ALL-UNIVERSITY TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

APRIL 29, 2010 Minutes

PRESENT:
BRIESCHKE, BUCKWALTER, DENEAU, FASHBAUGH, GALEZEWSKI, GARDNER, KACOS, LADUCA, LEE, MARTENIUK, MCCONNELL, PEDRAZA, POLZIN, POTTER, RICE, YEBOAH, WEINER,

ABSENT:
BASWELL, DENAVATO, HARLEY, SHAMASS, SILVER, SOFFIN

CALL TO ORDER:
1403

ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS:
Yes

LAST MEETING MINUTES:
POTTER motioned to approve the March 2010 minutes as presented.
FASHBAUGH seconded the motion.
All were in favor, none were opposed. The March 2010 minutes were approved.

GUESTS:
1. Dr. Fred Poston, Vice President for Finance and Operations and Treasurer
2. Kathy Lindahl, Assistant Vice President, Finance and Operations
3. Robert Hakari, Council of Graduate Students (COGS)

OLD BUSINESS:
AUTTC Annual Report/Recommendations:

Education and Outreach Subcommittee Recommendations:

1) Assign the Education and Outreach Committee the duty of monitoring and updating the AUTTC website.
2) Assist the other subcommittees in educating MSU faculty, staff and students on the recommendations of the subcommittees.
3) Consider having an AUTTC member presence at the Construction Junction meetings throughout the year.
POTTER motioned to approve items 1, 2 and 3 as one.

PEDRAZA seconded the motion.

LEE stated that she did not think that the first item needed to go through Dr. Poston.

MCCONNELL stated that the items should be prefaced with, “We recommend that the mandate of the Education and Outreach Subcommittee include:”

POTTER motioned to accept as revised.

MCCONNELL seconded the motion.

VOTE: The majority of the committee voted in favor of the recommendation and it was accepted.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee (BPSS) Recommendations:

PEDRAZA motioned to vote on one recommendation at a time.

FASHBAUGH seconded the motion.

All were in favor for voting on the recommendations individually.

1) Recommends implementing an online motor vehicle registration quiz (prior year recommendation):
   a. MSU Parking Office institute
   b. Implement by 2010 registration and to registrants following
   c. Shortened quiz compared to 2008 recommendation

LEE asked if the questions could be pulled randomly from a bank of questions.

POTTER stated that the Parking Office would administer.

FASHBAUGH moved to accept the recommendation with the shortened quiz recommendation.

GARDNER seconded the motion.

VOTE: The majority of the committee voted in favor of the recommendation as revised and it was accepted.

2) Recommends use of new, improved crossing signals/devices on campus to reduce pedestrian/bike/auto conflicts.

POLZIN asked if there would be a cost issue involved in implementing such signals/devices.
RICE replied that there would be cost issues and mentioned several: Wiring, computer-controls, maintenance and four-season concerns. He added that the sophistication of the devices varied and this should be a recommendation to consider, not a mandate.

KACOS asked if the subcommittee had obtained traffic engineering information from Dr. Maleck.

POTTER replied that they had not.

RICE stated that persons should be aware that the recommendation may not be viable at this time.

VOTE: The majority of the committee voted in favor of the recommendation and it was accepted.

3) Recommends new signage (or speed tables) for key areas in Spartan Village to alert drivers of children playing.

PEDRAZA motioned to accept as amended (removed Cherry Lane from the recommendation).

GALZEWESKI seconded the motion.

VOTE: The majority of the committee voted in favor of the recommendation and it was accepted.

4) Recommends construction of bike parking cages that can hold numerous bikes under a roof and secure from theft.

FASHBAUGH asked how the building of the bicycle lockers would be funded and maintained.

POTTER stated that it would not be lockers, but a larger system where the users paid for the use, adding that the system would be self-supporting.

LADUCA stated that there would need to be language of who paid for the system.

GALEZEWESKI stated that perhaps funds could come from registering the bicycle on campus.

POTTER stated that it would need to be user-based supported system, otherwise; if there was a charge across to all students, then there would be a complaint.

KACOS asked the dimensions, capacity and esthetics of the cage. He added that the structures would have to be consistent with the Master Plan.
PEDRAZA stated that he would rather have the MSU Department of Police handle the system.

RICE stated that the MSU Department of Police was an enforcement and regulatory agency and should not be determining nor managing the bicycle cages. He continued that he was wary of the bicycle parking cages being user-fee based.

GALEZEWSKI stated that instead of the cage being communal; it could be wedge-shaped instead with individual spaces.

LADUCA asked if the committee could move to table the recommendation.

PEDRAZA added that it needed to be explored more and thought out. He agreed that it should be tabled and looked at next year and would accept someone tabling it.

POLZIN called the recommendation into question and a vote was taken on whether it should be a recommendation or not.

VOTE: The majority of the committee voted against the recommendation and it was stricken as a recommendation.

5) Recommends creating an official online campus tool to help identify campus problem spots for bicyclists/pedestrians/motorists and other problems (reference a free, online tool, SeeClickFix)

DENEAU asked who would administer the site.

POTTER stated that it would be hosted by the AUTTC website and he suggested it being available at the University home page, the MSU Bikes website, etc.

LADUCA asked who would be receiving the information and taking action.

POTTER exampled the MSU Police Department and the Physical Plant.

POLZIN asked how it would be handled and how would departments correspond if the information went to various parties.

PEDRAZA stated that the information would need to go to someone who knew the resources and distributed information accordingly.

RICE noted that similar concerns were already vetted via the President’s Office and action taken on them.

POTTER stated that if the complaint was entered into an online system, then the system could be reviewed.

LADUCA motioned to accept the recommendation as revised.

FASHBAUGH seconded the motion
VOTE: The majority of the committee voted in favor of the recommendation and the recommendation was accepted.

6) Recommends utilizing new signage around campus to alert/remind motorists to bicyclists’ and pedestrian rights to the road.

PEDRAZA asked if Dr. Maleck and traffic engineering had had input in regards to the recommendation.

POTTER stated that there was staff-level support, but it had not moved forward.

MCCONNELL asked what kind of signage was being suggested – paint on roads, signs.

POTTER stated that both were being suggested.

GALEZEWSKI stated that it would be more prudent to have indicators where the lanes disappeared rather than at entrances.

POTTER stated that it would make a friendly statement to those entering the university if signs were posted at campus entrances.

PEDRAZA stated that if signs were posted all over, that it would create visual pollution and that he thought signage be limited to where the lanes disappeared.

KACOS concurred that in general, fewer signs preserved a park-like atmosphere. He continued that the Trowbridge Road entrance to campus could be an exception to posting a sign.

POLZIN accepted an amendment to replace the word “every” in the first paragraph, line 10, to “selected” as to read…”friendly to all legal modes of transportation, we feel new signage at selected…”

POLZIN motioned to approve the recommendation as revised.

YEBOAH seconded the motion.

VOTE: The majority of the members voted in favor of the recommendation and it was accepted.

7) Recommends marking pedestrian bridges and pathways near campus bridges with lane markings similar to roadways to help improve safer pedestrian/bicycle traffic.

FASHBAUGH asked if it would work or not.

POTTER stated that the bicycle path near Owen Hall was an indication of how the University was trying to implement the markings.
MCCONNELL stated that the Transportation Technical Team was tracking pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

POTTER motioned to accept the recommendation.

MARTENIUK seconded the motion.

VOTE: The majority of the committee voted in favor of the recommendation and it was accepted.

8) Supports the Bicycle Utilization Study for Better Resource Allocations and Student Transportation Survey…

This was removed as part of the recommendations because it was not one, rather a note of support by the subcommittee.

9) Recommends standardized design and installation of current and future curb-cuts at all campus parking lots and near bike parking areas [providing accessibility for motorists who were disabled and to bicyclists].

PEDRAZA motioned to accept the recommendation.

LADUCA seconded the motion.

RICE stated that the University already had a standard for curb-cuts for persons with accessibility needs and that the needs were being met. He stated that the standard did not need any more development. He added that if the cuts were made to accommodate bicyclists, it would work against pedestrian/bicycle safety.

POTTER replied that there were places that did not have curb-cuts. He stated that the cuts made to access bicycle parking areas would encourage their use.

RICE stated that the University abided by Federal standards. He stated that the recommendation should not be hidden under the veil of persons with disabilities needing access; rather, the intention of bicycles gaining access to bicycle racks.

PEDRAZA stated that in support of RICE, the University exercised exceeding the set standard.

LADUCA stated that based on standards already in place, the recommendation should be restricted to the issue of bicycle access.

PEDRAZA withdrew his motion to accept the recommendation proposed and stated that it should be investigated further.

POTTER motioned to accept the recommendation with revisions.
LEE seconded the motion.

POLZIN asked why both a survey and installation were included in the recommendation.

POTTER stated he would accept the friendly amendment that the recommendation read that a survey be conducted of existing parking lots with adjacent sidewalks and bike parking areas near roadways to determine where curb-cuts are needed and install as appropriate.

VOTE: The majority of the committee voted in favor of the recommendation as revised and it was accepted.

VEHICULAR TRAFFIC SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The subcommittee proposed the implementation of a three-tiered system for MSU employees which would include the current faculty/staff parking privileges option ("Regular Plan"), the commuter lot parking privileges option ("Commuter Plan") and the introduction of a "Commuter Plus Plan."

While the faculty/staff and the commuter plans would remain relatively the same, the "Commuter Plus Plan" would essentially mandate parking in Lot 89 (commuter lot) on days that the CATA bus system was running on campus (primarily fall and spring semesters) and allow parking in employee spaces throughout campus on days that the CATA bus service was not in operation (generally breaks and summer).

GARDNER asked that under the "Calendar Permission" part of the Commuter Plus Plan, that contacting the Parking Office to obtain the permission not be limited to the morning as there were some persons that started work later in the day.

RICE stated that the Parking Office was looking into going online with the calendar permission; however, that operationally it may be difficult and that in requesting it via Parking Office personnel allowed some possibility for screening questions to prevent dishonesty.

LEE stated that if the Parking Office received an extraordinary number of calls for calendar permission, then it would indicate that it was working.

RICE agreed but noted that the number of calls could be an operational concern.

FASHBAUGH motioned to accept the recommendation with the friendly amendment.

MARETNIUK seconded the motion.
VOTE: The majority of the committee voted in favor of the recommendation and it was accepted.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Dr. Poston thanked the committee for its work and stated that the AUTTC was the appropriate representative body for recommending these items.

Dr. Poston stated that due to the current economics, some items may take time to implement due to budget constraints and allocations.

Dr. Poston asked if the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Subcommittee had explored various bike facilities.

POTTER replied that they had checked out numerous facilities.

Kathy Lindahl stated that perhaps if MSU Bikes made the money, then they could facilitate the plan for bicycle parking/storage.

PEDRAZA thanked Dr. Poston for not raising the parking rates for 2010-2011 and stated that others had told him they were thankful as well.

Dr. Poston replied that the University has made a lot of changes and the employees have been affected by some of those changes. He continued that freezing the parking rates seemed to be the thing to do.

MCCONNELL thanked Dr. Poston and Kathy Lindahl for attending the meeting and providing their input.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Department of Police:

RICE stated that there were no updates.

LEE asked if the new parking rates could be published in the newsletter.

RICE replied that they could.

POTTER asked when the bicycle online registration would be available.

RICE replied that he did not know, but that the department was working toward getting it up and running again.
Campus Planning and Administration:

KACOS stated that there would be some CATA route changes due to East Circle Drive not being in use for a couple of years due to the new museum construction.

LADUCA noticed that a Holmes Hall stop was going to be removed and stated that he thought it was going to remain for accessibility.

KACOS stated that it had been investigated further and that those requiring accessibility were residing in West Holmes Hall and the McDonel Hall stop would work.

CATA:

BRIESCHKE none except for the information shared by KACOS under Campus Planning and Administration. Route information could be obtained at www.cata.org.

MSU Bikes Service Center:

POTTER reported that in 2009-2010, the service center had seen a 20% increase in profits.

POTTER reported that the center may be becoming a new bike dealer for a new FUJI bike line and possibly discount sales to students and faculty/staff.

KACOS asked if other bike shops would compete with that effort.

POTTER stated that FUJI would work exclusively with the MSU Bike Service Center.

POTTER stated that MSU was leading a task force to recognize universities that were becoming more bicycle friendly.

RCPD:

PEDRAZA reported that $57,000 in scholarships were given out at the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities Awards and Appreciation Reception.
University Committee for a Sustainable Campus:

MARTENIUK reported that MSU Recycling now accepted all plastics and since its opening, there had been a 13% decrease of trash on campus.

POLZIN commented that the recycling bins/containers in buildings were helpful to promote recycling.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

LADUCA reported that the westbound traffic signal on Trowbridge Road at Harrison Road was very brief.

RICE stated that it was a City of East Lansing signal and MSU had tried to influence changing the timing. He continued that during the Harrison Road reconstruction, East Lansing had agreed to consult Dr. Tom Maleck of the University which may result in different timing for that signal.

MCCONNELL stated that he would not be serving as chair next year and a new one needed to be chosen.

PEDRAZA asked if MCCONNELL would still be on the committee next year.

MCCONNELL replied it was not probable.

FASHBAUGH nominated POTTER.

POTTER respectfully declined.

POTTER nominated LADUCA.

LADUCA stated that he would be on sabbatical in the spring of 2011 and he did not know if the dean of his school would allow him to serve during that time. He did note that he would be on campus during that time.

LADUCA asked how long of term he would serve.

MCCONNELL stated that the position was voted on each year.

RICE nominated that the nominations be closed.

All were in favor of LADUCA chairing the AUTTC for 2010-2011 except LADUCA who abstained.

LADUCA was voted chair for 2010-2011.

Meeting adjourned.