All-University Traffic and Transportation Committee
MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2012

PRESENT
BUCKWALTER, DENEAU, FASHBAUGH, KACOS, MARTIN-STONEY, MILLER, NOWICKI, OTTARSON, PEDRAZA, POTTER, REID, RICE, ROBERTSON, SHAMASS

ABSENT
BROWN, CALDWELL, LI, MARTENIUK, POLZIN, RHA Rep., SIGNORINI, STUDENT AFFAIRS Rep.,

GUESTS
John Prush: MSU Police Department

CALL TO ORDER
1403

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
There were no objections to the agenda. The agenda was approved.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES
Quorum was not met in January, and February’s meeting was held in conjunction with Physical Plant’s Construction Junction. Both November 2011 and January 2012 minutes were reviewed and voted on for approval. All were in favor of both sets of minutes, none were opposed. The November 2011 and January 2012 minutes were approved.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT
POTTER stated that The State News published an article regarding moped parking on campus after hearing the AUTTC subcommittee preliminary recommendations at the February Construction Junction meeting.

DENEAU reported that he received comment from several MSU students and staff that only having the single bus stop at East Complex (near Akers and Conrad Halls) lead to greater walking distances to destinations in the area and to potential riders finding the bus full.

DEPARTMENT/ORGANIZATION UPDATES
AFSCME, 1585/999, 547 O.E.:
MARTIN-STONEY stated that there were no updates to report.

APA/APSA:
NOWICKI stated that there was concern regarding parking rates increasing from the APSA, but no updates to report otherwise.
ASMSU:
OTTARSON and SHAMASS both stated that there were no updates to report.

CTU:
ROBERTSON stated that there were no updates to report.

Campus Planning and Administration:
KACOS stated there were no updates to report.

Department of Police and Public Safety:
RICE stated that there were no updates to report.

Faculty:
MILLER stated that the misuse of parking in the visitor section of Lot 32 had been reduced with the removal of the gate and the implementation of token metered parking.

MILLER stated that vehicles backing out of the adjacent bays along Fee Road posed a safety issue for both pedestrians and vehicles.

MILLER stated that based on her observation of the CATA bus stop near Conrad Hall, there appeared to be peak times of ridership in the morning and during the winter.

REID stated that he had no updates to report, however, noted he was concerned with parking rates.

DENEAU commented that different cultures may be more assertive in accessing the buses due to experience in mass-transit travel.

MSU BIKES: POTTER stated that he had met with two CATA and one of The Lodges representatives, as well as Lt. Holton of MSU Police and Gus Gosselin of the Physical Plant regarding bicycle/bus safety issues.

DENEAU asked if the bus drivers had a training program.

POTTER stated that CATA had training two times a year.

REID reported that he had witnessed a CATA bus blocking two lanes at the Shaw Lane hub to allow another bus into the roadway.

RICE stated that he would carry those comments to the CATA Operations Director.

PEDRAZA asked if CATA was required to be at the AUTTC meetings.
RICE stated that they were not, but that he would mention it at the next CATA board meeting.

POTTER reported he suggested that CATA consider using a “How’s my driving?” sticker on their buses that included a phone number that could be called to submit complaints.

Office of the Ombudsman:
Representative not present. No update.

Physical Plant: FASHBAUGH stated that there were no updates to report.

Transit (CATA):
Representative not present. No update.

RCPD:
PEDRAZA stated that RCPD was celebrating its 40th anniversary and holding its Awards & Appreciation ceremonies on April 13th from 1 PM – 5 PM.

Campus Sustainability:
Representative not present. No update.

OLD BUSINESS
POTTER recapped the February presentation held at the Physical Plant’s Construction Junction.

NEW BUSINESS
PARKING RATES 2012-2014
RICE stated that he asked for a motion of support from the AUTTC regarding the new cycle of parking rates.

RICE reported that effort had been made to keep the increase of parking rates to a minimum and that the increase had been reviewed by Dr. Poston.

RICE stated that in 1983 the Board of Trustees made the system self-supporting. He continued that periodically the rates must be raised supporting increased maintenance costs for the lots, noting that there were currently 24,500 spaces in the system to maintain.

RICE reported that in 2013, it was expected to cost $1.7 million of retained earnings to upgrade the Jenison lot.

NOWICKI stated he appreciated the effort to keep the increase to a minimum.
NOWICKI asked if the Board of Trustees could seek an alternate way to support the system and take the burden off MSU employees.

NOWICKI asked if the University could return to charging for bicycle permits to help fund bicycle racks.

RICE stated that the main reason that bicycles were registered was to have record in case one was stolen and to comply with University ordinances requiring registration.

MILLER asked if it could be rolled into student fees.

RICE replied that such an action would be considered an increase in student fees for the purposes of the State Legislature and would therefore lower the possible State allocation to MSU for academic purposes.

REID agreed with NOWICKI regarding finding an alternate way to support the system.

REID suggested that special event parking fees be increased instead of charging those working for the University. He stated that those infringing on the system should pay for the system.

REID suggested that both special event and violation fees be increased to alleviate the burden of employees supporting the system.

RICE stated that it could be argued if special event fees were raised, people may not be willing to pay them and therefore the proceeds may actually decrease.

RICE stated that a recommendation for considering alternate sources of funding the parking system could be carried forward to Dr. Poston if the committee voted in favor of doing so.

RICE stated that it was a revenue issue and he would convey the concerns to Dr. Poston.

RICE asked for a motion of support for the 2012-2014 parking rates.

PEDRAZA motioned to support the 2012-2014 parking rates.

SHAMASS seconded the motion.

The majority of the members were in support of the 2012-2014 parking rates.

NOWICKI asked if a recommendation could be made regarding alternate funding to the parking system versus parking rate increases.

RICE stated that a recommendation could be drafted and the committee could vote on it.
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

DENEAU presented a draft of the AUTTC subcommittee recommendations to review with discussion following:

1) Establish formula as utilized by other universities a ratio of building occupants and # of bike users by occupant type, for determining the amount of adequate bike parking per building or area of campus. This would address overcrowding that currently exists in many areas which results in personal property damage, and visually detracts from campus. Perform annual surveys of campus locations to establish shifting or growing parking needs.

POTTER stated that he and a couple other subcommittee members met with Dennis Hansen, Landscape Architect, regarding AUTTC-related bicycle parking.

PEDRAZA stated that he thought it premature that the members held a meeting with Dennis Hansen in regards.

DENEAU stated that persons were locking bicycles to sign posts and it was not posted otherwise that they could not.

PEDRAZA stated that locking them to signs may be a result of the bicycle racks being full.

DENEAU stated that there should be signs posted to direct bicyclists to bicycle parking.

MILLER stated that the sign posted near Conrad Hall indicating the location of bicycle parking had worked well.

DENEAU stated that crowding of bicycles could lead to property damage and/or possible injury when retrieving a bicycle.

POTTER stated that the racks held up better than the loops and suggested that the University retain the racks, even if more loops were being installed.

FASHBAUGH agreed racks were better.

REID asked if such racks were mobile.

FASHBAUGH replied that they could be moved.
POTTER stated that Dennis Hansen of the Physical Plant was checking on adding cross-bars to fit the existing bicycle loops.

2) Study new bike rack design for future additions and end of life replacement of existing bike parking racks. New rack designs are shown to hold more bikes per rack and help to keep bikes upright preventing damage to bikes. Retrofit existing old style loops with crossbars to help hold bikes upright. Provide signage on proper locking techniques at locations.

3) Plan and fund lined and signed moped parking areas near residential neighborhoods and main academic buildings to reduce current parking issues and unauthorized use of pedestrian pathways for travel.
   a. Locate parking areas near adjacent roads to help reduce use of pedestrian walkways and trails by mopeds attempting to reach parking areas.
   b. Provide signage to indicate moped vs. bike parking.
   c. Provide directional signs to bike and moped parking areas near most building entrances.
   d. Provide signage on main pedestrian/bikeways like river greenway area to prohibit use of mopeds.

MILLER stated the recommendation should be to study the feasibility and not recommend to plan and fund.

POTTER agreed that it needed to be studied further.

PEDRAZA stated that mopeds trying to access the bicycle racks off the streets and along the sidewalks may be dangerous.

MILLER asked the reason for not treating mopeds the same as motorcycles.

DENEAU responded that students would then be relegated to using designated student parking lots or pay lots.

NOWICKI asked if mopeds could be written tickets.

RICE responded that tickets could be written, but that the result wanted in the end should be considered. He stated that in general, resources would not be deployed to enforce mopeds parking on the grass, as they were better used elsewhere.

REID stated that they may be parking on the grass because there was no space in the bicycle rack area.
DENEAU stated that it could be discussed further.

4) Pilot test two “scrambled” signal intersections at Shaw and Farm Land and Kedzie and Auditorium. These would facilitate easier flow of pedestrian traffic by creating a period of “walk” in all directions. Timing could be set for main class changes from 9a-4p M-Th or as observation warrants.

POTTER stated that one of the items that the subcommittee proposed recommending was the introduction of scramble intersections on campus in order to facilitate the flow of pedestrian traffic during peak times.

PEDRAZA stated that there would be concern regarding the blind and hearing impaired who often rely on curb cuts, sound of traffic and verbal traffic signals at crossings to help determine when to cross.

POTTER stated that there was a lot of information regarding scramble intersections and likely information regarding accessibility. He continued that there would need to be more research on accessibility.

RICE stated that there were standards and practices that had not been addressed that the committee may want to consider, including: accessibility concerns, new traffic system signaling and timing issues and the effects on intersections. He continued that the traffic engineers had not yet been approached for input regarding the viability of introducing scramble intersections. He stated that the committee may want to invite them to a meeting to gather information and instead consider the recommendation be a study rather than a request for a plan and funding.

REID asked if the volume of both pedestrian and vehicle traffic at those universities using the scramble intersections were the same as MSU’s.

MILLER stated that if a recommendation was going to be put forth, it would need to be more specific and not vague.

NOWICKI suggested that the proposed recommendation be removed at this time.

FASHBAUGH stated that it would be okay to recommend its consideration.

REID motioned that the recommendation be tabled.

ROBERTSON seconded the motion.

The committee tabled this item.
5) Build secured bike parking facility at commuter lot(s) to encourage additional bike commuting into campus reducing use of cars on campus and reliance on parking spaces on campus.
   a. Covered and/or caged to provide security and some weather protection
   b. Test secured bike lockers and rental fee structure to recover costs over useful life.

KACOS suggested that the recommendation be a study and make it general by removing the commuter lot.

6) Build second transportation hub on Morrill Hall Site to allow for bus loading, secure bike storage, personal lockers, and restrooms with showers, vending, and DIY repair area.

KACOS stated that the Morrill Hall area had protected landscape and was a long-term building site. He suggested that if the committee wanted to move it forward as a recommendation that specifying Morrill Hall be removed, keeping it a general suggestion for a transportation hub.

7) Institute communication position approved from 2010-2011 recommendations to provide
   a. Bike Safety including locking
   b. Moped safety
   c. Promote MSU Bikes
   d. Promote CATA use
   e. Promote other travel options: Zip cars, walking
   f. Bike and moped registration

This item was removed as a communication position was already approved.

8) Establish a more permanent funding source for bike parking by modeling the vehicle system of construction and maintenance based on received fees from permits and enforcement.

RICE stated that requiring a fee for bicycle permits would not generate much funding.

RICE reminded the committee that bicycle permits were issued at no charge to the customer and that in the past, when there was a nominal charge, there were fewer bicycles registered. He suggested that if the committee wanted to move the recommendation forward, that a period be placed after the word maintenance and “based on received fees from permits and enforcement.” be removed.
AUTTC BY-LAWS (RICE/DENEAU/PEDRAZA/OTTARSON):
RICE asked that the committee review the proposed by-law updates and requested the members’ input.

SHAMASS stated that the Greek system was only 7% of the student population. She suggested representation to include two representatives from the Greek system and two general off-campus students working through the Student Affairs community liaison.

DENEAU stated that cultural diversity was also being sought which lead to suggesting all four Greek organizations being represented individually.

SHAMASS maintained that two representatives would be sufficient because of the total percentage the Greek system represented.

REID stated that representation could be based on the number of students within an organization.

DENEAU stated that campus usage time based on schedules of off-campus and resident students could be used to determine representation.

MILLER stated that she thought it would be a quagmire if usage was used as a marker.

NOWICKI stated that there were approximately 1300 members in each of the APA and the APSA unions.

He stated that he is aware of his APSA members concerns, but not the APA’s. He continued that better representation may be provided if the APA, APSA, 1585, 999 and the CTU were represented individually.

RICE stated that he did not think that the intent was that each bargaining unit be represented individually, but rather a community of interest represented.

DENEAU stated that some memberships were more resource based rather than representation based.

NOWICKI asked if quorum was necessary for committee business.

REID suggested that if a representative was present, then the vote would be counted, if not present, then not counted. He continued that if a majority were in favor of an item, then it would be moved forward.

SHAMASS disagreed and stated that if a representative was not present, then the representative was not doing the job he or she was designated to do, and that the result affected many.
SHAMASS stated that representation of the student organizations should remain balanced with individuals residing both on and off campus required instead of searching specifically for off-campus resident representatives.

REID suggested the following number of representatives and where they should reside:

- Four ASMSU (2 on-campus, 2 off-campuses)
- Five RHA (1 from each of the communities)
- Two COGS (1 on-campus, 1 off-campus)
- One UACOR
- Two Greek Council (1 on-campus, 1 off-campus)

RICE stated that the intention was to have the numbers and where persons reside reflective of the groups.

The committee voted in favor of moving the by-laws with proposed changes to vote in April.

KACOS asked if there had been any communication from areas regarding membership being an issue.

RICE stated that he would make the updates and present it to the committee at the April meeting.

DENEAU stated that the recommendations would be redrafted based on the meeting and presented for vote at the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.