

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL
Thursday, March 20, 2014, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Regents Room, Suite 1140, J.C. Kellam Administration Building

Attendance: Ms. Nancy Nusbaum, Dr. Margaret Menninger, Mr. Gordie Green, Mr. Stephen Prentice, Mr. Steven Herrera, Mr. Dustin Ware, Mr. Justin Beets, Ms. Linda Sterling (Scribe)

Absent: Dr. Roque Mendez, Dr. Jaymeen Shah, Mr. Eddie Perez, Ms. Abreetta Goode, Ms. Noragene Green, Ms. Judy Herington, Ms. Nicole Shipes, Dr. Joanne Smith, Chief Ralph Meyer, Ms. Stephanie Daniels

Draft Parking UPPS Changes

Ms. Nusbaum advised the draft Parking and Transportation UPPS is not in legislative format because of the extensive rewrite. Reviewers tried to eliminate information that will be in the rules and regulations, and wanted to ensure this document contains policy because this UPPS is only reviewed once every three years. The areas that are still under review at cabinet are Sections 6 and 7 regarding visitors/special event parking. In the first section under policy statements, there was an incorrect reference to Texas Code Article 54.511 referring to bus which was corrected to 51.201 for parking. That was clarified, and one was added about the shuttle to be part of the policy statement. Section 1.04 is new and addresses this council, why it was established, and the council's responsibility as well as membership.

A councilmember suggested changing the word "community" to University because the prior one refers to the City of San Marcos.

Ms. Nusbaum provided a thorough explanation of all changes to the UPPS document and asked if there were any comments or objections.

Outside of some grammatical corrections, there were no objections.

Ms. Nusbaum explained the process for review and finalization of the UPPS, and advised when they took parking permit changes out to the campus community they were received very well and there was no strong negative feedback. Once the documents have been approved by President's Cabinet they will go out to faculty, staff, and students to review.

There was further discussion regarding motorcycle permits for current permit holders and that motorcycle permits will be at a reduced rate to those who have purchased a permit for their vehicle.

Shuttle GPS RFP

Mr. Herrera reported that as part of the transition to a new shuttle provider for the fall semester, the University needs to do an RFP for a new GPS vehicle management system. The RFP schedule anticipates the University will award the contract to the successful bidder by the beginning of May, with

delivery in June. The system will go live in August when transition to the new provider occurs. Mr. Herrera advised there are seven people, including 3 students, IT staff, himself, Ms. Nusbaum and Ms. Daniels on the evaluation committee. Ms. Nusbaum added the cost ranges from \$200,000 to \$600,000, and the RFP calls for a 3 year contract. Mr. Herrera further advised the pricing allows for an option for additional years, multiple combinations of hardware, passenger counters, displays, and bus stop displays.

Ms. Nusbaum explained that the system allows users to see where the buses are and the RFP asks for automatic passenger counters (APC) which will allow us to see when students board and debark rather than drivers conducting manual counts which is what we have now. Counters allow us to make decisions based on data when route changes or stops are needed.

A member asked how the system would work if you are on Aquarena Springs Drive in front of Los Cucos and the bus is 85% full and what it would show when it got to Bobcat Village? Mr. Herrera explained that the system is in real time, and some systems start off green and progress to red to show the bus being full, so if some people got off at Shipley's, it would show that.

New Business

Ms. Nusbaum advised that personnel from Veolia Transportation (the new shuttle contractor) are visiting this week; staff will meet with the general manager and regional vice president today, and the scheduler has visited campus a couple of times. Transportation staff met with Veolia staff a couple of weeks ago and reviewed things we know will impact the schedules and timing, such as the Loop 82 project. The timing of Loop 82 has been delayed to the spring semester now. Veolia can operate one semester of routes before having to dealing with construction reroutes.

Ms. Nusbaum explained that Veolia's scheduler has been driving the neighborhoods and looking at Campus Loop. In order to serve the Student Recreation Center the buses have had to go up LBJ Drive, across Holland Avenue and back down which added a lot of time. Veolia's staff have driven through campus and believes they can serve the Student Recreation Center without having to go that far out of the way. Ms. Nusbaum advised that three of the new buses are about to come off the production line and delivery is scheduled to begin in May. Transportation Services staff is working to get wraps finalized for 12 of the buses. The University will implement service to the Kyle ACC campus Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., for 200 students who are participating in the Pathways program. Staff believes that other Texas State students will start using the service once they discover it.

A member asked if Transportation Services staff anticipates faculty and staff using the service to commute. Ms. Nusbaum stated they would have to have an agreement with ACC to park on their campus. Ms. Nusbaum further advised that staff are aware from social media they monitor called Reddit, that students are sharing with each other ideas on where to park in town to avoid getting ticketed; the latest one was if you park on the upper floor of a parking garage, the ticket writers don't go up there so you can park for free. Fourteen were ticketed last night. We are aware that 2 neighborhoods are going to the City Council in April to get neighborhood permitting put in place. That will mean that students who park in those neighborhoods will get ticketed and towed in the future.

Ms. Nusbaum further reported that the Capital Area Rural Transportation System (CARTS), the local and regional bus service, brought in a consultant to review their routes and receive stakeholder input to find improvements. They held community sessions and sent out a survey to which they received more student than city response, so that proved to be good information for them. CARTS has 10 routes and only 5 buses so each bus runs two routes. One recommendation is to combine the University and Outlet Mall routes, which is good, because the University shuttles only go to the Outlet Mall on Saturday. So for those students who work there, they take a bus from campus or different points along the route to get to work and back home, as long as it is between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Another request CARTS received is to extend hours of operation. Phase I will redo some routes at no additional expense and Phase II will add service. There is additional cost to extend their hours of operation and provide Saturday service. Ms. Nusbaum stated she was impressed by the consultant's work. The consultants are proposing a cross town route that will go from the medical center, downtown to the big HEB then to Walmart and back again; it will not stop at the train station. There are a lot of people on that route so it will be a good service. Students ride for free, however, CARTS invoices the University 50 cents for each student who rides.

Edward Gary Street Garage Six Month Revenue

Ms. Nusbaum advised we are on target to make the \$200,000 budget, and should exceed that, as more people are learning about the garage.

Ms. Nusbaum asked the councilmembers if there were any items they needed to bring from their constituency groups, and there were none.

Ms. Nusbaum advised at the next meeting the Council would be reviewing the Parking Rules and Regulations for 14/15.

MEETING ENDED.