



University of Florida Transportation Study Committee
March 21, 2005 @ 3:00 PM
University Athletic Association Conference Room
260 Stadium
DRAFT -- MINUTES

Members Present:

Ms. Linda Dixon, Manager, Planning Office, Facilities Planning & Construction
Scott Fox, Transportation and Parking Services
Robert Hockman, Veterinary Medicine
Justin Kristan, Student
Bob Miller, Finance and Administration
Rose Nealis, College of Nursing
Julia Reiskind, Botany
Alan Rukin, Student

Members Absent:

Diego Arguea, Student
Harold Barrand, Physical Plant Division
Sheri Bryan, IFAS, Facilities Planning & Operations
Clinton Collins, Bureau of Economic & Business Research
Linda Crider, Urban & Regional Planning
Lily Elefteriadou, Civil & Coastal Engineering
Arlene Ellis, Physical Plant
Willine Momprevil, Student
Renee Musson, O'Connell Center
Scott Nygren, English
Don Powell, University Police Department
Ata Sarajedini, Astronomy
Gail Sasnett-Stauffer, College of Law
Ruth Steiner, Urban & Regional Planning

Visitors:

Miles Albertson, Facilities Planning and Construction
Eric Lewis, Facilities Planning & Construction
Jessica Morris, Student
Zachery Jacobson, Student

The University Transportation Study Committee (TSC) met on Monday, March 14, 2005 at the University Athletic Association, 260 Stadium West Conference Room. Linda Dixon, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Linda Dixon

After welcoming members to the UF Transportation Study Committee (TSC) meeting Ms. Linda Dixon, chair, introduced herself to the committee and asked the committee members to introduce themselves.

II. Adoption of Agenda

Motion: Julia Reiskind made a motion to adopt the Agenda as presented.

Second: Scott Fox

Motion carried unanimously

III. Adoption of Minutes

Motion: Robert Hockman made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Second: Bob Miller

Motion carried unanimously

V. Transportation Data and Analysis

Linda Dixon presented preliminary data for the Transportation Data and Analysis Report which included Transportation Analysis Zone (TAZ) data, mode split, crash data and parking information to the TSC members for review and further discussion. The report also consist of the information committee members requested at the last TSC meeting regarding average daily traffic counts on perimeter roads. The information was obtained from a report issued by the Regional Planning Council and the data from the Department of Transportation (DOT) permanent count stations on campus.

Linda indicated that there are a few segments where traffic has increased or stayed virtually the same. However, for a five year period, traffic growth is not terribly dramatic in most cases. This may be credited to the transit ridership and to some extent the shift in student housing patterns. Students are increasing density east of campus where they could walk and bike to campus.

The following comments were made by the TSC members while reviewing the Transportation Data and Analysis Report:

- One member commented that the number of trips on campus would probably stay the same or increase due to campus growth.

- With the shifting of student housing locations and improvement of the transit system over the last five years, is there any more room for growth in terms of transit and housing for students wanting to attend the University?
- Would those factors that have kept the average daily traffic count relatively stabled over the last five years be enough to accommodate even a moderate form of new growth?
- What is the projected growth for the University within the next five years?
- Until the business community moves some things further east, those students living further east will have to go west for business services. This may not directly impact the University, however, it will cause additional traffic on the same roadways and there will be an increase in daily traffic counts.

Linda stated that to a large extent our host local governments, in the city of Gainesville particularly, are trying to bring commercial services into the eastside area. They are also encouraging higher density residential mix use developments in the area, particularly east of campus and are rewriting the zoning codes to facilitate these changes.

On the transit side, RTS through the MTPO's twenty year long range transportation plan are advocating additional routes, decreasing headways, more service in east Gainesville, and are looking at a more mature transit system which includes north-south routes and east-west routes with single transfers.

Linda asked committee members to give some recommendations for the transportation system on campus and surrounding areas and think about how they would want it to affect the future.

Committee members made the following comments:

- Considering the previous discussion regarding more students living further east, what is the average distance expected for students to live from the university and walk or ride their bikes to campus.
- Weather conditions and road conditions would play a very vital part in determining if a student would walk or bike to campus.
- If the students that are living further east are not willing to walk or ride their bikes five or ten blocks from the university perhaps more bus routes could be provided that would pick up from small areas and drop off at the Union.
- Consider using the Trolley system again.
- Are the bus routes in some areas accessible to enough students?

CRASH DATA

Members reviewed and discussed crash data information Linda Dixon gathered from the University Police Department 2004 Campus Crash Data Report. Committee members made the following comments and recommendations:

- The bicycle data did not show data for bicycle miles traveled or the number of bicyclists. Therefore, it is difficult to do comparisons between changes in bicycle usage and bicycle crashes.
- Why does the data from 2001-2003 shows increase in the number of crashes and then a dramatic decreased in 2004?
- When employees leave and vacate the Orange Parking area, students who are parked further out move up to park in these areas. This maybe generating unnecessary trips. Perhaps the parking restrictions should not be lifted until later.
- One member suggested having no decal restrictions and everyone pay a fee every time they park on campus. UF should do everything possible to discourage driving on campus.
- Much has been done to discourage students from driving. What could be done to discourage faculty and staff from driving on campus?
- Perhaps making less available parking spaces that are strictly Orange, more car pool spots or more parking meters.
- The transit system has grown to target students and not staff.
- Employees have different responsibilities vs. students. Therefore, faculty and staff feel they need to have a vehicle that is readily available in case of a family emergency.

Justin Kristan stated that he would like to share with committee members a great book regarding sustainable campus communities.

Committee members discussed wanting to know what portion of the trip counts are generated from state vehicles traveling around campus as opposed to those vehicles that are actually coming on and leaving off campus daily. Several ideas were discussed by committee members to better manage state vehicles trips on campus. One example in particular was the Zip Car Program which is an online reservation system that is being used at the MIT in Boston and has reduced the use of their state vehicles by thirty percent.

Committee members also discussed new Data provided by the University of Florida, Physical Plant Division regarding Pavement Condition Analysis on Page 16 of the Draft Transportation Data & Analysis Report. Within the last five years one small resurfacing project has been done.

Alan stated that the total 983 linear feet does not include North South Drive now Gale Lemerand Drive or other roads on campus that have been reconstructed due to construction projects.

Linda indicated that information regarding reconstruction will go under Section 7, Existing and Proposed Roadway Modifications. Alan also asked if Linda could get something quantifiable regarding the condition of roadways. Linda will check with the UF Physical Plant Division regarding the pavement condition factor used to determine their priorities.

Miles Albertson indicated that Mowry Road needs to be reconstructed with bike lanes and sidewalks and the amount listed in priority #9 is for repaving. Linda suggested that the committee recommend removing priority 5 and 9 and describe them as a reconstruction projects.

Committee members discussed the parking and safety conditions on Inner Road and Linda suggested that they visit the area for future recommendations.

Ms. Dixon also shared information on Page 17 regarding Bicycle and Pedestrian facility expansion and Page 18 regarding Parking Supply vs. employment and enrollment. Committee members suggested that Linda bring back information regarding the number of Shands Non-UF employees, visitors vs. patients parking and asked if perhaps, they could look at ways other Universities handle parking issues.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.