

Meeting Minutes
State College Borough Transportation Commission
August 13, 2019

The State College Borough Transportation Commission (TC) met on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, in Room 304 of the Municipal Building. Raymond Najjar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

Members Present

Raymond Najjar, Chair; Richard Garis, Vice-Chair; Rick Gilmore; Hugh Mose; and Diana Malcom

Members Absent

Paul Jovanis and Mieke Haeck

Others Present

Amy Kerner, Borough Engineer; Douglas Shontz, Communications Specialist; Kayla Irvin, Communications Assistant; Lt. Kevin Winkelblech, State College Police; Greg Garthe, Senior Planner; Cecily Zhu, UPUA Representative; and Stacy Hall, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Najjar asked if there were any corrections to the June 11, 2019 minutes. Mr. Mose made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Garis seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Public Hour – Hearing of Citizens

No one wished to speak during the public hour.

Discussion Items

Borough Bikeshare Survey

Ms. Hoag reported community members were invited to complete a Bikeshare Survey on the Engage State College website. She said 67 people participated and attached to the agenda was the general report that displayed the overall results. She added the purpose of the survey was to engage residents regarding their feelings towards the Borough's future participation in the Bikeshare Program. Mr. Shontz gave an overview of the results to the members.

Mr. Mose asked how many Bikeshare stations would the Borough have? Mr. Ward answered, at this time, the number of stations had not been determined. He added a one-year pilot program would take place with one station across from the Bill Welch Plaza to start out, and after it was observed how much the station was used, a recommendation would be given to move forward.

Ms. Malcom commented drivers in the Borough needed to pay attention to bike lanes. She was also concerned about bikes being left all over the place with the Bikeshare Program. She said some people using them would not understand the biking laws.

Pennsylvania State University (PSU) and Borough Bikeshare

Ms. Hoag said the Borough partnered with Penn State University Park Undergraduate Program (UPUA) to launch a pilot Bikeshare program with a one-year agreement for a station at the Municipal Building directly adjacent to the Bill Welch Plaza. She added the purpose of the pilot program would be to help determine the long-term viability of a partnership between the Borough and Penn State for a Bikeshare Program.

Ms. Zhu stated the station would be installed soon. She added the university was entering the last year of the contract with Zagster and user feedback from the survey showed users wanted to look at what else was on the market. She noted PSU and the Borough would be working together as one unit looking for a lower cost module.

Mr. Najjar asked if the bikes were to be brought back to the station after use. Ms. Zhu stated there would be an extra fee if the bikes were not brought back to the station but would not want that used on a regular basis. She explained the ways bikes could be locked when away from the station.

Mr. Mose thought it was a positive step forward to integrate the Borough into what PSU was doing. He asked how many bike stations PSU had. Ms. Zhu answered 17 but would soon have 21.

Mr. Gilmore asked if there had been efforts to reach out to the larger apartment building owners to see if there would be any interest in taking part in the Bikeshare Program. Ms. Zhu stated there was a team of UPUA members who had been reaching out to all of the upcoming developments downtown. She noted only one responded positively and stated it would depend on who they ended up leasing their commercial space to because if it was a restaurant who needed outdoor seating, there would not be enough space for a bike station.

Mr. Gilmore asked if the provision of bicycle infrastructure played into the review process for new property developments. Ms. Kerner answered the Land Development Ordinance did not have anything specific to that, but the Borough did have the Complete Streets Policy that would review the project.

Ms. Malcom suggested the station across from the Municipal Building have a message board posted listing the frequently broken rules of bicycling so any inexperienced riders would have some helpful guidelines. Mr. Shontz said Jasmine Fields, AmeriCorps Representative, had been doing educational outreach regarding bicycle safety and he would pass along the idea of a message board.

Mr. Najjar asked Mr. Shontz if he was satisfied with the number of survey responses and he stated he was. Mr. Najjar acknowledged the new Bikeshare station would be paid for by PSU but asked how much it would cost. Ms. Zhu answered it was around \$12,000.

Liaison Reports

MPO/CRPA/COG Transportation – No report given.

Centre Area Transportation Authority – No report given.

Penn State Transportation – No report given.

PennDOT – No report given.

Borough Planning Commission – No report given.

Borough Engineer - Ms. Kerner reported the Atherton Street update, Section 152, was underway with approval to extend down to including Curtin Road. She stated the contract was extended for the last bit of work to be finished next summer. She noted two temporary traffic signals were in the construction zone and pedestrians had a marked detour. She reported Section 153 would go all the way to the Parkway but had been delayed due to the amount of utility work that needed done. She noted staff was working to incorporate the Streetscape Grant which included streetlights, benches and sidewalk improvements.

Regarding the PSU West Campus, Ms. Kerner stated she attended a meeting with the Neighborhood Coalition and representatives from PSU on August 5th. She noted the meeting gave everyone understanding as to where the process was at.

Mr. Mose voiced his concern about TC members not being invited to the meeting on August 5th. He asked what the TC needed to do to be involved. Ms. Kerner stated PSU was asked by the Neighborhood Coalition to meet and she did not know details about the invite process. Mr. Mose asked staff to consider inviting someone from the TC to meetings of that nature in the future. Ms. Mose stated he was concerned about the one access point and thought it would work for the short term, but not necessarily for the long term considering future major developments in Ferguson Township. Ms. Kerner stated the design of the new building was such that it could be reconfigured in the future if deemed necessary. Mr. Mose commented he knew the traffic engineers had sophisticated models and it would be interesting to understand what the impacts were with the one approach area versus two approach areas.

Mr. Mose applauded the Borough staff for the new curb ramps being installed.

Environmental Coordinator - No report given.

Parking Office - Mr. Ward reported the electric vehicle charging stations were up and running at the Beaver Garage. He gave an update on the Highlands Pilot Parking Program stating there had been two major events and two small event weekends thus far. He said there was not enough data gathered yet to provide a report. He noted 71 users had signed up for parking passes and 34 event permits had been sold.

Mr. Mose asked if the Zipcars across from Saints Cafe had been redeployed. Mr. Ward explained Zipcars to the members and said they were relocated near apartment complexes within the Borough at the users' request.

State College Police – Lt. Winkelblech discussed upcoming traffic changes related to student move in. He added this year's plan had been developed over the past year with the main goals of minimizing traffic delays and maximizing safety. He said some of the traffic patterns would be changed in order to keep traffic moving safely.

Upcoming Meeting Date

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 12:15 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Najjar adjourned the meeting at 1:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Hall
Administrative Assistant