - 3.7.1.5.1 Business with surface access only: \$44
  - 3.7.1.5.2 Business+ with surface access and garage access: \$98
- 3.7.1.6 1AM
  - 3.7.1.6.1 Price will range from \$546-\$960. The \$546 base point is due to the access this permit is granted, even when assigned to a surface lot.
- 3.7.1.7 Reserved Number Spaces in:
  - 3.7.1.7.1 Surface Lots - \$757
  - 3.7.1.7.2 Garages - \$847
  - 3.7.1.7.3 Priority Bays - \$960
  - 3.7.1.7.4 It's important to note, that except for a few smaller lots in the heart of campus, all customers will have the option to move into an unnumbered space in the same lot or facility. It will be their choice how they want to proceed.

**3.7.2 Free permits:**

- 3.7.2.1 Media
  - 3.7.2.1.1 Media with surface access only: \$339
  - 3.7.2.1.2 Media+ with surface access and garage access: \$546
- 3.7.2.2 University Vehicles in ungated lots
  - 3.7.2.2.1 \$12/month charged through their Fleet rental rate. For vehicles paying to park in a gated facility or garage, we will reduce the price of their permit by \$144 so they aren't paying the charge twice.
- 3.7.2.3 Disabled Veterans
  - 3.7.2.3.1 The price will be half-price of what parking option they choose. Prices will range from \$169-\$480.
- 3.7.2.4 Retirees
  - 3.7.2.4.1 \$50. Current retirees who have a retiree permit as of 08/06/2021 will be grandfathered in, and their permits will be paid by University Central funds for five (5) years.

**3.7.3 Parking Products not Annual Permits**

- 3.7.3.1 Daily, Weekly and Monthly. We feel it's important to note these rates have not been adjusted since 2010.
  - 3.7.3.1.1 Daily: \$10
  - 3.7.3.1.2 Weekly: \$25
  - 3.7.3.1.3 Monthly: \$45
- 3.7.3.2 New Student Conferences (NSC)

- 3.7.3.2.1 Half of usual permit price for 3.5 days (includes access to Southside and West Campus garages): \$20
    - 3.7.3.2.2 Access as listed above plus access to Stallings Blvd. garage: \$30
  - 3.7.3.3 Conferences
    - 3.7.3.3.1 No change for 2021-22. Price will remain \$5 or \$10 for non-AVP lots.
    - 3.7.3.3.2 2022-23 pricing: \$7
  - 3.7.3.4 Departmental Guest Permits
    - 3.7.3.4.1 \$7.00
- 3.7.4 Mr. Lange asked for any questions regarding the pricing update.
  - 3.7.4.1 Mr. Joe Dillard asked for examples of what kind of university vehicles we are adding the \$12/monthly fee to. Ms. Hoffmann responded we are only talking about on-road vehicles, not golf carts or gators.
  - 3.7.4.2 Mr. Dillard followed up with a concern that if we are talking about every SSC vehicle at \$12/month it's a lot of vehicles and if SSC increases their charges to cover this additional cost then it's the campus community paying this extra charge. Mr. Lange agreed but likened this to any overhead SSC might have.
  - 3.7.4.3 Mr. Tom Reber asked how we determined the cost of retiree permits and grandfathering customers who currently have retiree permits by central funding them for five years. Mr. Lange said there was a lot of conversation and reviewing how peer institutions handled similar situations. Five years is a reasonable amount of time and we acknowledge taking something away, or in this case starting to charge, is a difficult situation.
  - 3.7.4.4 Ms. Tamra Young asked about the proposed changes to Business Permits and if you had to purchase both a Business Permit and a Business+ Permit to have access to surface lots and garages. Ms. Hoffmann responded you would not, instead you would purchase the Business+ option which includes surface lot and garage access.

4 Meeting was concluded at 2:26 p.m.