All-University Traffic and Transportation Committee

MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2010

PRESENT

BATTLE, BUCKWALTER, DENEAU, FASHBAUGH, KACOS, LADUCA, LEE, MCCONNELL, NAMIE, NOWICKI, OTTARSON, PEDRAZA, RICE, SHAMASS, YEBOAH

ABSENT

BRIESCHKE, HAKARI, HARLEY, POLZIN, POTTER, SOFFIN, STUDENT AFFAIRS

GUESTS

Brandon Tuckey, Residence Hall Association (RHA)
Stephanie Fox, Traffic Engineer, MSU Police Dept.

CALL TO ORDER

1402

ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS

Yes

LAST MEETING MINUTES

RICE motioned to accept the September 2010 minutes with amendments submitted by POTTER and MCCONNELL.

FASHBAUGH seconded the motion.

All were in favor of the minutes being accepted as amended, none were opposed.

The September 2010 minutes were approved.
PRESENTATION

BATTLE presented an overview of Campus Sustainability (CS). She stated that while there was an environmental focus, cost was a factor that had to be considered as well in decisions involving our sustainability efforts.

BATTLE reported that the original program was started by faculty, staff and students in 1999. In 2006 and under President Simon, environmental stewardship was emphasized as a priority in the University’s “Boldness by Design” program. BATTLE reported that in 2009 the Office of Campus Sustainability was reorganized to encompass environmental stewardship and campus sustainability.

MCCONNEL asked if transportation was targeted for reduction.

BATTLE stated that perimeter parking was a focus. She added that group travel was suggested as a way to reduce the environmental effects and the cost of transportation.

RICE asked BATTLE how the AUTTC could best help Campus Sustainability.

BATTLE replied that the AUTTC could provide input and suggestions, working with the OCS committee.

MCCONNELL asked about the status of the car-share program.

BATTLE stated that it would be a pilot program and at this time it looked like six vehicles would be introduced initially.

LADUCA asked where the vehicles would be placed.

RICE stated that it was yet to be decided but that the location(s) would be convenient.

LADUCA asked if the spaces in which the vehicles were placed would be leased.

RICE replied that they would be lease spaces.

LADUCA asked how billing would be handled for the customer.

BATTLE replied that the car-share company, Zipcar, would handle billing.

RICE stated that while Zipcar was a for-profit business, they appeared reasonable and suggested going to the website for info [www.zipcar.com].

LADUCA thanked BATTLE for the presentation.

DISCUSSION AND VOTE REGARDING REORGANIZATION OF AUTTC SUBCOMMITTEES

LADUCA asked the AUTTC its stance on merging persons interested in outreach and education into the other two subcommittees, Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety and Vehicular Safety, to form two subcommittees versus three.

PEDRAZA stated that he was concerned the subcommittees would then be too large. He added that with outreach and education as a subcommittee outward information would be better distributed.
MCCONNELL stated that outreach and education could be focused on when needed.

LADUCA offered retaining the Outreach and Education Subcommittee (OES) and implementing its function when necessary.

LEE stated that the OES was an important component of the subcommittees to retain.

FASHBAUGH suggested keeping the OES, which could then receive its direction from the other subcommittees.

PEDRAZA suggested that the safety subcommittees be designated into three groups: Non-motorized [bicycle, wheelchair, etc.], motorized [vehicle, motorized accessible vehicles, mopeds, etc.] and pedestrian.

RICE stated that the three subcommittees could be piloted to determine how well they functioned.

LEE suggested that it be for one year.

MCCONNELL moved to accept the three.

LADUCA motioned to reorganize the subcommittees as “Motorized Vehicle Traffic and Safety,” “Non-Motorized Traffic and Safety” and “Pedestrian Safety.”

RICE seconded the motion.

The motion carried and the subcommittees were set for 2010-2011.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT

DENEAU stated that he received concerns from some Residential and Hospitality Service (RHS) employees regarding the speed/driving of CATA buses on the roundabout at Shaw Lane and Bogue Street.

RICE stated that the officers knew that they could cite CATA drivers for speeding and other violations. He continued that the majority of bus related accidents were caused by non-CATA vehicles.

LADUCA suggested that the CATA buses display signs on the back of their buses that read “Makes wide turns” – similar to those displayed on semi-trucks.

RICE stated that he would bring that suggestion to CATA’s attention.

SHAMASS stated that she had heard about a recent CATA and student accident.

Stephanie Fox stated that it may have been a bicycle/bus incident, but she had not seen data nor heard anything about it.

RICE stated that traffic accident reports were reviewed by the responding Officers supervisors and then forwarded to Traffic Engineering the following day.
PEDRAZA stated that he received correspondence regarding the need of lighting on Trowbridge Road near the visitor center and crosswalk between Holden Hall and Lot 83 and the need for better lighting near the south end of the Auditorium Road Ramp next to Bessey Hall.  

RICE stated that the Trowbridge Road/Visitor Center area lighting concern was on the University list to augment.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Campus Planning and Administration:

KACOS stated that the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue transportation study was in progress. He continued that the modes of transportation being considered were 1) light rail, 2) modern street car and 3) bus rapid transit.

KACOS reported that there was an open house regarding the study on November 9, 10 and 11 and with the chair’s permission would email the AUTTC with the information. He encouraged the AUTTC to share the information with constituents and friends and stated that the MSU community’s input was important.

KACOS stated that persons could submit comments electronically and view information in regards at www.migrtrans.org.

MCCONNELL asked if all three options included bicycle lanes.

KACOS stated that they did, but the accommodations may be separate from the main corridor due to lack of space in the right-of-way.

Department of Police: RICE stated there were none.

Transit-CATA: BRIESCHKE absent.

MSU Bikes: POTTER absent.

Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD):

PEDRAZA stated that he met with Residential and Hospitality Services (RHS) regarding accessibility in residence halls. He continued that RCPD continually provides input regarding accessibility in the residence halls and RHS seeks its input as well.

LADUCA asked the status of the east campus accessibility concern and CATA.

PEDRAZA stated that he and BRIESCHKE have been in contact.
OLD BUSINESS

Pedestrian and Bicycle Subcommittee update:

FASHBAUGH asked the status of bicycle/pedestrian information.

MCCONNELL reported that data from Campus Planning and Administration via a video filmed in the spring and summer of this year was broken down into travel patterns. He added that it was questionable if counts could be compared with data from 10 years ago due to the spring/summer 2010 information being a sample and not comprehensive.

Stephanie Fox stated that data from the parallel traffic counts being conducted by the Office of the Traffic Engineer was still being processed.

MCCONNELL suggested that if a campaign was to be mounted for pedestrian and bicycle safety near the bridges along the Red Cedar River on Farm Lane and Bogue Street, that the target market be identified first.

LADUCA asked if there had been accidents captured on the video.

Stephanie Fox stated that she did not know at this time.

MCCONNELL reported that he noticed a majority of pedestrians and bicyclists treated the “wait” signal at the entrance to the Business College as a “yield” sign.

Vehicular Safety Subcommittee update:

No update.

LADUCA asked that the subcommittees record ideas to reference.

NEW BUSINESS

LADUCA stated that he had attended the October 14th Construction Junction meeting hosted by the Physical Plant and reported some of the information presented at the meeting. Information regarding the meeting including minutes and the presentation can be found at: http://www.construction.msu.edu/index.cfm/construction-junctions/archived-meeting-materials/october-14-2010-meeting-agenda/.

KACOS reported that it was planned that only barrier-free parking would be replaced once the parking bays by Wells Hall were removed.

LEE reported that there was a need for signage on the road near the construction by the Plant and Soil Science Building indicating the end of a bicycle lane based on her seeing a bicyclist look confused as to where to bike while a bus was stopped.

Stephanie Fox stated that it was posted in the area, but that she would take a look at it.

The meeting was adjourned.