All-University Traffic and Transportation Committee

MEETING MINUTES

September 21, 2010

PRESENT

BRIESCHKE, BUCKWALTER, DENEAU, FASHBAUGH, HAKARI, KACOS, LADUCA, LEE, MCCONNELL, NAMIE, NOWICKI, OTTARSON, PEDRAZA, POLZIN, POTTER, RHA, RICE, SHAMASS

ABSENT

HARLEY, CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY, SOFFIN, STUDENT AFFAIRS, YEBOAH

GUESTS

Juan Castillo, Residence Hall Association (RHA)
Stephanie Fox, Traffic Engineer, MSU Department of Police
Dr. Fred Poston, Vice President for Finance and Operations and Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER

1405

ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS

Yes

LAST MEETING MINUTES

FASHBAUGH motioned to accept the April 2010 minutes as written.
RICE seconded the motion.
All were in favor of the minutes being accepted as written, none were opposed.
The April 2010 minutes were approved.
GUEST PRESENTATION

Dr. Poston thanked the committee for inviting him to the opening meeting and stated that Kathy Lindahl could not make the meeting due to a conference she was attending.

Dr. Poston stated that the work of the AUTTC was important and its recommendations were taken seriously and generally implemented and if not, discussed why not. He continued that in over the 11 years that he had been working with the AUTTC he had seen a lot of changes and accomplishments made on campus.

Dr. Poston stated that the members of the AUTTC were representative of people on campus.

Dr. Poston stated that in the years that he has worked on campuses, people were generally not happy with parking. He continued that improvements were being made incrementally. As an example, one of the changes due to improvements during this time was the 83% reduction in vehicle accidents.

Dr. Poston stated that there were more changes on the horizon. He stated that one change was the replacement of the Auditorium Road parking ramp once it could no longer be of use. Dr. Poston reported that the design team and engineers had designed a replacement ramp that he liked. He noted that the president and some of the trustees believed that the ramp should not be replaced in the same location. Dr. Poston stated that the project was on hold due to some economic issues.

Dr. Poston reported that the date when MSU would acquire the Michigan State Police (MSP) building/property off of Harrison Road was still open. He continued that due to asbestos removal and other changes that would be needed to make the main buildings serviceable, it would be more cost effective to retain only the pole barns, removing all other buildings, and making the rest parking. He stated that there had been several ideas regarding the property’s use and that people were interested, but money was not available.

Dr. Poston stated that he had heard varying reports of pedestrian/bicycle accidents. He continued that these incidents were often not reported unless it was a serious accident and as a result, there was not good information in regards. Dr. Poston stated that it would be helpful if there were defined areas where bicycles could travel and used the campus of University of California, Davis as an example.

Dr. Poston stated that those were two issues that he had for the committee, however, that the committee was not limited to working only on those concerns.

LADUCA asked if the members had any questions.

There were none.

Dr. Poston thanked the committee for its work.

LADUCA and the committee thanked Dr. Poston for his time.

CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLIC COMMENT

BUCKWALTER stated that she received correspondence asking what was being done to create safer sidewalks for pedestrians as the writer has had incidents with bicyclists running into her.
LADUCA stated that pedestrian safety on sidewalks in conjunction with proper bicycling on campus could be a major focus of the committee.

POTTER asked if there could be markings placed on campus sidewalks designating pedestrian and bicycle spaces.

LADUCA replied that when he met with Dr. Poston recently, that he was amenable to low-cost markings such as paint.

POLZIN reported that there was concern regarding bicyclists traveling through crowds of pedestrians on sidewalks, especially near Bessey Hall.

LEE reported that she had noticed that there were more bicyclists using the bike lanes along Wilson Road than were travelling on the sidewalks along that road.

LADUCA reported that he heard from a colleague that some graduate assistants were finding it lucrative to sell the permits to undergraduates. He asked if it was possible to track the permits.

LEE stated that she had not heard about graduate assistants selling permits to other students and would mention that it is not legal to do so.

RICE stated that it was difficult issue to monitor and that of approximately 3300 graduate permits issued, 2300-2400 were active at one time.

LADUCA asked if the AUTTC may become involved.

RICE replied that it was not only graduate assistants abusing the use of privileges, but also employees and other students. He continued that it was an issue that could be made more complex because of contractual issues associated with discipline of the offending employee.

LEE commented that visitors she knew parked in the Wharton Ramp to attend a football game and received a violation for parking 2am-6am after the game.

RICE stated that he would need to look at the violation to make sure of the particulars, but that tailgating areas remained open three hours after the game ended and it sounded like the lot the vehicle was parked in had a 2am-6am restriction.

LEE stated that the University should be encouraging people to not drink and drive and that in writing violations, people would need to move their vehicles or receive a violation.

RICE stated that there still needed to be enforcement and that persons can opt to not drink, appoint a designated driver, take a taxi or bus or make arrangements to be picked up. He added, that a violation may be appealed as described on the back of the violation.

LADUCA stated that it was not the committee’s role to encourage irresponsible behavior and added an individual was responsible for his or her decisions, poor or otherwise.
DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Campus Planning and Administration:

KACOS stated that updates were being made to the 2020 Master Plan. He also reported that two volunteers were needed to join the transportation focus group.

RICE added that in joining the transportation focus group a person could get a different and holistic view of the process and that it would be a positive experience worth the effort.

Department of Police:

RICE reported that the department had enough money to hire another technology person whose focus would be to write applications for existing software and work on long delayed Departmental projects including some for the Parking Operations unit.

FASHBAUGH asked about the status of the Commuter Plus Plan.

LADUCA stated that this would be visited under OLD BUSINESS.

Transit – CATA:

BRIESCHKE reported that the closing of East Circle Drive (ECD) affected a temporary bus stop for routes 31 and 33 on West Circle Drive (WCD) at East Circle Drive. He noted that there had been solid lines added on WCD near Old Botany to indicate that there was no passing. He stated that persons passing a bus at that stop could be ticketed as crossing the double line was a moving violation.

BRIESCHKE stated that he had spent the first part of the fall semester monitoring the consolidated stops near Akers Hall. He stated it appeared that it was easier for persons to board in the areas and easier for the bus routes.

LADUCA asked if there had been any input regarding the effect on disabled students residing in Holmes Hall.

PEDRAZA stated that it was a difficult path of travel to the bus stops. He added that if a person was blind or had a physical disability, then access would be difficult. PEDRAZA stated that the sidewalks, where they forked and were divided by grass areas, needed accessibility consideration.

LADUCA suggested that PEDRAZA’s observation and concern could be a subcommittee charge. He added that while he understood the savings in the consolidated routes, he thought it important to help the constituents.

BRIESCHKE stated that Route 32 was added to the weekend route and ran similarly to the weekday route to Lot 89.

PEDRAZA asked if there had been increased accidents due the addition of the right-turn-on-red from Farm Lane onto Auditorium Road.
RICE reported no changes.

BRIESCHKE stated that CATA was thankful for the addition of the privilege and that it helped their routes move more efficiently.

BRIESCHKE reported that Route 35 was shorter now that route 32 had been reinstated. He added that he had not received official feedback on the change yet.

**MSU Bikes:**

POTTER reported that MSU Bikes had only been selling used bicycles until “Fuji University” was launched with MSU Bikes about 1.5 months ago. He stated that MSU Bikes was now selling new bikes thanks to the Fuji sponsored program. POTTER continued that in the past, students who were still on campus during the summer would deplete most of their stock during that time, not leaving many bicycles for the fall. He continued that due to the program, MSU Bikes had bicycles to sell. POTTER added that the program helped generate revenue to support operations.

POTTER reported he had attended a conference, “Pro Walk/Pro Bike,” where he learned of an RFID chip that could be used to monitor/gauge use of bicycles by employees of an organization rather than rely on the honor-system to verify trips by bicycle.

POTTER reported that he also learned of software that was developed by a professor at U of MN-Minneapolis that could read video and count pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic which would hopefully reduce our costs related to doing such counts on our campus in the future.

LADUCA asked if there was free software for the video reader.

POTTER stated that the technology was similar to that used at toll booths, such as those on the Chicago tollways.

POTTER reported that the MSU Bikes Advisory Committee will be applying for a new national award for Bicycle Friendly Universities by the League of American Bicyclists on the University’s behalf.

POTTER stated he noticed that Beal Street had been repaved. He asked if the Beal Street/Michigan Avenue project was in the works.

RICE reported that the project was on hold at this time and that it was proving to be a more expensive project than just repaving and adjusting some lanes. He continued that there were water main, utility, and sidewalk issues. RICE stated that the road was capped at this time to temporarily improve it.

**Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities (RCPD):**

PEDRAZA stated that there would be a reception held for student veterans and service members from 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM and welcomed members to attend.
OLD BUSINESS

LADUCA asked that members review the AUTTC operating procedures on their own.

LADUCA reported that recommendations were generally implemented unless there were money issues.

LADUCA asked if the employee online registration questionnaire had been implemented.

RICE stated that it had not. As a sidebar, he stated that the bicycle online registration was back up and running.

LADUCA asked if the employee vehicle registration questionnaire would be worked out this year.

RICE replied that he hoped it would be.

RICE reported that there was new bicycle signage being placed on campus as recommended in the AUTTC annual report.

LADUCA stated that the University needed to be in compliance with federal law.

RICE stated that some signage was mandated, but others were enhancements and not requirements.

LADUCA reported that Kathy Lindahl favored speed tables.

RICE stated that speed tables could not be installed everywhere because they may cause vehicles to roll and/or flip. He added that there were rigid engineering guidelines and that the issue would receive continued review.

POTTER asked if the crosswalk committee could be involved with the AUTTC.

RICE replied that POTTER would have to check with Dennis Hansen who was in charge of the crosswalk committee.

LADUCA stated that when there was cross-pollination of committees, it brought more attention on an issue to the administration.

POTTER stated that he had set up a pilot site for reporting problem road areas on campus using the SeeClickFix program.

LADUCA suggested that the appropriate subcommittee work on recommending how it should be implemented.

LADUCA asked if new bicycle signage had been implemented.

RICE reported that traffic engineering along with Landscape Services had performed a survey on where bicycle lanes started and stopped. He stated that signage addition was in progress, with one posted at each entrance of campus reading, “Bike lane begins” and signs posted near the end of some bike lanes indicating they were ending.

LADUCA stated that there was support from Dr. Poston for painting lines to indicate where pedestrians and bicyclists should travel. He asked POTTER and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Committee to consult Dennis Hansen in regards.
MCCONNELL stated that amending university construction standards was not a trivial matter.

LADUCA asked who was responsible for the standards.

RICE replied that Landscape Services and the Physical Plant were in charge of the standards.

LADUCA stated he would follow up on the item himself.

RICE stated that Dennis Hansen may be the person to consult.

LADUCA asked how many persons had opted for the newly implemented Commuter Plus Plan.

BUCKWALTER reported that there were currently five persons who were enrolled for the plan and that originally there were eight, of which two returned the permit and one choose not to opt for the plan while at the Parking Office.

LADUCA stated that perhaps the subcommittee could get the word out, mentioning the savings the plan provided.

RICE stated that given the plan was new, it was currently offered directly from the Parking Office so that persons could speak with staff regarding the program, allowing questions and explanation.

LADUCA stated that items regarding the University heading toward more green space based on the 2020 Master Plan could be disseminated so that individuals would know that the effort was a positive for the community. He reported that parking between Shaw Lanes would likely be gone within the next decade based on the master plan.

PEDRAZA stated that while space was being removed from the Wells Hall area and with the future leveling of the Auditorium Road Ramp, less space would be available for employee parking and the Commuter Plus Plan could be an incentive.

POLZIN asked when the Auditorium Road Ramp would be demolished.

RICE stated that would be decided based upon evaluations conducted by the University’s engineering group in consultation with outside experts.

LADUCA stated that while the Parking Office would be responsible for the technical terms of the Commuter Plus Plan, the focus of the AUTTC should be to encourage it.

RICE stated that with the Commuter Plus Plan (CCP), eight, one day employee parking privileges permits were issued to each registrant per year to use at his or her discretion and in conjunction with the CCP permit being displayed.

MCCONNELL asked how much one of the eight permits was worth.

[The cost of such a permit is currently $6.00].

NEW BUSINESS

LADUCA stated that it was suggested that an AUTTC member be present at the Physical Plant’s Construction Junction monthly meetings.
PEDRAZA stated that in the past, it had been the chair that attended.

MCCONNELL asked if there had been analysis of the traffic/bicycles survey.

KACOS stated that he did not believe that the data from video had been tabulated yet.

Stephanie Fox stated that there would be some pedestrian and bicycle data available next week and would be receiving more.

LADUCA suggested that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Subcommittee work on mitigating pedestrian/bicycle accidents and suggesting signage. He suggested that the Vehicle Safety Subcommittee focus on minimizing accidents and promoting the new Commuter Plus Plan, especially with the demolition of the Auditorium Road Ramp pending. LADUCA agreed that instead of Outreach and Education being a separate subcommittee at this time, that persons interested in working on outreach and education be incorporated into the two other subcommittees.

POLZIN asked if the possible demolition of the Auditorium Road Ramp had been made public so that the AUTTC could make persons aware and provide information regarding alternate parking, i.e. Commuter Plus Plan. Rice stated that it was not restricted information.

RICE stated that all major parties agree that the Michigan State Police property off of Harrison Road would make a great commuter area and that one option was to make the money that would go toward a new Ramp available for such a commuter lot.

KACOS stated that the 2020 Master Plan guides where the University was heading, but not necessarily the time frame in which things would be done. He continued that he thought that there should be a plan in place before publicizing anything.

MCCONNELL mentioned that with plans of an MSUFCU being built in the formerly designated Lot 89E, that area would no longer be available for parking.

The meeting was adjourned for subcommittees to gather and work on their charges and items of interest.

**PEDESTRIAN and BICYCLE SAFETY**

PEDRAZA

SHAMASS

**VEHICULAR SAFETY**

BRIESCHKE

LEE

MCCONNELL