

Transportation Services Advisory Council

September 23, 2021, 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance

Paul Aleman, Dr. Stephen Awoniyi, Dr. David Byrd, Stephanie Daniels, Chief James Dixon, Dr. Joseph Falocco, Anita Ford, Steve Herrera, Brian McKay, Marci Peterson, Margarita Pitti, Stephen Prentice, Alex Vogt

Not in Attendance

John Rogers

Introduce New Members/ Review Purpose of Council, Mechanics of Communication, Agenda Items

Mr. Herrera asked everyone in the group to introduce themselves and then he explained the purpose of the Transportation Services Advisory Council.

Hear any Proposals

Student request to purchase a red restricted parking permit

This request from a non-traditional student who has the majority of their classes in the Joann Cole Mitte building. The council discussed the request and voted to not allow this student to purchase a red parking permit.

The members voted 6-1 not to approve the request.

Anthropology GA requesting to purchase red restricted parking permit

This request came from a GA with the Department of Agriculture. They manage the garden that surrounds the Agriculture Building and requested permission to exchange their purple commuter parking permit for a red parking permit in order to park closer to the garden. After discussing this, the council voted not to grant this request.

The members voted unanimously not to approve the request.

Parking Ticket Appeal

This ticket appeal is regarding a ticket that was written for unlawful use of ADA parking space. Mr. Prentice and Mr. Herrera explained the appeal to the group and Mr. Prentice presented language from the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles regarding the use of disability license plates.

It is a violation of state law to use the placard or plates for a disabled parking spot without the person with the disability in the vehicle. People who misuse disabled parking placards are subject to fines of up to \$1,250 and/or up to 50 hours of community service.¹

Chief Dixon also explained that the owner of the placard or license plate has to either be operating the vehicle or in the vehicle in order to use the handicap placards or plates.

Mr. Herrera abstained from voting because he had spoken on the phone with the person appealing the ticket.

The members voted unanimously not to approve this ticket appeal.

Review Parking, Bus, Bike Cave and Nite Cats Budgets for Ensuing Fiscal Year

Mr. Prentice presented the Parking Services budgets for FY 2021 and FY 2022. As expected, due to COVID-19, revenue was less than previous years. Because classes were mostly held remotely, fewer parking permits were purchased, and fewer parking tickets were written in FY 2021. He explained that in FY 2022 parking permit sales have exceeded expectations for the fall 2021 semester.

Mr. Herrera presented the budgets for the Bobcat Shuttle, Bike Cave and Nite Cats programs. Also due to most classes moving online in FY 2021, Transportation Services lost a significant amount of its revenue because the student bus fee could not be collected. Because of this Transportation Services did have to use money from reserves to pay for services during FY 2021. Revenue is projected to be closer to normal levels in FY 2022.

Mr. Herrera also explained that the Bike Cave had to use some reserves in FY 2021 as well. Ms. Daniels explained that one of the reasons their revenue was lower in FY 2021 was that sales of bus advertising helps fund the Bike Cave. With students taking classes online bus ad sales also went down in FY 2021.

Transportation Services has a new program that started in the fall of 2021 call Nite Cats. This is a new on-demand, last-mile transportation amenity on campus. Nite Cats adds another layer of transit service for students and provides convenient on-demand access to transportation on campus. Because this is the first year of this program, Mr. Herrera presented the budget for FY 2022, which is \$69,516.25.

Transportation Services also has a small budget for costs associated with providing transportation for presidential events and other special events on campus. That fund did have a profit of \$2,218.34 in FY 2021. The budget for FY 2022 remains the same as the previous year at \$4,600.

Review Shuttle Routes/Enumerate Service Changes

Ms. Daniels presented the Bobcat Shuttle route changes for the fall 2021 semester. The main changes were made to Route 12 – Bobcat Village and Route 14 – Campus Loop.

¹ <https://www.txdmv.gov/motorists/disabled-parking-placards-plates>

- Routes 12 and 14 end at 5:30 p.m. and combine into Route 45 – Campus Connector.
- The Water Tower stop has been added to Campus Loop.
- The Speck Garage stop has been added to Campus Loop.
- The Spring Lake Fields bus stop at the Spring Lake Field Complex has been added and runs from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- Route 55 – Night Connector services the Spring Lake Fields and all stops on routes 12 and 14.

Next Meeting

An email poll will be sent out to choose a date and time for the next meeting.