ALL-UNIVERSITY TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2010

PRESENT: BRIESCHKE, BUCKWALTER, DENAVATO, DENEAU, FASHBAUGH, GALEZEWSKI, KACOS, LEE, MARTENIUK, MCCONNELL, PEDRAZA, POTTER, RICE, SHAMASS, SILVER, WEINER, YEBOAH

ABSENT: BASWELL, BIDWELL (see BRIESCHKE above), LADUCA, POLZIN, RHODES

GUESTS: Dennis Hansen: Physical Plant Engineering Planning

CALL TO ORDER: 1409

ROUNDTABLE INTROS: YES

LAST MEETING MINUTES: Amendments to January 21, 2010 minutes:

Page 2: Remove first sentence of 4th paragraph.

Change “content” to “intent” on 5th paragraph

With the amendments, PEDRAZA motioned to approve the January 2010 the minutes. GALEZEWSKI seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed. The January 2010 minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION: MCCONNELL introduced Dennis Hansen and asked him to address the changing infrastructure for bicycle parking and update the committee on crosswalks and speed tables.

Mr. Hansen reported that the metal, portable bicycle racks are gradually being removed in academic areas and replaced with bike loops installed in a concrete pad. He noted that the loops also included a bar that bicyclists recommended for keeping bicycles upright when parked and locked.

Mr. Hansen continued that the portable bicycle racks around residential areas on campus remained in most areas because the funding to update the racks came from Housing and prioritization of allocating funds had to be considered. He noted that bicycle loops would be installed on the south side of Wonders Hall this summer.

Mr. Hansen stated that the Physical Plant worked to combine bike loop projects with other projects to minimize costs in construction projects.
Mr. Hansen asked that if the committee had areas of concern to vet them through MCCONNELL.

Mr. Hansen stated that the Physical Plant and the Police Department were working in coordination with the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD) in addressing crosswalk standards on campus. He reported that there were about 370 crosswalks on campus and of those, about 250 had been improved. He stated that since 2005, approximately $200,000 had been spent to update and/or fix them. He noted that the University was working to provide barrier-free crosswalks and marking crosswalks on roads where noticeable dirt paths were made in the grass by pedestrian traffic and where pedestrians traveled from one sidewalk to another at traffic control areas.

Mr. Hansen stated that as long as RCPD supported a crosswalk temporarily installed on roads that were to be rebuilt, then final updates to crosswalks would happen at the time of the road being reconstructed.

Mr. Hansen stated that MSU was one of the first political subdivisions in Michigan to implement audible count downs signals. He continued that due to the newness of the product and the amount of money it took to obtain, install and maintain them, the audible signals were peppered throughout campus based on RCPD and the Crosswalk Committee’s recommendations. He stated that the University was working to make the signals uniform throughout campus.

Mr. Hansen stated that crosswalks were infrastructure costs that needed to be maintained each year. As a way of controlling those costs, thermoplastic was used for crosswalks instead of paint because it wore better and cost less in the long run.

Mr. Hansen stated that there were five speed tables currently on campus and additional areas were being studied for possible installation of speed tables. He stated that making the speed tables level with the sidewalks was being considered to enhance the visual clue to drivers that pedestrians may be crossing.

PEDRAZA stated that one recommendation was to install a speed table on eastbound Shaw Lane between Bogue Street and Hagadorn Road.

MCCONNELL stated that this may be an item for one of the AUTTC subcommittees.

MCCONNELL thanked Dennis Hansen for his time and presenting to the committee.
DEPARTMENT UPDATES: CAMPUS PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

KACOS reported on the Michigan Avenue/Grand River Avenue (MIGRTRANS) corridor study. He stated that there were several transit options being considered:

1) Bus rapid transit
2) Modern street car
3) Light rail (i.e. Portland, Oregon)

He continued that options 1 and 3 above would be express routes and that the current CATA Route 1 may remain if option 1 or 3 was chosen.

KACOS continued that a cost benefit analysis was being done.

GALESEWSKI asked if Lansing would have enough population to support the light rail option.

KACOS replied that it could, but that costs would need to be rolled into it and it would need to be projected out 35 years.

KACOS stated that the project would look to enhance the Michigan/Grand River Avenue corridor and stimulate new economic environment.

KACOS reported that a more accurate number of employees utilizing CATA would be available due to the implementation of the Spartan ID card which included the employee’s bus pass instead of a separate pass as used in prior years.

POTTER asked if the university was paying a flat rate for employee bus privileges.

RICE replied that CATA agreed to sell 10,000 passes for $5.00 each which extended the employee privileges and to about 20 different routes. He continued that the passes would be subject to negotiation in the future.

MARTENIUK asked if MIGRTRANS had looked at the environmental impact.

KACOS replied that the information was included at the MIGRTRANS website http://www.migrtrans.org/.

CATA

BRIESCHKE stated that there were no significant updates.

MCCONNELL stated that MSU employee CATA privileges were not valid on routes 24, 25 and 26, but were on the other number 20 routes.

BRIESCHKE stated those routes were not included because the other routes could be used.
MSU POLICE DEPARTMENT

MCCONNELL asked about an award that the MSU Police Department received.

RICE stated that it was an award from the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police regarding the department’s efforts to reduce and enforce drunk driving.

In regard to permit price increases for the next two year cycle, RICE stated that the AUTTC voted years ago to link student rates to faculty/staff rates. RICE reported that to keep up, a 7-8% increase would be optimum, but Dr. Poston believed and supported that the 2009-2010 rates be frozen and used for 2010-2011. He continued that there would be a 3% increase for 2011-2012.

RICE reported that neither meter rates nor pay lot rates had increased since 2002 and that a rate increase in those prices must come in the near future.

RICE asked for a motion of support from the AUTTC for the parking rate increases. POTTER asked if special event fees were included in the rates.

RICE replied that those rate recommendations went directly to Dr. Poston and were approved or denied by him.

POTTER asked if the special event parking money went to the Police Department.

RICE replied that they did and that special event parking rates were set using market-oriented pricing.

MARTENIUK asked about faculty/staff permits sold.

RICE replied that faculty/staff permit sales were down slightly this year and reported that there were about 9400-9500 unique vehicles registered with the Parking Office. He added that the number of commuter permits purchased had decreased, but added that it may have been affected by the Farm Lane Underpass Project.

PEDRAZA thanked RICE and the University for rates not going up for 2010-2011 and stated that it was appreciated.

RICE asked for a motion to accept the rates as presented.

PEDRAZA motioned to accept the 2010-2012 rates. LEE seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed. The 2010-2012 rates were accepted.

RICE stated that if the Commuter Plus proposal was adopted by Dr. Poston, than there may be a change in the rate chart.

POTTER asked if bicycle permit sales had increased or not.
RICE replied that since no charge for a bicycle permit had been implemented, the number of bicycles registered had increased. He stated that he would check on the online registration.

LEE asked if graduate assistants had a carpool option.

RICE replied that they did not.

**MSU BIKES**

POTTER reported that canoe rentals were no longer available due to budget cuts. He stated that the canoes that were in the livery were distributed to the Michigan Fisheries and Wildlife Department, the MSU sailing center and for use with volunteer river clean-up.

**RCPD**

PEDRAZA invited the AUTTC members to the RCPD Awards and Appreciation Reception.

PEDRAZA announced the 5K walk/run/roll event sponsored by the MSU Tower Guard (which assisted RCPD with converting printed text to electronic).

**OLD BUSINESS**: SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS 2009-2010:

**OUTREACH**

The subcommittee presented their recommendations.

MARTENIUUK stated that the Outreach/Education Subcommittee would continue to monitor the AUTTC website.

MCCONNELL commented that it would be useful to have the AUTTC accomplishments put forth and also discuss the topics that the committee was currently considering.

FASHBAUGH asked how far the committee should go back in the AUTTC files for items that need to be worked on.

RICE stated that recommendations from 10 years ago were accomplished. He continued that Dr. Poston may be looking for the community to suggest recommendations.

MARTENIUUK asked if new links were to be added to the AUTTC website, who was to approve them being added.

RICE stated if there was a substantive link to let him know.

MCCONNELL reported that one of the recommendations was to include a news section on the AUTTC website.
YEBOAH stated that he did not believe Dr. Poston should have to handle those selections.

RICE stated he could handle the links.

PEDRAZA suggested that the links could time out throughout the year.

POTTER stated that perhaps members could be present at some AOP functions.

PEDRAZA asked what purpose the AUTTC would serve attending.

POTTER asked if RCPD had a table at AOP.

PEDRAZA replied that RCPD student orientation was handled one-on-one and by application.

BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

The subcommittee presented its recommendations.

POTTER stated that the subcommittee recommended that an online motor vehicle registration quiz regarding “proper interactions between motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists” be implemented when all individuals registered a vehicle with the MSU Parking Office.

LEE stated that she had asked three secretaries whether it would bother them to take a quiz when registering their vehicle online. She reported that they would not want a 15 question quiz, but that a five question quiz may be acceptable.

MARTENIUK stated that questions may be able to be randomized.

PEDRAZA stated that even if the online quiz was quick, it would also be educational. He continued that perhaps the quiz could be part of the AUTTC website and under Outreach/Education.

MCCONNELL stated that the recommendation needed to be as is, absolved or rewritten and he did not feel that it was a unanimous recommendation.

RICE stated that he would revisit the item with his organization. He stated that the feedback he had received reflected that the process was already sufficient.

DENEAU asked if the quiz could be optional versus mandatory.

POTTER stated that he did not hear of complaints regarding the online quiz given when registering a bicycle with MSU. He continued that if the motorists’ online quiz was optional, it would not be effective.
MCCONNELL stated that the first paragraph of recommendation number 3 be formulated as a recommendation and what locations and why would they be helpful/work.

FASHBAUGH stated that number 3 had been previously recommended.

DENEAU stated that posting pedestrian alerts in Cherry Lane may not be necessary because Residential and Hospitality Services was going to the Board of Trustees in April to seek approval of Cherry Lane Apartments being demolished.

DENEAU asked that under recommendation number 4 regarding bicycle cages that the second sentence stating that residence halls have been closing bike rooms read instead, “…residence halls have been repurposing them for other residential use.”

MCCONNELL stated that he received feedback suggesting under recommendation number 4, sentence four, the number of faculty/staff be specified who responded favorably that they would consider riding their bicycles to campus instead of driving if there were covered/secured bicycle facilities.

POTTER stated that the subcommittee recommended SeeClickFix for reporting road problems on campus and that a link be provided on several websites, including the AUTTC’s.

RICE stated that perhaps a wider net should be cast and include it on the MSU website because people may not know to go to the AUTTC website.

FASHBAUGH suggested that perhaps it could be included on the Police Department website.

RICE stated that concerns sometimes go to the President’s mail and then forwarded to proper departments.

MCCONNELL stated that under recommendation number 6, sentence number two be clarified. He continued that he had received a suggestion that under sentence number four that new signage would be helpful to all entering campus.

PEDRAZA suggested that perhaps the AUTTC could recommend locations of the signs.

MCCONNELL suggested if there was an inventory of areas, then they could be checked off a list when installed.

MCCONNELL asked that recommendation number 7 be clarified and suggested that it read: “Mark pedestrian bridges and pathways at the approaches and along the bridges with lane markings…”

POTTER stated that recommendation number 8 could be removed as it was not really a recommendation.
MCCONNELL stated that perhaps under recommendation number 9, that an inventory list specifying areas without accessible sidewalk access be generated.

POTTER stated that he thought it would be a general recommendation and not a specific one.

RICE stated that this item springs from the construction design standards and that perhaps the subcommittee could get with the AUTTC Physical Plant representative and head in that direction.

FASHBAUGH stated that he would speak with Dennis Hansen in regards.

PEDRAZA stated that he should not be listed as co-chair and asked that his name be removed as co-chair.

**VEHICULAR TRAFFIC SUBCOMMITTEE**

The subcommittee presented their recommendations.

LEE commented that the recommended Commuter Plus Plan expanded faculty/staff parking options.

RICE stated that the University was changing the way it paid 9-month employees. He reported that pay used to be spread out through 12 months, but now was going back to the 9-month interval.

KACOS commented that a person could purchase 12 months up front and then could be refunded at end of 9 months with the return of the permit.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None was discussed

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 1635.