

Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 21, 2014

Place: PTS Conference Room, Stadium Parking Garage

Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

I. Open Forum

II. Approval of February Meeting Minutes

III. Final Discussion and Vote

- 1) Transportation Infrastructure Development Fund (TIDF)
 - i. Bob provided a matrix showing TIDF Proposal Comparisons of the four different proposals:
 - Original proposal by the author, Emmanuel Papadakis
 - Revised original proposal by Bob Browand
 - Dr. Papadakis' Resolution
 - Suggested proposal by Administration with TPAC recommendations
 - ii. The Suggested proposal only applies to construction by non-University entities such as the current Metro rail line construction. Thus reimbursements would still occur but much less often due to the fact that the majority of campus construction is by the University.
 - iii. Ruth Manny made a motion to accept the wording of the Purpose from the Suggested proposal and add it to the Revised Original: "provide financial means for long-term planning for parking, rates, and transportation services." Motion was accepted.
 - iv. TPAC unanimously accepted the Revised Original proposal with the changed purpose.
 - v. Vote:
 - Original: 0
 - Revised with changes: Unanimous
 - Resolution: 0
 - Suggested: 0
 - Motion passed for the Revised proposal with changes

IV. New Business

- 1) Student Transit Fee
 - i. Bob collected a recent study of transit fees at large universities around the country. The current national transit fee averages \$45/student per fall and spring semesters, with a reduced fee in the summer.
 - ii. Due to a fixed student tuition at UH no new fees will be added now, Bob will research more.
 - iii. Main decision centered around what services would PTS provide for this Transit Fee? How will this be marketed to students and faculty for acceptance?
 - iv. Suggestions by Committee:
 - Collect data and conduct surveys to determine what additional shuttle service students want
 - Consider a Pay-per-use method, or as a voluntary cost
 - v. Referendum will be needed after Fall 2015 in order to propose a Transit Fee to SGA or Student Advisory Committee
 - vi. Chair Parks: TPAC will develop a survey to ask students what they want in their transit service. Define "transit service."

- vii. A transit fee will be needed in order to satisfy any additional requests or amenities, and to fund improvements that have already been made to the current shuttle service. PTS has already increased the number of buses on this current routes which has resulted in the transit service being \$600,000 to \$700,000 over budget
 - viii. Currently, every bus route is continuous: 2 buses on Campus Loop, about 15-20 minute interval time. ERP peak time is Tues-Thurs, 6 buses, 5-minute intervals. Outer Loop has 5 buses, 7-9 minute intervals. Last buses on Mon-Thurs is 11pm, Fri is 9pm.
 - ix. Paul Benigmo, Senior Manager of Groome Transportation: Had cut costs on original services for affordability, but there were no positive results when surveying students personally on campus. Added the needed buses and is willing to cut costs again, if necessary.
 - x. Extra work and data needed for further discussion:
 - Where to cut back costs
 - What students want in transit service
 - xi. Chair Parks: Commit to current service through August, and in the meantime, come up with a solution in order to implement after August.
- 2) Break Shuttle
- i. Bob reported that he was contacted by a company call Break Shuttle. This is a company that provides shuttle service to students during academic breaks. It serves Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. They currently operating in Texas Tech and North Texas.
 - If considered, need contract, RFP, and liability
 - Or, discuss with Groome Transportation for possible integration
 - ii. To be promoted by PTS, and could be added to the student survey for transit services

V. Updates

- 1) Frontier Fiesta (FF)
- i. Parking was successful during FF, ERP lot did not fill but campus lots were full
 - ii. Opened East Garage Student level at 3pm Thursday, March 20th and Visitor level at 5 pm. Both areas stayed open until Monday morning
- 2) Marketing
- i. The past three weeks, information was sent out to UH community about FF, through social media, emails, and message boards
 - ii. Currently working on Fall 2014 Make Ready with new permit prices. More information at next meeting.
- 3) Operations
- i. Summer maintenance is within budget. Bidders met yesterday, and they will get started by May graduations.
- 4) Director's Report
- i. Due to Enforcement revenue going down in a three-year trend, Bob provided a handout documenting, from FY2009 through FY2013, an analysis of the Appeals court, discounted periods for citation payments, and citations issued per garage versus surface lot spaces.
 - The traffic court is finding more citation appeals guilty, thus more appealed citations are paying fines. Therefore the reduction in revenue is not due to the Appeals court.
 - There was a decrease in the number of enforcement staff, but reduction only happened this year and doesn't explain the other two years.
 - The number of surface lot spaces have remained the same, therefore the reduction in revenue does not seem to be due to a reduction of surface parking or parkers
 - Kamron suggested looking at raising parking citation fines. Citation fines have risen three times in past 15 years

- Bill Ashley: on Traffic Court for 7-8 years suggests educating new judges. Chair Parks suggests providing training video as an action item.
- ii. RFP for Rideshare program is due next Wednesday and Bob will contact selections
- iii. Negotiations with Zipcar (Carshare program) are in process.
- iv. Announcement that PTS will have a change in staff and add new positions: Financial Assistant, Administrative Coordinator, Communications Coordinator, Program Manager for the evening, and Program Coordinator for Transportation

VI. Member Items

- a. PJ Safavi: Asks for thoughts on the suggestion to have two smaller Campus Loops as proposed from last meeting
 - i. Chair Parks: TPAC and PTS is not the position to add or change the service and will manage current services now with more pressing matters.

VII. Adjournment

NEXT MEETING:

Date: April 18, 2014

Place: PTS Conference Room, Stadium Parking Garage

Time: 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm