

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
Wednesday, August 27, 2014, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Regents Room, Suite 1140, J.C. Kellam Administration Building

Attendance: Ms. Nancy Nusbaum, Dr. Roque Mendez, Dr. Jaymeen Shah, Mr. Anthony Galo, Mr. Gordon Green, Ms. Judy Herington, Ms. Ashley Cantu, Dr. Joanne Smith, Mr. Stephen Prentice, Ms. Stephanie Daniels, Ms. Linda Sterling (Scribe)

Absent: Dr. Margaret Menninger, Chief Ralph Meyer, Mr. Steve Herrera

Introductions

Ms. Ashley Cantu, new Residential Housing Association representative and Mr. Anthony Galo, new Student Government representative introduced themselves.

Ms. Nusbaum asked about other student representatives and another for Staff Council.

Linda Sterling will ask Mr. Kevin Gilley, Staff Council Chair, to advise who the other Staff Council representative will be.

FY2014 Budget Updates: Shuttle, Bike Cave, and Parking

Ms. Nusbaum reviewed activity for fiscal year 2014 and advised as follows:

Shuttle/Bike Cave

- Some shuttle reserves were used to complete the contract with First Transit because their rates went up but the student fee increase does not take effect until the fall semester; some of the money will be returned to reserves.
- Transportation Services has implemented a license fee in response to the City of San Marcos requirement that any apartment complex occupied mostly by students that does not have CARTS or Bobcat Shuttle service available, must provide independent shuttle service. Capstone Cottages and Aspen Heights are both providing shuttle service to LBJ Student Center and Lantana stops and paying the license fee. Since the license fee is not part of the bus fee, Transportation Services is able to help fund the Bike Cave with those funds.
- The Environmental Services Committee provided a grant in the amount of \$11,000.00 to the Bike Cave to help fund wages. Any amount not expended will revert to reserves.

Parking

- Balance year-to-date is \$25,303, but will change positively before year end.
- Purchased more LED lights for garages and saved by buying in bulk.

- Installed five park n' pay stations: 1 at Speck Garage, 1 at Coliseum Lot, 1 at Bobcat Village lot, and 2 at Pleasant Garage. There is also one at Meadows Center paid for by the University. Speck Garage station is intended for the sports fields and at Pleasant Garage for visitors to the Music Building. There has been good feedback and some profit so the units will pay for themselves.
- Complaints at R15 (JCK upper level) reserved spaces were too tight and pavement in disrepair. Repaired the pavement and restriped for larger spaces with the loss of one space. There is no monetary loss since spaces were not sold out.
- Implementing Permit Now module for T2 system that will enable visitors to call up events and buy/print their permit online and bring it with them. Launch scheduled for fall 2014 semester.

Fiscal Year 2015 Budgets for Shuttle, Bike Cave, and Parking

Ms. Nusbaum handed out copies of the proposed budgets for Shuttle, Bike Cave, and Parking operations, and advised as follows:

Shuttle/Bike Cave

- The Environmental Services Committee awarded a grant in the amount of \$12,500 to the Bike Cave for FY2015. The committee approved funding for 2 years knowing Transportation Services would try to establish advertising sales to help fund the Bike Cave, and prior to implementation of the license fee to outside shuttle providers.
- Making a proposal to the legislature to change the bus fee to a transportation fee to help fund the Bike Cave if needed, since there are many students who utilize that resource.

Parking

- Most of FY2015 expense is debt service of \$4.4 million, and lean on operating expenses. Budgets are broken out by Parking Services office/administration, maintenance, and the two garages. Edward Gary Garage exceeded projected income of over \$200,000 as students are starting to use it.

Ms. Nusbaum gave a brief update on current permit sales for the new fiscal year.

Fall 2015 Parking Proposal

Ms. Nusbaum discussed parking proposals for fall 2015 as follows:

Construction should begin in the next 2 months on a walkway from Falls/Sayers Halls to Academy Street Garage since President's Cabinet approved opening up the lower levels to commuters.

Transportation Services staff have attended meetings with DHRL staff to discuss what the housing occupancy changes will be over the next 3-4 years such as renovating Blanco Hall which will free up parking in Blanco Hall Garage for approximately one year. The housing master plan includes a new complex where Hornsby/Burleson/Smith Halls are. If that goes forward it would have an impact on residential parking. Staff decided to come up with recommendations based on data from Housing and Parking and present them to this group for feedback and then present to Student Government and RHA. The first 3 weeks of classes Transportation Services staff are monitoring the lots daily to see what is occurring. These recommendations could change from what we might take forward to cabinet based on student behavior over next 3 weeks.

Recommendations

- Speck Garage– recommend garage be commuter parking only. Currently all zone. This would provide over 700 spaces to commuters. We are monitoring the garage. It is important to have perimeter parking west of campus because we have a lot of students coming in that direction and doesn't make sense to force them across town and create additional traffic.
- Academy Street Garage and Surface Lot - based on Parking Services staff observations, first level of garage and surface lot was not filled. Instead of waiting two weeks after classes start it was opened to commuters, who are using it. Since the walking path is being constructed from Falls/Sayers Halls, we recommend opening it up to commuters at the beginning of the semester and monitoring usage. If it fills up with green permits then commuters could use Speck Garage.
- Permit Free Period –permit free for 3 weeks last year was too long; two weeks this year was still too long. Recommend permit free period be one week in 2015/16. It is difficult for staff to see what is going on. A lot of people are waiting until the last minute to buy permits. There is a misunderstanding what permit free means. Permit free period is intended to help those who need to wait a payday. There is also the impression that if you have a permit you may park anywhere.
- *Gold Permit Price* – increase the price of gold permits from \$115 to \$265 which is same price as Bobcat Village apartment lot. This is still a less expensive option for residential students. Transportation Services is providing direct service from the Mill Street Lot to campus, plus van service after buses stops running.
- *Lottery By Zone (FY16)* - Moore Hall opens with 598 beds. Recommendation to utilize a lottery by zone for residential permits only. Campus would be divided up into directional zones, e.g., north, south, and west. For example, Blanco, Moore. Falls/Sayers would be a zone; Lantana Beretta, Brogdon, Retama another zone.

Transportation Services continues to look for land to purchase on the west side of campus to increase our perimeter parking there.

Ms. Nusbaum asked if there were any objections to the recommendations and there were none; she also advised that Transportation Services staff would present the recommendations to Student Government at their meeting on September 8 and to RHA at their meeting on September 24 to receive their feedback.

New Business

Councilmembers briefly discussed Accessible Parking availability on campus; usage of Thorpe Lane acreage for parking; loss of parking spaces to the Loop 82 Overpass construction; and new reserved parking spaces in Alkek Garage.

Ms. Nusbaum invited councilmembers to contact her with any questions related to the budgets.

The meeting adjourned.