

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 6, 2004

Attending: Shamim Sisson, Chair; Reba Camp; Mike Coleman; Mark Fletcher; Clayton Powers; Jo Lawson; Carole Lohman; Mark Reisler; Len Schoppa; Bill Thurneck

Guests: Rich Kovatch

Ms. Sisson opened the meeting at 3:40 pm with a welcome to the new committee year and round table introductions with a special welcome to Ms. Camp, as the new Health System representative; and Mr. Powers, a new co-chair of Student Council's Student Life Committee. She also announced that Mr. Phil Moran, long time Health System ex-officio member would not be available as he is leaving the Health System to take position with the Shakespeare Theater in his hometown, Staunton. Many thanks and much appreciation for his dedication goes to Mr. Moran.

Mr. Kovatch spoke for Vice President Reynolds who was unavoidably unavailable for this meeting. He reviewed the charge to the committee with expansion of specific issues facing the group this year with long range planning being critical for now and the future. Policies and models to manage assets will be important as more and more building projects displace parking. The Carr's Hill project with a structure of 400 or so spaces will be put on P&T to finance the \$600, 000 annual debt. The 400 spaces will not generate the requirement. The South Lawn structure will also contribute a debt service for P&T to pay. According to University Architect Neuman, other academic projects in the engineering school as well as other schools will displace parking.

This year is the year in which a new 3-year rate plan will be put together. The department's 10-year proforma, which is a part of the budget process, is a good starting point. Other key issues will be Demand Management and the Bus Stop evaluation project completion. The bus system was modified significantly last year. The service is quite valuable and is heavily used by students at the current level of 10 minute service in the daytime and 12 minute at night. This is a very high level of service. We will continue to look at the bus service this year. Perhaps there is a need to extend service later into the evening but the questions to be answered relate to impact. It is also critical to maintain the 15-year bus replacement schedule with appropriate contributions to the department's reserves. We also might want to consider reducing the replacement schedule to 12 years. We have a good system that is not broken but there may be opportunities for improvement. Mr. Sandridge and Ms. Reynolds appreciate this group coming together for the benefit of the University community and the service of each committee member.

Ms. White provided a department update for the committee. Mr. Moran's service to the committee and the community over the years was cited and recognized by Ms. White. A department employee of 26 years, Mr. Roger Parrish, will be retiring effective January 1, 2005.

- The department has initiated on-line access for citation appeals, which also reflects adjudication as a response. An on-line citation payment option was made available on October 5, 2004 but has not yet been marketed
- The Occasional Parking program was put on hold due to a technical communication issue with the current access control system. The issue has been addressed and marketing will begin soon.
- The Emmet-Ivy Garage has 1130-1150 daily parkers with peak between 11am and 1pm. The facility is being well utilized. It has been used for 35 special events and has not presented the feared traffic nightmare. All types of parkers are using the facility. There are about 400 overnight parkers regularly.
- UTS is now able to capture passenger counts by bus stop. Data by stop and time is being captured using PDA technology and will help with service plans.
- The Health Systems South Garage expansion of 420 spaces was opened on September 20, 2004. The facility is now the systems largest with 1,399 spaces.
- The T&P Committee information with minutes is now on the P&T Website.
- The McCormick Road gates are not in operation but should be in the next two weeks. New technology had to be sought since our transducer manufacturer quit making the unit.
- The Central Grounds Garage had the upper floor insulation (under the bookstore) replaced. Birds and other critters were making homes and destroying the original material which was replaced with a spray on type product.
- The Air Services division of the department is the proud owner of a 2001 Citation Bravo airplane. This jet aircraft is having new avionics installed, is being repainted and reupholstered. The passenger capability is 6 comfortably or 7 if needed. The old plane a King-Air C-90 turbo prop is for sale.
- The department pursued and instituted a revised bus driver recruitment and retention plan and has netted a definite increase in bus drivers with more trainees being recruited. A proactive safety committee made up of bus drivers has yielded a boost to driver morale, properly placed stop bars, sight line improvement, and safety reflectors.
- Upcoming goals and challenges include the Thursday night football game and the city's street car demo project evaluation. Two groups will travel to Tacoma and Seattle, Washington to review the city projects.
- A new rate plan is needed. Transit Demand Management, construction losses, Cancer Center/demolition of Garage West in the Medical Center, the opening of the new Arena, changes in the Emmet-Ivy garage are all challenges.
- In response to the questions, Ms. White indicated that current parkers in the EIG will have first priority to stay in that garage with any changes that are made.
- The next on-line project for the department will be the permit renewal process.
- In an effort to address the issues related to parking financing, the requirement to gain \$600,000 will require an increase of \$3-\$4 per month per parking permit.
- The South Lawn project is slated for summer 06 at the very earliest possible. B2 and B4 will be lost due to the Rouss Hall expansion. That project is progressing, the trees have been taken down.

Ms. Sisson asked for volunteers to take part in the Bus Stop Safety subcommittee in order to complete the review. Clayton Powers and Jo Lawson volunteered. The on-grounds stops will be reviewed first and then they will go to the UTS stops off grounds. This will provide discussion items with the city and county related to bus stops.

Mr. Powers stated that Student Council was working on a permanent means of communication with students. Core groups of 100-200 people and comment boxes in dorms are some of the means being discussed. Council wants to review both needs and behaviors and will be working over the next month or so to get information that would be helpful to Parking and Transportation. Included also could be surveys and informational meetings.

Ms. White indicated that the GEO-Code update would be accomplished this year. It is an every two-year update. This system can provide demographic information for the committee, Student Council and others.

Mr. Powers brought forth an initiative from Student Council to extend night bus service on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 12:20 am to 3:30 am. as a means to prevent unsafe walking by students. Students would appreciate this late service. Discussion on why so late and issues related to students working until 3:30 am along with policy, behavior, funding and other resources were discussed. Mr. Powers indicated that Student Council would provide \$5,000 for a pilot project.

Mr. Powers questioned the permit policy relating to the Wertland Street lot and the President's lot at Madison Hall. Ms. White explained that Wertland Street required a University permit at all times but any permit was acceptable after 5pm. The lot will be leaving the inventory in April of 2005. The A0 lot requires an A0 permit at all times.

The third item that Mr. Powers brought was one of concern related to bus stops at Lambeth. He did not feel that it was a big concern with most residents of Lambeth if the Southbound stop is to be placed as planned in consonance with the pedestrian bridge completion. Ms. Lawson reported after the meeting that the pedestrian bridge is slated for completion by the end of November.

Further discussion relayed *Saferide* information as well as a plea for Mr. Powers and others to volunteer as "shotguns" for *Saferide* in order to gather information on ridership and wait durations. A 15-minute wait is what is perceived by the Office of Student Life. Mr. Fletcher commented that true safety and legal issues need to be reviewed. Ms. Sisson advised that First Year Council was considering taking on the *Safewalk* service as a class project.

In reviewing the meeting schedule, the proposed time was fine at 3:30 – 5:00 pm but the dates are as follows:

November 17	March 9
December 8	April 13
February 9	All are Wednesdays

The meeting site will be P&T Conference Room for the current semester and likely on grounds for the Spring Semester.

There being no other business, Ms. Sisson adjourned the meeting with a reminder that the next meeting will be November 17 at which time the next rate plan will be discussed.