

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL  
Thursday, November 14, 2013  
Suite 460, J.C. Kellam Administration Building

Attendance: Ms. Nancy Nusbaum, Dr. Jaymeen Shah, Dr. Roque Mendez, Mr. Cody DeSalvo, Mr. Gordon Green, Ms. Abreeta Goode, Ms. Noragene Green, Dr. John McGee, Mr. Stephen Prentice, Ms. Stephanie Daniels, Ms. Linda Sterling (Scribe).

Absent: Mr. Juan Guerra, Ms. Kathryn Price, Ms. Judy Herington, Dr. Joanne Smith, Chief Ralph Meyer, Mr. Steve Herrera, Mr. Allen Bernabe.

Mr. Stephen Prentice conducted the first few agenda items for Ms. Nusbaum while she finished with another meeting.

Evening Safety Escort Ridership

Mr. Prentice advised that Parking Services is keeping track of riders at Speck Parking Lot; he visited with Dr. Proite regarding no service to Bobcat Village (BV) on Friday evenings. Parking Services started supplementing the shuttle by using the residence hall van. BV numbers are almost equal. The service is being used. Last year there were 10 or 12 riders per week and ridership has increased.

Clear Springs Apartment Parking Lot

The Clear Springs Apartment parking lot has been converted to perimeter parking and has added 120 spaces to the inventory.

Bobcat Shuttle Survey

Ms. Daniels reported that a survey was distributed to 5,000 students to find out which routes the ridership are using. There was one change from the survey that was distributed in e-mail and that was to ask if they ride the Campus Loop route, to help determine how students get around campus once they are here. The results of the survey will help support any route changes next fall when we transition to the new contractor. The survey was sent to a random sampling of students.

Ticket Appeals Committee

Mr. Prentice described the past process for appeals and recommended a committee group be re-established. Mr. DeSalvo related that the problem in the past has been having ASG members show up to review the appeals, and suggested that since this Council is already formed that members from here could also look at the appeals.

A member requested to see the information from T2 on appeals prior to writing up a new process. Another member stressed the importance of anonymity in the appeals decision process so as to avoid any potential bias.

After further discussion it was decided that members of the Ticket Appeals Committee would not be required to meet together at one time but there would be a time period within which members could read and decide on appeals. A training would be held for committee members each September, the ticket appeal review period would take place during the second week of each month, and the committee will be comprised of 3 members of ASG, 3 members of RHA, 3 members of faculty, and 3 members of staff.

A member stated they have a request from a student regarding notification of when a ticket is issued, and if there is a way to e-mail a person who has received a ticket. Mr. Prentice advised Parking Services is in the process of implementing that now.

#### Graduate Assistant Red Restricted Parking Passes

Ms. Nusbaum distributed a spreadsheet showing the different faculty permit types, how many were sold this fall, and if they are eligible to select a 9 or 12-month payroll deduction. Transportation Services (TS) staff recommended to Cabinet, and they have approved, that part-time faculty be eligible to purchase a Restricted permit and per course faculty be permitted to purchase a semester permit. A request for Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) who are the teacher of record to have access to 9-month payroll deduction will go to Cabinet next week.

Mr. DeSalvo stated ASG is in favor of GTAs having access to purchase the Restricted pass, and would like to see that opened up to Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) as well because GRAs spend as much time on campus as GTAs.

Ms. Nusbaum handed out a chart showing how many parking spaces exist in each permit category (excluding Round Rock Campus). Ms. Nusbaum advised that with upcoming construction projects there will be a net loss in parking spaces; that there are 2,200 Restricted spaces for which 3,430 permits are sold, and if you add another 800 Graduate Assistants buying permits there would be cause for concern.

Mr. DeSalvo advised his proposal does not call for all Graduate Assistants to have access to the Restricted permit but a percentage which could then be available through a lottery.

Ms. Nusbaum suggested this subject become part of the overall permit price discussion. Mr. DeSalvo agreed noting a concern that it does not get lost in the larger discussion, and stating that this issue is very important to ASG Graduate House and Senate. Mr. DeSalvo offered to write a proposal for granting some GRA access to Restricted Parking passes.

A member stated that once you open up Restricted parking it is difficult to scale back, and that faculty members already have problems finding a parking spot. Some time ago we allowed GTAs to purchase Restricted permits and said this is where it would stop.

#### Parking Permit Zone and Rate Changes

A member stated that if the freshmen bring their car to campus, that parking space is occupied all day so residents should have perimeter parking, not next to the residence halls.

A member suggested TS consider issuing a semester permit. Ms. Nusbaum advised that at the round table discussion the evening prior a student asked about that as well because it's difficult for them to come up with the money all at one time; they also asked if they could pay on a payment plan. Another student mentioned they were graduating mid-term and would buy a semester permit if one was available. Ms. Nusbaum suggested another discussion topic in December could be night permits. Mr. DeSalvo said he would like to discuss the possibility of pay-to-park spaces at the Speck lot. Ms. Nusbaum stated that she too had heard interest from different groups about that option and TS staff will prepare a cost/benefit analysis for different possibilities, including QR codes. Mr. Prentice advised there could be challenges with the current rules and regulations which state you must have a permit in order to park on campus. Ms. Nusbaum advised that TS staff could try to identify an area where pay-to-park would work. Ms. Nusbaum also advised that TS staff would bring these options to the December meeting in the form of proposals.

A member asked that the document showing faculty and types of passes be forwarded electronically to their department assistant.

#### Ranch Road 12 Route Stop

Mr. DeSalvo advised he received an e-mail from a student saying no longer having a stop at Speck Street Garage on this route is preventing her to have access to a class. Ms. Nusbaum advised the Campus Loop route has a stop at Speck Garage. Ms. Daniels advised there have been no recent complains via e-mail or social media regarding this. Ms. Nusbaum asked Mr. DeSalvo to send that e-mail to her because TS staff are looking at routes closely to try and eliminate redundancies to make improvements for the spring semester.

#### Carpool Program Recommendation

Mr. DeSalvo and Mr. Prentice offered to review the proposal Ms. Audrey Webb presented to the Council at the September 27, 2013, and bring back recommendations on what should be implemented.

Mr. DeSalvo relayed that he and Mr. Prentice suggest increasing temporary tags for carpool riders from 2 to 3 per semester, issuing 2 carpool permits per semester to each carpool group, increasing advertising of carpool spaces and how to connect with other carpool users. Mr. Prentice advised that they did not support the emergency ride home but are attempting to mitigate that by providing more temporary permits to give more flexibility. Ms. Nusbaum advised that another carpooling service are doing a pilot with UT Austin and Texas State University so that would be on the horizon soon as well. Ms. Nusbaum then asked if the Council was in agreement with these proposed changes to the carpool permits.

NONE OPPOSED.

Ms. Nusbaum asked councilmembers to carry the introduced subject matter to their constituents and bring feedback for the December meeting; she stated she would like the information the week after Thanksgiving as she was meeting with the freshman Council after the holiday.

### First Day of Fall Bus Service

Ms. Nusbaum advised a Committee on campus distributed a calendar to Cabinet for August 2014 and the first day of class will be Monday, August 25, 2014. The week prior to that the following events take place: residence hall move in, freshman transfer orientations (two days), faculty orientation, Paws Preview, international student orientation, Convocation, department meetings and new student convocation. In prior years the bus service did not start until the Saturday before classes start. A lot of students wondered why bus service did not start after move in. Steve Herrera is working on a proposal to start bus service a week early to help students.

A member asked if TS could make an opportunity to develop a program to get students familiar with shuttle service and parking on campus. Ms. Daniels stated that a new carpool company inquired about doing something in orientation. A member suggested an interactive video during Paws Preview as students are mandated to attend. Another member suggested the new shuttle provider may be interested in an opportunity to introduce themselves.

Ms. Nusbaum stated TS staff will research getting materials into freshman orientation if we are unable to get a presence there, explore the possibility of an interactive video, and discuss separate parking/bus sessions that may run a couple of times.