All-University Traffic and Transportation Committee

MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2011

PRESENT

BROWN, BUCKWALTER, DENEAU, FASHBAUGH, FINNEY, KACOS, MARTIN-STONEY, NOWICKI, OTTARSON, POLZIN, POTTER, RICE, SHAMASS

ABSENT

LI, MILLER, MARTENIUK, PEDRAZA, REID, RHA Rep., STUDENT AFFAIRS Rep., SIGNORINI

GUESTS

John Prush: MSU Police Department

CALL TO ORDER

1409

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

FASHBAUGH motioned to approve the agenda. NOWICKI seconded the motion. All were in favor of the agenda. None were opposed. The agenda was approved.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

POTTER stated that under the October Campus Sustainability department updates it should read that the Office of Campus Sustainability was renting bicycles that could pull trailer displaying a billboard as a means of mobile advertising for university departments. He continued that on page 5 of the October minutes that it should read that DENEAU stated that he and POTTER questioned whether mopeds should be ridden on the sidewalk to access parking at the bicycle racks since it appeared that their increasing numbers were impacting the safety of pedestrians. POTTER expressed concern about the high numbers of mopeds he saw speeding along the river trail near the Bike Center. SHAMASS motioned to approve the October 2011 minutes with amendments. OTTARSON seconded the motion. All were in favor of the last meeting minutes. None were opposed. The October 2011 minutes were approved as amended.
CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT

DENEAU presented a question submitted by the newly appointed AUTTC faculty member, Gavin Reid, who could not attend. DENEAU stated that Mr. Reid had reported witnessing traffic delays due to The Lodges buses stopping for up to several minutes along the curb on Farm Lane. DENEAU stated that Mr. Reid asked what could be done to regulate either where The Lodges buses may stop and/or how delays to other traffic could be minimized.

RICE stated that No Parking or No Parking/Standing signs could be posted; however, that “stop-n-drops” were common. He stated that waiting an inordinate amount of time would pose a problem and that it was a matter that has been addressed by the Police Department before.

POTTER stated that he witnessed The Lodges bus cross over two lanes on Wilson Road from the curb at Natural Resources to the left-hand lane at Farm Lane and stated that it may be a traffic concern.

BROWN stated that it had been asked to see if the bus was a taxi service or general transportation.

RICE stated that there had been discussions with The Lodges and currently they complied with the law.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

CAMPUS PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION:

KACOS stated that the 5-year master plan update was nearing finalization. He stated that the final proposal was presented to the Board of Trustees in October for review and that it would be voted on in December. He added that it could be viewed at the CPA website.

DENEAU asked if there were any major changes to the master plan.

KACOS replied that it proposed mixed land use where Cherry Lane Apartments once stood to provide more flexible use of the location other than housing.

MSU POLICE DEPARTMENT:

RICE reported that construction plans that would impact West Circle Drive (including steam tunnel work) were being finalized. He continued that the project intended to include rebuilding and new contouring of West Circle Drive.

POTTER asked if the spaces along the Music School building would be removed.

RICE replied that it was under consideration.

POLZIN asked that should the spaces be retained by the Music School, could they be made deeper so as to move vehicles further off the road.
RICE stated he would find out.

DENEAU asked if there was a schematic for traffic flow after a football game.

RICE stated that a football traffic management plan existed that had evolved over the decades. He continued that variations of the plan were used based on a number of factors, such as who the visiting team was, the direction from which game traffic arrived, status of the season and weather conditions.

RICE stated that CATA buses ran from Lots 89 and 92 during football games.

BROWN asked if the plan was affected by the score.

RICE replied that it was not, but that outgoing traffic and the bus route timing varied based upon the number of visitors departing the stadium in the late minutes of the game.

TRANSIT:

BROWN stated that transportation during football games ran well during 2011 thanks in part to the MSU Police Department.

DENEAU asked if larger capacity buses were used during the winter.

BROWN replied that on routes 26, 30 and 31, 60-foot buses were used in the winter during the weekdays, weather depending.

MSU BIKES:

POTTER reported that signs stating that MSU was a bicycle friendly university were posted at most major entrances of campus.

RCPD:

No report (PEDRAZA absent).

CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY:

No report (MARTENIUK absent)
OLD BUSINESS:

POTTER asked if the pedestrian/bicycle/vehicle safety quiz intended to be administered when an employee goes online to purchase a parking permit was finished.

RICE stated he believed it was done.

FINNEY stated she thought that administering a quiz when obtaining a permit would be met with contention from her constituency.

MARTIN-STONEY agreed and opined that her constituency may not respond favorably.

RICE stated that Dr. Poston had approved enacting the AUTTC recommendation.

RICE stated that he met with the coalitions prior to rate change cycles and would provide a copy of the quiz to the coalitions at that time if they so desired.

POTTER asked if the info would be tracked.

RICE replied that gross tallies would be kept, but the information would not be person specific.

MARTIN-STONEY asked why the quiz was being administered and why the data was being collected.

RICE deferred the question to POTTER.

POTTER stated that the AUTTC was looking to improve the relationship between pedestrians, drivers and bicyclists and this was a way to educate and gather general information.

MARTIN-STONEY stated that it was likely people would click through the quiz to get through it.

DENEAU stated that those areas that were deficient in correct answers may become a focus of education and an item for the new Physical Plant communications person to consider.

RICE reported that within the last five years, the area of Kalamazoo Street and West Circle Drive had an unremarkable number of accidents. He continued that the problem area was beyond that point, along the bays flanking West Circle Drive between the Music School and the IM. He stated that the area was included in the planned redesign of West Circle Drive.

POTTER presented pictures of bicycle and mopeds parked on campus. He noted that he saw them parked on the sidewalks behind Wonders Hall, Bessey Hall, the Library, Munn Arena and Brody Hall. He reported that the University of Wisconsin – Madison, had moped stalls.

POTTER asked if there were solutions.

POLZIN asked what laws mopeds were supposed to follow.
RICE stated that there were age restrictions and that the moped must be registered with the state. He noted that there were MSU parking regulations that applied to them, including being registered with the Parking Office.

POLZIN asked if mopeds were permitted to ride on the sidewalks.

RICE stated that theoretically they were not allowed, nor were bicycles. He noted that there were few reports of moped accidents.

DENEAU asked how it was determined what mopeds would be impounded.

RICE stated that the impounding of mopeds and bicycles were generally only done for good reason such as gasoline filled mopeds stored within the residence halls, bicycles blocking accessible ramps and the like.

NOWICKI asked if the Parking Office ever sent out an email stating not to park on the sidewalks, noting that the sidewalks between Wonders Hall and the other South Complex residence halls were often blocked.

KACOS stated that until recently, moped parking had not appeared to have been an issue. He noted that it appeared that there were more on campus as of late.

RICE stated that with the increase of gas and car insurance prices, the issue may be longer lasting than it has been in past years.

RICE asked if the Residence Halls and/or Landscape Services were using their budgets to add bicycle and moped parking areas.

NOWICKI replied that he was not aware of any.

DENEAU asked how bicycle parking locations were determined and how additional parking could be funded.

KACOS stated that he was not an authority on funding opportunities, but believed that RHS would cover the residence hall areas and that the general fund would provide for parking near academic areas. He continued that bicycle and moped parking may be problematic during construction because areas may be removed temporarily, but that it provided an opportunity to consider incorporating new parking during the project.

RICE asked if POTTER had approached and presented the information on proposed increases in bicycle parking to Ron Flinn, the University A.V.P. of the Physical Plant.

POTTER stated that he had spoken with Dennis Hansen of the Physical Plant.

RICE stated that Mr. Flinn would be the person who may be able to approve the funding for the addition of bicycle/moped parking areas.
RICE stated that the AUTTC could recommend that mopeds not park at bicycle racks if they chose to do so in their annual report.

POTTER stated that the bicycle ordinances may need to include accessible modes of transportation.

NEW BUSINESS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

AUTTC BY-LAWS (RICE/DENEAU/PEDRAZA/OTTARSON):

RICE stated that he would write the draft and gather suggestions from the subcommittee.

NON-MOTORIZED (POTTER chair):

POTTER stated that a person who had had attended the University of Florida expressed concern over the campus speed limits. The person added that it was lower at U of F and had felt safer traveling there for that reason.

RICE stated that the speed limits could not be lowered below 25 mph here due to state law.

POTTER reported that the subcommittee discussed the following at the last meeting:

1) Designating some vehicle spaces within lots for moped parking
2) Violation aversion: class or online quiz
3) The ratio of bike racks to bikers
4) The physical count of bike racks
5) Security of bikes
6) Other universities charging for registering bicycles

RICE stated that it had been the recommendation of the AUTTC in the past that there be no charge to register a bicycle on campus in order to encourage registration.

MOTORIZED:

No report was made. LEE had stepped down from the committee, leaving the subcommittee chair position open. Last month’s information included:

1) Whether there had been an increase in the Commuter Plus permits being sold.
2) Ways of informing MSU employees of their MSU ID CATA privileges – newsletters
3) Clarifying how to use a traffic circle – signs, education
SHAMASS motioned to adjourn the meeting. MARTIN-STONEY seconded the motion.

All were in favor of adjournment. None were opposed. The meeting was adjourned.