All-University Traffic and Transportation Committee

MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2010

PRESENT

BRIESCHKE, BUCKWALTER, DENEAU, FASHBAUGH, HAKARI, KACOS, LADUCA, LEE, MARTENIUK, MCCONNELL (via Skype), NAMIE, NOWICKI, OTTARSON, PEDRAZA, POTTER, TUCKEY, RICE, SHAMASS

ABSENT

HARLEY, NAMIE, SOFFIN, STUDENT AFFAIRS, YEBOAH

GUESTS

William Heinrich, graduate student/bicyclist

Matthew Williams, fifth-year MSU senior employed with Campus Planning & Administration

CALL TO ORDER

1402

ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS

Yes

LAST MEETING MINUTES

RICE motioned to accept the October 2010 minutes.

SHAMASS seconded the motion.

MCCONNELL had provided amendments as follows via email:

   Page 5, paragraph 3:

   “Stephanie Fox stated that data from the parallel traffic counts being conducted by the Office of the Traffic Engineer was still being processed.”
MCCONNELL reported that he noticed a majority of pedestrians and bicyclists treated the ‘wait’ signal at the entrance of the Business College as a ‘yield’ sign.”

All were in favor of the minutes being accepted with amendments, none were opposed.

The October 2010 minutes were approved.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Matthew Williams presented an overview of information gathered from the bicycle utilization study that Campus Planning and Administration performed April 19, 2010 – April 29, 2010.

Mr. Williams stated that the study was performed at various locations on campus. He reported that one day was spent at each location and data was gathered between the hours of 0730-1000, 1100-1300 and 1500-1730 to allow for class changes. He stated that where “spaghetti” bicycle paths were provided, bicyclists used the sidewalk instead.

PEDRAZA asked if there had been a count done of pedestrian traffic.

Mr. Williams stated that the video was still available and a pedestrian count could be done.

PEDRAZA and LADUCA agreed that it would be beneficial to retain the video.

POTTER suggested that the bicycle utilization study and the signalization study be cross-referenced for information.

MCCONNELL stated that it may be difficult to compare the flows of the bicycle utilization study with those of the greenway master plan.

Mr. Williams stated that the bicycle utilization study’s findings were available.

LADUCA thanked Mr. Williams for sharing the information.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT

LADUCA played a video several MSU students had made depicting the dangers of texting while biking. He stated that he would forward it to POTTER.

BRIESCHKE stated that if a person reported unsafe driving of a CATA driver, BRIESCHKE followed up with that person. He stated that CATA drivers/operators were required to watch bicycle safety video, received video training and were provided a trip sheet with tips. He continued that unsafe driving concerns should be brought to his attention. He added that with progressive training and discipline, there was a low repetition rate of the unsafe driving.

BUCKWALTER stated that she received correspondence reporting that the person with concern had had several instances of “close calls” with non-MSU delivery vehicles at the entry to the north loading area.
of the stadium from Lot 62E while walking. BUCKWALTER continued that the person suggested some sort of marking system on the pavement that would clearly show a pedestrian path.

POTTER reported that bicycle lane markings were slated to be inventoried and repainted.

TUCKEY reported that a person had parked in the gated lot at the Veterinary Medical Clinic and had to pay $10 for a token to exit.

KACOS replied that it was posted that a token was needed to exit.

MARTENIUK added that it was posted for client use only.

LADUCA suggested that the reserved information be posted on the gate arm.

RICE stated that the vet clinic charged for tokens and being a heavily used facility, they may have chosen to sell the tokens at a high enough rate that dissuaded non-client parking.

LADUCA asked where the money went that was obtained from selling the tokens.

RICE stated that it was audited but would contact them regarding the distribution of the excess cash.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

_Campus Planning and Administration:_

KACOS stated that he had no updates to report.

_Department of Police:_

RICE reported that the University and CATA had signed a contract agreeing that CATA would provide mass transit services to MSU for four more years, providing for a 3-year extension.

RICE stated that he had been in contact with Van Frazee of the Physical Plant regarding the lighting concern along Trowbridge Road, specifically near the crosswalk between Holden Hall and Lot 83. After speaking with Mr. Frazee, he reported that the University was currently in compliance with its own light level standards. Cost estimates to intensify the light levels at the crosswalk were discussed.

KACOS stated that the process to include the light levels within the guidelines was a process, but could be included in the annual report to Dr. Poston to be considered.

POTTER asked whether the University or East Lansing handled the lighting along Grand River Avenue.

KACOS stated that he was not certain, but that Van Frazee of the MSU Physical Plant would be the person to ask.

POTTER stated that he would contact him in regards.
Transit – CATA:

BRIESECKE stated that CATA Route 23 would resume its normal schedule on Saturday January 8, 2011.

BRIESECKE reported that Route 25 (not paid by the University) resumed 11/15/2010 with Kellogg Center outbound service. He added that it still did not serve a Brody inbound service.

LADUCA commented that he had tried using his employee ID card with campus CATA bus privileges and it had not worked. He reported that the driver stated that LADUCA needed to either pay; otherwise, he could not ride the bus.

BRIESECKE stated that the operator has the ability to override the system after checking if valid ID. He added that if there was ever a concern that he be forwarded the date, time, driver name and bus number so he could check into it.

MSU Bikes:

POTTER reported that MSU Bikes was keeping a log of bicycles being repaired at the shop and asking whether if the damage was a result of an accident on a campus and where it occurred. He reported that the current tally showed that about ⅔ of the accidents involved a car and 96% happened at crosswalks, but were not accidents that involved police assistance.

POTTER stated he thought that asking Olin Health Center the number of persons reporting an injury incurred from a bicycle accident would be beneficial for helping track the accidents.

LADUCA stated that there would likely be confidentially issues involved.

PEDRAZA asked if it was a question of a person using a helmet or not.

POTTER replied that it was not and that he wanted to collect general information from Olin and augment what he obtained from the police department reports.

POTTER reported that the pro version of SeeClickFix allowed for routing to specific departments and that the company was willing to provide a demonstration.

LADUCA stated that a 15-20 minute presentation may benefit the committee and perhaps the program may be considered for recommendation to Dr. Poston.

HAKARI asked the cost of the pro version.

POTTER replied that it was about $100/month.

Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD):

PEDRAZA stated RCPD has been working with Brian Watts of Automotive Services to obtain a 2010 Dodge Caravan with rear access.

LADUCA asked if it would be used for transportation or if it was adapted for driver accessibility.
PEDRAZA was certain that it would be used for transportation purposes, but did not know if it was driver adapted.

Campus Sustainability:

MARTENIUK stated that she had no updates to report.

OLD BUSINESS

LADUCA asked the subcommittees to report their progress from the October meeting.

MOTORIZED:

DENEAU reported several items that the subcommittee was discussing as of the October meeting:

1) Suggested AUTTC representative should be involved in discussions regarding central and peripheral parking affecting the 2020 Master Plan.

2) Expressed concern regarding parking for visitors and the impact of construction projects and removal of meters on visitor parking.

3) Suggested pinpointing accident areas and removing them.

4) Encouraged promotion of the bus pass privileges that are on the MSU Spartan Card.

5) Suggested campus travel information on master site that included bus info/pedestrian map/heavy travel times.

NON-MOTORIZED (BICYCLE):

SHAMASS reported that it was suggested that an event similar to a 5K run be held to promote riding in bicycle lanes – making it a weekend event for safety reasons.

POTTER stated that if there were bicycle lane design concerns that Dan Bollman of the Physical Plant was the person to contact.

LADUCA suggested that Dan Bollman be invited to a meeting as a guest to explain the process.

POTTER reported that the buzz words were “complete streets,” meaning that they were safe for all users. He stated that he did not know of anything in writing to guarantee complete streets and suggested it be in writing.

FASHBAUGH asked if it was in writing.

KACOS replied that it was general policy to include bicycle lanes. He added that he was not certain if it was included formally.
POTTER asked that if there were no Federal guidelines, then would the inclusion of bicycle lanes be on a case-to-case basis.

KACOS stated that bicycle lanes were incorporated into the Master Plan and the long-range bicycle transportation plan.

POTTER asked why both Recycle Drive and Greenway Drive did not have bicycle lanes.

KACOS stated that they were primarily utility roads and perhaps money was not available at the time to incorporate bicycle lanes. He added that there was low volume in bicycle traffic, but there could have been more discussion in regards.

NON-MOTORIZED (PEDESTRIANS):

PEDRAZA asked if the Police Department had “close-call” information on pedestrian traffic.

RICE replied that there was no information in regards.

PEDRAZA stated that he saw many pedestrians wearing earphones while traveling through campus.

PEDRAZA stated that the subcommittee thought there could be a dedicated light for pedestrians ONLY to cross during peak times, especially at Auditorium Road at Farm Lane. He continued that with the new turn-on-red light at that intersection, it was helpful to motorists, but not to pedestrians.

PEDRAZA stated that vocal signals should be added to all intersections and that an example where it worked well was at Chestnut Road and Shaw Lane.

NEW BUSINESS

LADUCA stated that the 2006-2007 University bicycle ordinance recommendation was still with the Board of Trustees to vote on. He continued that the item may come to vote in the near future. He asked if the AUTTC would want to rescind the ordinance revision recommendation which would allow bicycling on sidewalks before it goes through for the vote.

PEDRAZA stated that the reason allowing bicycling on the sidewalks was included in the 2006-2007 recommendation was because it was a question of how could it be enforced if they were not allowed on the sidewalk.

RICE stated that if the ordinance was marked with an asterisk, then it could be enforceable with a civil infraction citation.

MCCONNELL stated that the proposed recommendation tried to control how the bicycles were ridden on sidewalks, as people would be riding on a sidewalk to access bicycle racks.

RICE stated that it was somewhat modeled after East Lansing, and that consistency throughout neighboring areas had been a concern of bicyclist and former AUTTC member Diana Twede.

MCCONNELL agreed that consistency was good.
LADUCA stated that it would seem a similar concern as with the business district.

POTTER stated that the message was conflicting if the recommended revisions to the ordinance allowed for bicycling on sidewalks while the AUTTC currently dissuaded the use of them and encouraged travel on bicycle lanes instead.

POTTER suggested that the University should be building facilities to accommodate bicycles.

RICE stated that it reflected well on the committee in keeping the information up-to-date and thought that it may be advantageous to rescind and revisit the recommendation. He continued that it would give more time to survey the situation.

FASHBAUGH stated that he thought the 2006-2007 bicycle ordinance revision recommendation could be reconsidered, but not rescinded. He continued that it was a complicated subject and was not a pass/fail item. FASHBAUGH stated that the NON-MOTORIZED subcommittee should set forward an edited version should the AUTTC committee vote to recommend an edited version.

RICE suggested that perhaps the AUTTC chair could write a letter to Dr. Poston stating that the committee wished to submit an updated recommendation for consideration.

POTTER stated that moped information need to be expanded upon.

RICE stated that mopeds were dealt with under state law and that information was included in the parking regulations.

FASHBAUGH motioned that the chair write a letter to Dr. Poston requesting a hold on voting on the AUTTC 2006-2007 bicycle ordinance as the committee wanted to revisit it.

POTTER seconded the motion.

All were in favor and none opposed to submitting the request to Dr. Poston.

The meeting was adjourned.