**9.28.2017**

**Transportation SWATeam Minutes**

*National Soybean Research Center Room 358, 3pm*

**Attendees:**

Yanfeng Ouyang

Pete Varney

Morgan White

Rebecca Laurent

Lily Wilcock

Ximing Cai

Julie Cidell

Micah Kenfield

Tolsi Chudgar

**REVIEW AND STATUS OF PAST INITIATIVES**

**Updates from Morgan White:**

* *Electric Vehicles*
  + SWATeam should review the report that she emailed
  + Funding program to be announced on Oct. 11. We can look into proposing EV analysis.
* *Green Fleet*
  + Review the update that Pete sent. We should think about who we should reach out to - have SWATeam members contact them and not just Pete.
* *Air Travel*
  + Don’t currently have a good estimate of emissions or dollars spent
  + Idea of virtual storeroom to reduce emissions?
  + Option to purchase offsets.
    - Units could voluntarily buy their own. Got stalled. Talk to Ben McCall and Scott Willenbrock – key contacts on this question.
    - Complications with additionality (too subjective).
* *New mode share survey \*\*\*Morgan’s #1 priority*
  + Survey for students, faculty, and staff.
  + SWATeam to help draft this? iSEE can help with putting it out.
  + Julie Cidell: has a student project that just got approval that is very relevant to this.
* *Bus Tours*
  + Currently welcome new student with a bus ride to show them how awesome MTD is, but we don’t do this for employees.
    - Lots of employees don’t know that the buses are free.
  + Beginning to do this with housing’s new hires. Plan to take a lot of picures.
* *Bike parking* 
  + Need to look at this again. SWATeam should help with census.
  + MCORE has website with more detailed information about what’s going on with this.

**Updates from Lily Wilcock:**

* *Bike Parking*
  + Have done a lot with this in last couple of years, with help of SSC funding.
    - Cheaper than planned
    - Have added about 500 new spaces, which quickly filled up. Still not enough.
    - Pretty nearly replaced substandard racks (about 2,000).
      * There are a couple left near Housing buildings that are slated for renovation soon. Trying to keep the new racks away from construction projects.
* *Bike share*
  + Looking into implementing this in the next 12 months. Working with SSC.
  + Small footprints to work with

**Updates from Pete Varney:**

* *Campus Fleet*
  + University has decentralized fleet. Each department owns, manages, and purchases their vehicles independently. F&S owns half of campus vehicles (1200 total). Pete controls F&S directly.
  + National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) certification of green fleets
    - F&S fleet applied. On grade scale of 0-4, scored a level 2
      * Currently in the process of recertifying (only good for 2 years).
    - Expanding certification beyond F&S would require conversation about scale: All campus? Certain units?
  + F&S Fleet Plan
    - Accreditation requirement
    - Pete emailed this to everyone before the meeting
    - A collection of things F&S can do at a very low cost to be sustainable
      * Tracking & recording
      * Commitment to not increase size of fleet (proving challenging)
      * Replacing vehicles – departments don’t have plan. Fns does. Higher fuel economy each year. Replacing v8 w/ v6. Not earth-shattering or expensive. Primary goal is to use less fuel – no 1 driver of emissions.
* *Passenger fleet*
  + Car rentals - 200 vehicles. Centralized and available for all campus units.
  + All passenger vehicles must go through car pool
    - Pete purchases them and rents back to departments
  + No requirement that you have to rent from car pool; have to do things in economical manner.
* *Electric Vehicles*
  + Lot of potential, but have to keep costs at level where people will still use the vehicles.
    - EV’s tend to cost 2-3x as much.
  + When departments want to replace a vehicle, can they ask for electric? Depends. Could they pay the additional 20,000? They’ve talked about it.

**DISCUSSION: POSSIBLE OBJECTIVES FOR THIS YEAR**

**Centralizing Campus Fleet**

*Yanfeng*: Would it be possible to centralize the fleet to offset emissions? (Centrally manage the entire campus fleet instead of just passenger vehicles to reduce total vehicles needed)

*Pete*: There are reasons to centralize fleet. However, given current economy and state of university, departments are not buying vehicles they don’t need.

*Yanfeng*: Do the different units talk to each other to share vehicles?

*Pete*: Possible to an extent. But for larger vehicles, no one wants to share. Things have been cut so that if there’s excess capacity, they’re sharing internally.

**Bike Census**

*Lily*: Very interested to see results in October – see if it’s a bumper crop or just imagining it. Will know results instantaneously using GIS that day (Oct. 11). Would love to hear form people who do research about what could potentially be done with it.

* Bikes are very decentralized as well.
* Currently making a website for bike information

**Multimodal Survey**

*Yanfeng*: Expand parking survey idea to make it multimodal. Include bikes and questions about commuting also.

*Julie*: Interested in question of if millennials are really not going to drive as much. Many students come from place where car is how you get around. Increasing international population.

* Would like to talk to alums about how transportation habits on campus have stuck around.
* Need to understand whole attitude about transportation – not just trips by purpose.

*Julie*: Got permission to send survey by email and have focus groups based on results. Plan is to pilot it next semester with students who took her transportation class.

* Next Step: Julie will email everyone a draft of the survey

*Lily*: This information is also used for STARS, general planning, targeting groups. They have come up against hurdles to get it in the past.

*Yanfeng*: Could also ask about carpooling interest. We need to understand attitude of community toward all of these initiatives.

\*\*\*This is the first step we can take toward understanding air, bike, and single occupancy vehicle habits.

**Reducing Emissions from Flying**

*Yanfeng*: Have talked before about adding a couple of questions to TEM system to understand why they chose to fly. Problem is we don’t know demand alternatives – what they don’t choose.

* iSEE talking about separate survey.

*Lily*: Would like to see something more mindless and easy to report air travel. Make it easier to purchase offsets when they’re making those plans to travel. “One stop shop” Could make a recommendation for this?

**Renewable Fuels for Campus Fleet**

*Yanfeng*: Is something we should continue pushing for?

*Pete*: Talked about for several years. Having outside entity look at fleet and see what options are available. There is no magic bullet that’s not associated with significant expense.

*Pete*: CNG would be much better fuel, but it’s half million to put infrastructure in, and there won’t be financial payback.

**Electric Vehicles**

*Pete*: Have 100 cars out of 1200 vehicles – not an electric option available for most of campus fleet. People going for with the cars - EVs won’t work for that.

*Yanfeng*: Should we fund a study? Do we have data? Statistics from past?

*Pete*: Some has been collected, but it’s very generic. Total miles, but not miles/trip, which is the type of data that’s needed. Currently GPS on F&S vehicles, but only on 20. Cost involved if we want to do that with others.

* + Would be a question for the departments.
  + Privacy concerns are a major barrier
  + Lots of work to manage all of the information.

*Micah*: Possible for SWATeam to partner with student members to make proposal for SSC funding for a study.

**Offsets for Air Travel**

*Lily*: Big part of our emissions. Need to locate offsets.

*Julie*: Some people wouldn’t be interested in offsets because of the problems that they cause on site. Other options like virtual meetings.

**Summary**

*3 Actionable Items:*

**1. Explore options for offsets for air travel**

**2. Pursue an intermodal transit survey – one for students and one for staff**

**3. Assess the feasibility of various options to reduce emissions from the campus fleet**

**CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY CELEBRATION POSTER**

Need to update bullet points, highlight action items.

* Differentiate what we’re doing next with different fonts.

Decided to work on this via email.

* Next Step: Yanfeng will put this in the Box folder, take the lead, and circulate it to the rest of the team.

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Future Meetings: Set biweekly, drop if we need to.

Yanfeng will be out of country next week. We will dial him in.

Will schedule a specific topic for each meeting.