University of Houston
Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 25, 2009

Attendees: Carlos Pedemonte, Ron Singer, Derral Parkin, Jaesub Lee, Robert Walker, Leslie Pruski, Sean Tarver, Emily Messa, Paul Lozano, Jean Valyan, Syed Kamran Riaz, Bob Browand, Linda Steber, Sam Dike, Maria Honey

I. Open Forum
   a. James Glennie – Director of Energy Research
      i. Shared the idea of a smart grid on campus that could be used to provide some parking spots for electric vehicles to plug into.
      ii. With the roll out of more green cars, like the Nissan Leaf, expected in the near future, the concept of having plug-in facilities on campus is one that the committee will need to think about.

II. Operational Update from Parking and Transportation
   a. Update on Parking Situation
      i. Student Satisfaction Survey Results
         1. Parking ratings went down this year which is reflective of parking lots lost to construction and increase in enrollment.
         2. Shuttle bus frequency and timeliness rating were also lower compared to the previous year.
            a. Shuttle bus service will be evaluated in the coming weeks. Evaluation will include riding buses, talking to students, looking at signage, and clearer route names. Expect to have results ready to present with recommendations by late October.
         3. Committee discussed the idea of conducting an employee survey and compare data to that gathered by the student satisfaction survey.
      ii. Summer Parking Enhancements/Construction Project Updates
         1. Phase four of lot 4A got complete. Half of the remaining area will be completed in spring 2010 and other half sometime in 2011 or 2012 depending on METRO’s progress.
         2. Residential lots 21A and 21B will need to be finished after garage opens. Work includes paving and adding lighting.
         3. Street repair on entrance 18 was completed to smooth surface.
         4. FPC to turnover Eastside garage the first week in November.
            a. Possible opening dates, Nov. 3-9.
            b. Currently finishing out garage elevators. Centerpoint will be installing transformer next week.
            c. Plan includes opening the garage to all permit holders, except those with economy permit, for the remainder of the semester.
            d. Plan is to set up a link on the website to start a wait list for getting a spring semester garage permit. Once ready to sell or upgrade permits, people on the list would be contacted.
e. Campus loop route might be modified to make a stop at the garage.

iii. METRO Construction/Stadium Parking Garage Construction Challenges
1. METRO has started to tear down houses on lots they own on Wheeler.
   a. UH will sell it’s lots to METRO for approximately $1.2 million. Proceeds will go towards Stadium Garage #1.
2. Board has approved UH getting bids and designs for Stadium Garage #1
   a. Garage will likely be on corner of Scott and Holman.
   b. $24 million has already been set aside for the construction.
   c. RFQ was released and 16 companies have responded. Will be meeting with companies and select five of them to submit a proposal.
   d. The garage will have 25% employee, 10% visitor and 65% student spaces.

iv. Action Taken to Address the Fall Parking Challenges
1. Opened up back side of Energy Research Park (ERP) for student parking. Approximately 500 uncovered student spaces available.
2. Covered spaces at ERP can be used for UH employees.
3. Information on the availability of this student lot was sent via email, posted on parking website, ad in the Daily Cougar, peer-to-peer direct communications in the parking lots.

b. RHE Parking Policy
   i. Committee reviewed RHE parking policy and decided to start enforcing it. RHE permit holders will receive an email with the information and be given warning citation for a few days before fully enforcing.

c. NextBus Implementation
   i. NextBus is a shuttle bus passenger tracking system.
   ii. Scheduled to launch late October or early November, it will provide real time projections of arrival times using GPS.
   iii. Washington D.C. is currently utilizing this system as do several colleges and universities.

d. Green Commuter Fair
   i. Fair held at the UC Satellite, PGH and Welcome Center to promote green commuting with the focus of signing up commuters for their METRO Q-card. 661 people were served during the Sept 1 and 2 event.
   ii. Emily Messa served as the Green Commuting Doctor at the fair and helped student find green commuting solutions.

III. Follow up Points for Next Meeting
a. Committee to decide on doing a parking survey for UH employees.
b. Look into providing a crosswalk for students parking in lot 4A; will need to talk to public safety department.
c. Send an email to UH employees about the extra parking available at ERP.
d. Inquire with Student Affairs on the long term plans of Bayou Oaks grassy lot.
e. Look into placing a link to its webpage in myUH.
f. Inquire about the possibility of campus radio incorporating parking availability notices into their traffic alert.