

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

SEPTEMBER 23, 2015, 3:30 – 5:00 P.M., JCK 1140 REGENTS ROOM

In Attendance: Ms. Nancy Nusbaum, Chair, Ms. Ashley Cantu, Ms. Stephanie Daniels, Mr. Anthony Galo, Mr. Marcus Hendry, Mr. Steve Herrera, Dr. Margaret Menninger, Chief Ralph Meyer, Ms. Alisha Mohammed, Mr. Stephen Prentice, Dr. Jaymeen Shah, Ms. Linda Sterling (Scribe)

Absent: Mr. Gordie Green, Dr. Roque Mendez (out for the semester), Dr. Joanne Smith

Introductions

Ms. Nusbaum introduced herself and invited the group to go around the table with introductions. Ms. Nusbaum explained that Dr. Mendez, the faculty representative, has a conflict with class during the fall semester and will not be able to attend until spring; she advised that the Provost did not want to appoint someone temporarily for one semester.

Review Purpose of Council

Ms. Nusbaum advised that the council needs another Student Government appointment, described the purpose of the council, and outlined representatives' communication responsibilities with those they represent.

Ms. Nusbaum outlined items that will be reviewed at the October meeting including ridership counts.

Fiscal Year 2015 Budgets

Mr. Herrera explained the main drivers of the shuttle budget are service hours paid to the contractor and fuel. The main increases in the budget are focused on the contract between the university and the shuttle operator with increases to the hourly rate each year and fluctuations in the cost of fuel.

Mr. Herrera reported the Bike cave is the on-campus bicycle repair facility, where bicycle repair services are provided and/or facilitated. Bicycles are impounded on campus and sold or recycled. The Bike Cave now has its own revenue stream and the main cost drivers are parts, wages for student workers, and work study employees. With funding from the Environmental Services Council, Bike Cave staff were able to purchase and install bike repair stations at 5 sites on campus. All indications are that they have been well received.

A member asked how significantly lower fuel charges will affect the budget.

Mr. Herrera advised that staff uses forecast tools from the Department of Energy as a guide, but fuel costs are budgeted at a slightly higher rate to avoid the necessity of using reserves. There will be a cost increase with a new fuel supplier coming in the new year. Increases in the amount of service also influence fuel consumption and cost.

Ms. Nusbaum reported on reserve accounts and detailed revenue streams for the Bike Cave.

A member asked what license agreement income is.

Ms. Nusbaum explained that the City of San Marcos requires all multi-family developments to provide bus service if Bobcat Shuttle is unable to provide service to the complex. Currently three complexes pay a license fee to use a bus stop on campus.

Mr. Prentice reviewed the parking budget information including tracking permit sales, citation income, and reported that Parking Services closed fiscal year 2015 in the black, with money going into reserves.

Ms. Nusbaum reviewed Parking Services reserve account deposits for 2012 through 2015, and outlined expenditures for parking lot repairs and software purchases such as PermitNow. PermitNow enables Parking Services to create a site for attendees of an event to purchase and print their parking permit ahead of time, including for home football games, but excluding tailgating.

Mr. Prentice reviewed the accuracy of revenue projections and number of permits sold. Ms. Nusbaum advised perimeter permit sales were lower than in 2014 and measures are being taken to stabilize those permit sales.

A member asked if the Mill Street parking lot is being used more.

Ms. Nusbaum advised usage at Mill Street was about the same as last year, but during football games it has been filling due to the unavailability of the Springtown Lot.

A member asked if it is possible some people bought green residence permits instead of perimeter.

Mr. Prentice explained that every year residence permits are offered to perimeter permit holders and about 250 perimeter permits are traded up to residence permits.

A member asked if the garages are doing more business.

Ms. Nusbaum replied that the LBJ Student Center Garage is always used and that the Edward Gary Street Garage has seen an improvement over last year at this time.

Fiscal Year 2016 Budgets

Ms. Nusbaum reviewed the FY2016 projected revenues as well as expenditures for the shuttle operation and Bike Cave, and reviewed projected expenditures for parking operations.

Review Fall 2015 Shuttle Routes

Ms. Nusbaum explained the primary changes to bus routes were made with Loop 82 Overpass construction in mind and asked councilmembers if they have heard anything about the bus routes.

A councilmember stated they had not heard any complaints regarding the bus service. The primary complaints are about Parking Services' customer service. The member tried to buy a permit online and was not able to modify the mailing address.

ACTION ITEM: Determine if Registrar is point of contact for address changes and research timeline for address changes to take effect.

Mr. Prentice reviewed current policy, and per university policy, address changes/additions must go through CatsWeb and cannot be made from the Parking Services site when you order your permit on-line. There is

currently a statement on the web page for ordering permits that reads: Address changes/additions must go through CatsWeb and may take up to 24 hours before showing up on the Parking Services site.

ACTION COMPLETE

Ms. Nusbaum advised that all cashiers and officers in Parking Services recently received customer service training and that due to the use of microphones and acoustics in the lobby, it makes the cashiers sound like they are yelling. Ms. Nusbaum contacted the dean of Fine Arts for assistance. The director of the Music Department and a faculty member from the Theater Department may come to listen and see if improvements to the acoustics in the lobby can be made. If not, then an acoustic specialist will be consulted.

A councilmember suggested a faculty member from acoustic engineering may be of assistance.

Ms. Nusbaum advised the university owns two buses that are currently taking 150 pathways students to ACC Hays Monday through Thursday. Ridership is very low and the cost is approximately \$700 per student. The university is considering buying two vans to transport these students, enabling the two smaller buses to service Campus Loop and reassigning the two larger buses from Campus Loop to busier routes such as Post Road or Wonder World. There is no more capacity so adjustments are being considered.

Loop 82 Construction Update

Ms. Nusbaum explained this is a Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) project, not a university project and that the university has no control and very little impact. Mr. Herrera meets with the principals regularly and as soon as information is received, routes are changed to avoid problems.

A councilmember asked if anything will be done with the traffic light at Post Road.

Mr. Herrera advised that work will be done in Phase 3. The main roadway construction has been pushed back to December once classes are finished, and will continue through March during which time the heavy road construction will take place.

New Business

A councilmember advised they will inform their general assembly about this council, what they do, and how to bring comments or concerns forward.

Ms. Nusbaum advised the Campus Master Plan is being updated again with a kick off in October. Staff will be doing presentations for Student Government and the Residence Hall Association in October, possibly January, and April. There will also be presentations for Staff Council and Faculty Senate.

Mr. Prentice advised that in peak time, there are 1,200 empty perimeter parking spaces and over 500 residence hall and faculty spaces each available.

A councilmember asked when the new residence hall construction is complete, if Speck Garage will be assigned to those units.

Ms. Nusbaum responded the intent is that Speck Garage will remain commuter only, but 22 new residential spaces are being considered near the water tower. Academy Garage still has available spaces with a walking trail

to access the upper level of the residence hall complex. If more parking is needed, staff will communicate with the Department of Housing and Residence Life about the possibility of a lottery.

A councilmember mentioned that exiting the Wood Street Garage is very difficult and wondered if anything could be done to enable easier egress for cars.

Ms. Nusbaum advised that UPD is usually involved in decisions about traffic flow.

END OF MEETING