

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES ADVISORY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 21, 2015, 3:45 – 4:45 P.M., JCK 1140 REGENTS ROOM

In Attendance: Ms. Nancy Nusbaum, Chair, Ms. Stephanie Daniels, Mr. Anthony Galo, Mr. Gordie Green, Mr. Steve Herrera, Dr. Margaret Menninger, Chief Ralph Meyer, Ms. Alisha Mohammed, Mr. Stephen Prentice, Mr. Joshua Quinn (Intern SAHE-VPSA), Dr. Jaymeen Shah, Dr. Joanne Smith, Ms. Linda Sterling (Scribe)

Absent: Ms. Ashley Cantu, Mr. Marcus Hendry and Dr. Roque Mendez (out for the semester)

Approve Minutes

Ms. Nusbaum asked if members had any concerns or changes to the minutes of the September 23, 2015, meeting. There were no changes. Minutes will be finalized and posted on the Transportation Services Advisory Council website.

Bus Route Changes for Spring

Ms. Nusbaum advised the handout is a proposal for spring shuttle service, and that Transportation Services staff meet with Loop 82 Construction stakeholders to ensure they are still following the schedule they have provided, or to learn if there are any changes. Ms. Nusbaum reviewed the route and schedule changes.

REVIEW BOBCAT SHUTTLE RIDERSHIP

Ms. Nusbaum reviewed the handout concerning shuttle ridership explaining the data is for only one week because the counters in the buses have not been working; manual counts are being taken and the data is based on staff observations. She further explained that DoubleMap has been working diligently the last few weeks performing several upgrades to the system and installing new hardware in the buses. Mr. Herrera tested the counters and they appear to be working. Staff is hoping to go live with the entire system in the next two weeks.

A member asked what Route 30 PW is.

Ms. Nusbaum explained it is the Pathways route that takes students to Austin Community College Hays Campus.

Review Carts Ridership

Ms. Nusbaum explained the university has an agreement with Capital Area Regional Transportation Service that faculty, staff, and students can ride without charge with Texas State ID card. Transportation Services were paying 50 cents per ride per person for CARTS to provide this service, but in January it increased to \$1.00.

A member asked if the number on the handout represented trips or individuals, and Ms. Nusbaum replied that it is individual riders.

Ms. Nusbaum asked if there were any questions or thoughts on the changes to shuttle service for the spring.

A member stated the changes to the Campus Loop route will be good for students.

Zipcar Usage Report

Ms. Nusbaum reviewed the report and asked if there were any questions; there were none.

Ms. Nusbaum also advised that ZipCar is planning to bring two more cars to campus and that staff is recommending they be located on west campus between the two new residence halls. Staff is working with the Department of Housing and Residence Life and Parking Services for the actual locations.

Preliminary Fund Balance Accounting for Shuttle, Parking, and Bike Cave

Ms. Nusbaum reviewed the handout, reporting that all fund balances (reserves) were in the plus for fiscal year 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

Housekeeping - Council Membership: Mr. Galo advised that Mr. Andrew Hill will be the new Student Government representative along with himself. Mr. Green confirmed his participation until 2018.

Ms. Nusbaum noted the need to clarify Staff Council representatives, but that Mr. Hendry was absent and unable to discuss.

Ms. Nusbaum reported that staff has researched alternative transportation programs at other universities particularly "Gotcha," started at Florida State University by a student. The service is provided by large golf carts that transport faculty, staff, and students around campus, especially those that have accessible needs or injuries. There is no cost to the university as the carts are wrapped in sponsor advertising. Drivers are students who volunteer their time, and whom riders may tip. The institutions that staff talked to such as Arizona State, Florida State and Texas Tech are all eliminating the program because it is not reliable, and they cannot depend on student volunteers to be the drivers. Our staff has made the decision that is not where we need to go. Ms. Nusbaum asked to confirm that the Office of Disability Services currently provides similar transportation.

Dr. Smith responded that the current program is Cats on the Go, but that there is limited funding at this time. Chief Meyer explained that users of this service are cleared through the Office of Disability Services and that the University Police Department manages the service but due to limited funding, only students are able to use it at this time.

Ms. Nusbaum reported that MegaBus service travels from Dallas, through Austin to San Antonio and also Houston. MegaBus is currently working with Texas A&M to establish bus service from the Bryan-College Station area. Ms. Nusbaum and Mr. Herrera made some nice contacts at A&M recently, touring their bus facility and talking to their alternative transportation staff, and have asked these contacts to help Texas State staff communicate with MegaBus about a possible stop in San Marcos. Texas State will provide data about how many students live on and off campus and where their home towns are.

MegaBus may be able to provide daily, but especially weekend and holiday travel for students to get home to Dallas, Houston, and, San Antonio.

A member asked what data was used and Ms. Nusbaum replied applications by county and data from Institutional Research; staff is hopeful the service will come to San Marcos. A member stated their department has a lot of student workers from Dallas and that getting home is difficult for them.

Ms. Nusbaum reported that staff has looked at a bike share program and released a request for proposals. Unfortunately, there were issues with the response. Staff is talking to A&M about how their bike share worked in the past because they have eliminated what they were doing. A&M are considering forming a consortium that Texas State may join. We do that through the bike cave and we have had some usage. Not well advertised but is used. Is there a taxi company here in town?

There was general discussion of other alternative transportation methods that the university employs and that staff is currently researching.

There was general discussion about the usage of the Edward Gary Street pay garage and any benefit to advertising it in the community.

A member asked if there is a way to avoid ticketing ROTC members who are training at the Student Recreation Center in the morning before 7:00 a.m. Ms. Nusbaum explained there are park and pay machines in the vicinity they could use, and that Parking Services cannot make exceptions for one particular group. Mr. Prentice added they can purchase perimeter permits and park in the Speck Garage.

A member asked why October ZipCar utilization was low. Ms. Nusbaum explained that those numbers were for only half a month.

A member informed the council that legislation will be introduced to the Student Senate calling for change in parking rules on Friday afternoons. All zone parking is allowed on Friday after 5 pm. Student Government would like that changed to noon because there is not as much traffic and buses don't run. It is more convenient for students that may have meetings.

Ms. Nusbaum advised if the only agenda item for next month is approval of the meeting minutes then the meeting will be cancelled.