Transportation and Parking Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

Date: September 21, 2016
Time: 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Location: SAC, Room 311
In Attendance: Connell Friel, Director, Transportation and Parking
James Ambroise, Manager, Parking and Automotive Garage
George Volz, Manager SBU Transit
Cole Lee, USG President
Liz Dorsa, Commuter Student Services Representative
Austin Sposato, GSO Representative

Transportation and Parking Services

The direction of the University’s transportation program is shaped by the SBU Transportation & Parking Advisory Group, which is a group of students who meet monthly during the academic year to provide feedback on transit, parking, and biking initiatives. SBU Transit continues to improve transportation services in many ways.

In order to increase the capacity and reliability of our transit fleet, in fiscal year 14/15 we made a major vehicle investment with the purchase of three new buses.

For infrastructure preservation, in the last few years, we made substantial improvements to the SBU Transit Facility in South P Lot. These enhancements included expanding the SBU Transit facility parking lot in order to facilitate the safe and secure parking of the University buses. In addition, the SBU Transit lot was repaved and relined, lighting was upgraded to LED technology, and the deteriorating fence was replaced and upgraded in order to safely secure the University bus yard. These improvements have significantly improved reduced the amount of money spent on repairs.

To enrich passenger convenience, we continue to adjust transit schedules. For example, last year, as a result of student feedback provided by the Chapin Apartments Resident Association or (CARA), we added another bus to the Hospital-Chapin bus route. The CARA group expressed concern that the buses arriving at a frequency of about every 15 minutes was insufficient. A third Hospital-Chapin bus was added to the schedule from 8:40 am to 9:00 pm, improving the arrival frequency to about every 10 minutes during that time.

Additionally, feedback from our commuter student groups expressed concern over extended wait times in the morning at South P lot brought on by earlier class schedules. In response to this congestion, the Monday thru Friday, Express Route sequence # 5 start time, was moved up a half hour, from 8:16 am to 7:36 am. And Express Route # 6, which operates Monday thru Thursday, was moved up one hour, from 9:00 am to 8:00 am. These adjustments provided an additional hour and a half of service and significantly reduced the morning wait times at South P lot’s Wolfie’s Hut.

SBU Transit, in conjunction with Suffolk Transit, provides access to local shopping on weekends. This arrangement allows SBU students to ride on Suffolk Transit buses on Saturdays and Sundays by providing access to the S60/69 and 3D routes. These routes provide more service times to more local shopping destinations than Stony Brook was previously able to provide. These changes came about entirely as a result of student feedback through a Transportation & Parking Advisory Group meetings.

In addition, our SBU Smart Transit system, developed through a partnership with the Center of Excellence in Wireless & Information Technology and the Department of Computer Sciences, uses live GPS technology to communicate vehicle locations. The locations of our buses can be viewed; in select bus stops, via the web, and through iPhone and Android mobile apps. Last year, we added an additional viewing screen at the Engineering Circle Bus Shelter. This addition was also a direct result of student feedback received through our Transportation & Parking Advisory Group meetings.
Furthermore, SBU Wolf Ride, our innovative solar-powered bike-share program was expanded and now numbers twelve conveniently located stations which contain almost eighty bicycles. To secure the use of a bicycle, students need only swipe their SBU ID card. Since its inception in April of 2013, SBU Wolf Ride has registered over 16,500 rides and we continue to see the number of rides grow every semester. For the 14/15 academic year, the average daily rides numbered about 60 per day. We continue to receive positive feedback regarding SBU’s Wolf Ride Bike Share, and, as a consequence, we plan to continue expanding the number of stations on campus.

Finally, once again at the request of students, SBU Transit installed two new larger bus shelters, one at the LIRR rail station and the other at the Engineering quad. These shelters were made larger in order to hold more students during inclement weather events. The new shelters were also outfitted with LED Solar powered lights to increase safety for nighttime users. The shelters that were removed from the LIRR and Engineering locations were relocated to the Gym Road West bus stop and the RSS bus stop, both locations which did not previously have shelters.

All these service enhancements and improvements, enacted primarily because of student participation and feedback, were funded by the transportation fee.

Recent Transportation and Parking Developments

1. Proposed elimination of 8 Suffolk Bus routes throughout the county: the 10D/E, 10A and S90 on the East End, the 5A, S71 and 7D/E in Central Suffolk, and the 1B and S35 in Western Suffolk. The S71 operates through the Stony Brook University and Hospital campuses while the 5A operates to Port Jefferson Station one village to east. A current 22 minute ride from Tech Park would take 48 minutes via this new path including wait time for the 3D. A current 35 minute trip from SCCC would take 79 minutes via this new path including wait time for the 3D. S71 customers south of Brookhaven Town Hall destined for Stony Brook will have to seek alternate transportation options. Michel Arens of Government and Community Relations is spearheading the university response. Hearings were held on this plan on Thursday, September 8 from 3-7 pm at the Legislative Auditorium in Riverhead and on Friday, September 9 from 3-7 pm at the Legislative Auditorium in Hauppauge. Pending the outcome of the public hearings, route cuts are scheduled to begin on Monday, October 3, 2016.

2. Fall 2016 Changes to the SBU Transit Outer Bus Route, and the Suffolk Transit S60 Bus Route - Effective on August 15, 2016, The Outer Loop bus stop located on the west side of Stadium Road in front of the Infirmary was relocated to the east side of Stadium Road directly across the road from the Infirmary. In addition, the Outer Loop bus no longer stops at the Student Union as that area has now been designated as a traffic-free zone.

3. Multiple parking fee changes took place August 22nd. Please check the transportation website for a listing of the new fees.

4. Admin Garage underwent extensive renovations to preserve and make the structure safer during the summer.

5. 7Bus service was discontinued due to the company filing for bankruptcy.

Transportation and Parking Advisory Group Meeting Schedule, Academic Year 16/17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, September 21, 2016</td>
<td>2:30PM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>Student Activities Center, Room 304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, October 19, 2016</td>
<td>2:30PM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>Student Activities Center, Room 304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 16, 2016</td>
<td>2:30PM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>Student Activities Center, Room 304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 14, 2016</td>
<td>2:30PM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>Student Activities Center, Room 304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, February 15, 2017</td>
<td>2:30PM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>Student Activities Center, Room 304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, March 15, 2017</td>
<td>2:30PM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>Student Activities Center, Room 304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 12, 2017</td>
<td>2:30PM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>Student Activities Center, Room 304</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, May 10, 2017</td>
<td>2:30PM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>Student Activities Center, Room 304</td>
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Questions and Answers

Elizabeth Dorsa Questions

Were there any updates on the 511 ride share portal?
Answer - Gregory Monaco, Sustainability, informs us he spoke with Paul Spreer around September 14th and they finished converting the portal over to the new operating platform, so we'll be discussing the personalized SBU portal in the near future. We will keep you posted.

Any updates on bathrooms being built in South P?
Answer - No. This was investigated but determined to be cost prohibitive.

Is there any way for students who purchased 7 Bus tickets in advance to get refunded?
Answer - The 7Bus, which is now in bankruptcy court, was a private company with no affiliation with Stony Brook University. To attempt to recover losses the bankruptcy trustee listed below should be contacted. The case number is: 8:16-bk-71172 and it is filed under the "Schoolman" company.
Chapter 11 Trustee
Allan B. Mendelsohn
38 New Street
Huntington, NY 11743
631-923-1625

In addition, Suffolk Transit moved forward with their proposed bus route cuts. Suffolk transit posted this information on their website: http://www.sct-bus.org/

Austin Sposato Questions –

Were the 3 new buses replacing old busses (which were being rotated out of the fleet) or added to the number of already existing busses?
Answer - They replaced aging buses.

Would it be logistical/practical/worth it to explore the idea of expanding the on campus bus system to include off campus routes? I am working on survey questions to be distributed to see who this would benefit and how.
Answer - The cost of adding an off-campus route would probably greatly outweigh the limited population it may serve.

Another question that was emailed to me from a graduate student, is the faculty/staff parking lot space adequate for the amount of parking passes that are in circulation? She has said she often has to pay for parking.
Answer – The parking on campus this semester has been more problematic then in years past. Senior management is exploring some options and may make an accommodation to alleviate some of the issues.

Date of Next Meeting: October 19, 2016
Time of Next Meeting: 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Location of Next Meeting: SAC, Room 311