

## **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Wednesday, March 25, 2015, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Regents Room, Suite 1140, J.C. Kellam Administration Building

In Attendance: Ms. Nancy Nusbaum, Chair, Ms. Ashley Cantu, Ms. Stephanie Daniels, Mr. Anthony Galo, Mr. Steve Herrera, Ms. Caitlyn Koebler, Chief Ralph Meyer, Dr. Roque Mendez, Mr. Stephen Prentice, , Ms. Linda Sterling (Scribe)

Absent: Mr. Gordie Green, Dr. Margaret Menninger, Dr. Jaymeen Shah, Mr. Eric Johnson, Ms. Judy Herington, Mr. Ray Wilson, Ms. Ashley Cantu, Dr. Joanne Smith

Guest: Mr. Marcos Guzman, Graduate House Representative

### Proposed Parking Rule Change

Mr. Marcos Guzman, a representative of the Graduate House, attended the meeting to present the following proposal:

Teaching assistants and graduate students of record are able to purchase red permits. Graduate assistants and graduate research assistants (GAs/GRAs) may purchase a purple perimeter permit at any time and can wait until after the 12<sup>th</sup> class day to purchase a green residential parking permit. Since GA/GRAs are working on campus even before classes start, they would like the ability to purchase the green residential parking permit at any time rather than waiting. Having the green permit allows them to park closer to their work and eliminates the need to park remotely and walk or ride the bus which would be more convenient. Because there are some many empty green parking spaces, they see this proposal as a way to increase revenue for Parking Services.

Mr. Prentice expressed concern that 400 to 500 graduate students will then be able to purchase green permits prior to all residents having purchased them. Ms. Cantu, on behalf of residential students, agreed stating the freshman class drastically increases each year and this would be a problem.

After some discussion, Ms. Nusbaum advised that the typical procedure for new proposals is to be heard by councilmembers to get their feedback. The advisory council makes no decisions, but does forward recommendations to President's Cabinet to help inform their decision. Ms. Nusbaum asked for feedback from representatives of Student Government, Residence Hall Association (RHA), and faculty. A RHA representative suggested more research needs to be done to find out how many green parking spaces are still available and in what locations. A member asked how far ahead of school starting would they want to purchase the permits? Mr. Guzman responded the week before Bobcat Preview begins. Ms. Galo, representing Student Government, stated he had not heard about this issue before and would take it back to Student Government for feedback. One problem anticipated is that other special groups will also ask for earlier access. Another councilmember asked how many graduate students there currently are. Mr. Guzman stated he could acquire that information.

Ms. Nusbaum asked for any other comments and there were none.

### Update on DoubleMap

Mr. Herrera referred to a handout and explained staff is currently tracking the commissioning of counters on the buses and installation of system kiosks (sign boards) at the shuttle hubs. He also stated there were some issues with reliability of the counts but staff is working with DoubleMap to upgrade the counter hardware, and with ITAC staff on installation of security protocols on the kiosks.

### Bike Cave

Mr. Herrera provided the following updates on the Bike Cave and invited the council to visit the Bike Cave in the Colorado Building.

- Rental Program launched this semester. Expecting more interest as the weather becomes nicer.
- Since the semester began 25 bikes have been sold for \$1,800, compared to 27 total sold last year. Staff is forecasting the sale of another 25 bikes by the end of the semester. Staff are in the Quad today and sold another 3 or 4.
- With financial assistance from ESC (Environmental Service Committee), the Bike Cave has been open 893 hours.
- ESC awarded the Bike Cave \$9,000 to purchase and install 5 stand-alone bicycle repair stations. Bids are due today; the goal is to install them over the summer. Each repair station will have tools, bike pump, and information you can link to for instructions on how to change a tire or fix a component on a bicycle.
- Bike Cave is working with UPD to transition the bike registration program to the Bike Cave before June. Mr. Meyer noted the importance of registering a bicycle with an identification number so that it can be identified if stolen.

### Loop 82 Overpass

Mr. Herrera reported utility construction to begin in late spring and the road work is scheduled to begin in October. Mr. Herrera further advised that the schedules are fluid. The goal of the shuttle is to design routes as phases of construction are laid out in our semesters. Shuttle routing will be announced with as much lead time as possible to avoid confusion. Changes for the fall are:

- Strahan Coliseum Stop may have to be eliminated or relocated due to barricades and tapering of the road to one lane each direction.
- Los Cucos Stop will have to be relocated to West Avenue and will be serviced by the Post Road 23 Route.
- Stadium 10 route will be relocated to the UAC/Woods Hub. It will no longer serve Uptown Square and Summit Apartments. However, Aquarena and Blanco River routes will serve those locations.

- Wonder World 26 route will be relocated to the LBJ Student Center Hub to alleviate crowding at UAC Hub. This also results in operating from one hub only regardless of day or night routing.

Ms. Nusbaum advised 7 routes are currently using Loop 82. Three will be relocated. The Pathways route will be monitored and could be adjusted.

A member asked how much the timing differs between the current and proposed routes. Mr. Herrera stated that is unknown as yet. The Aquarena and Blanco routes will be longer which will increase fuel and service time costs.

Mr. Herrera also advised staff is committed to creating as much information as possible in advance, based on information received from TxDOT. Transportation Services is creating a dedicated webpage for Loop 82 information. Ms. Nusbaum will send an e-mail to students advising that summer and fall schedules are posted. Mr. Herrera advised that feedback will be important. Staff is hoping to minimize the impact as much as possible.

Ms. Nusbaum advised the Athletics Department has requested alterations to the game day shuttle route to avoid Charles Austin due to distance to the Stadium and accessibility difficulties. Athletics has proposed the shuttles go to the Stadium lots instead; however, pick up in the Stadium lot at the end of the game could be problematic with the numbers of cars leaving the stadium. The Springtown Center has been sold and will likely be under construction during the season. Staff has suggested to Athletics that they advertise the LBJ Student Center and Edward Gary Garages for parking at the game day rate of \$10 and taking the shuttle to the stadium.

A member asked if university staff have direct contact with the contractor on the Loop 82 project. Ms. Nusbaum advised there are regular stakeholder meetings with TxDOT, the contractor, Parking, Shuttle, Facilities, Housing, Campus Recreation, Police, Athletics and others. Any communication will be with Facilities Department contacts. Mr. Herrera advised staff has a phasing document of construction and what happens each phase per route.

A member asked if Union Pacific is going to slow down their traffic during construction. Ms. Nusbaum advised that would not be the case.

#### New Web Pages for Parking

Ms. Daniels reported the start of this semester marked a year of analytics for the web page. The data showed it could be more effective. There were over 160,000 site visits with the majority of traffic being direct. Seventy percent of users leave from the page they land on after about 10 seconds because the information they need is not on that page. A contributing factor is that 40% of visitors are showing up on phone or tablet and the current website is not optimized for browsing. A university-wide change is being considered for next year.

Transportation will change from a service-based, top level navigation to user based. Service based is "Services, Regulations, and Carpool". User based would be "Students, Faculty, Staff, and Visitors". It

will include all information currently on the site and some information targeted to certain interest groups. It will be less text based with improvements to navigation for phones and tablets.

A councilmember stated it would be more appealing to have pictures of our current lots/garages, (e.g., Strahan parking lot or a residential parking lot). Ms. Daniels stated there will be more images.

#### New Business

Ms. Nusbaum advised a parking survey will go out next week. It was revised to include questions about a bike leasing program proposed by a student group in the College of Business. The survey is going out to a random group of 5,000 students. Surveys will be released each year, alternating between shuttle and parking.

Ms. Nusbaum asked if there were any comments regarding the February meeting minutes, and there were none.

Ms. Nusbaum advised there should not be anything new to bring to the council in April. The parking rules are approved and being printed in time for New Student Orientation. Staff will send out an update on the the Graduate Assistant parking proposal via e-mail.

END OF MEETING.