

**Minutes  
Council on Built Environment  
July 20, 2005**

Voting members attending: Ralph Davila (for Russell Cross) Rick Floyd, Clint Magill, David Parrott, Chuck Sippial, Max Summers and Joel Wixson

Non-voting members attending: Clay Hanks (for Raye Milburn), Shelly Janac, James Massey, Chris Meyer, Nancy Sawtelle and Dick Williams

Guest: Jennifer Faulkner

Grade Separation at George Bush/Wellborn

Chuck Sippial reported on the status of planning for the grade separation at George Bush Drive and Wellborn Road. The plan is for the railroad to remain on grade. George Bush Drive will be run below grade and beneath the railroad; Wellborn Road will be raised. Sippial described how the exits would function and how traffic would flow. He added that the plans call for walls to be erected along the sides of the lowered portion of George Bush Drive. The walls will impede access to the businesses in Southgate. As a result, the business owners are expressing some concerns.

The contract for the grade separation is expected to be let in 2008 to 2010. Construction will take 2 to 3 years. Sippial says that the grade separation is a TxDOT project that will benefit the community and the university. Benefits include a smoother flow of traffic associated with events like football games and commencement as well as providing faster access to west campus and facilities on the west side of the railroad tracks for both emergency vehicles and buses. Max Summers asked how this project would affect the grade separations that the university is planning at Jones and Lamar and Wellborn Road. Sippial said that the university will need to form a planning committee to carefully coordinate the timing and minimize the disruption associated with those projects. He added that the new construction adjacent to Wellborn Road would also be a factor. Construction projects include the Life Sciences Complex, the Agriculture Headquarters Building, modifications to F&B Road, and utilities construction.

Student Services Corridor

David Parrott reported on the discussions he has had with students and student leaders about the concept of a Student Services Corridor. He invited Joel Wixson to relate his conversations with Student Body President Jim Carlson and others. Wixson distributed copies of letters of support from Jamie Rae Walker, president of the Graduate Student Council; Andy Liddell, president of the MSC; and Rosa Elena Saenz-Padilla, president of the International Student Association. Wixson said that students support the concept of consolidating the locations of student services within a "district" on campus. Parrott distributed a map that outlines the area of campus where many student services are currently located. He explained that the concept of a Student Services Corridor is being proposed as a guide for the CBE to follow in making decisions about the location of student service functions. As an example, if the Athletic Department moves out of Koldus, the vacant space should be filled with a student service function that currently is located away from the corridor, such as Student Financial Services or Student Financial Aid.

Summers asked if the concept of a Student Services Corridor was consistent with the Campus Master Plan. Members of the CBE indicated that the Master Plan addresses building locations rather than function locations; so, the concept would be consistent with the Master Plan.

Summers then asked Parrott if he could define student services in this context. Parrott agreed to bring a list of student service functions to the CBE meeting on August 3.

Parrott asked the CBE to adopt the concept of a Student Services Corridor as a guide to planning. Rick Floyd responded that the Campus Master Plan refers to “district plans” and the spine of the campus, and suggested that this would be a good time for the university to begin developing the district plans and corridors for the entire campus. The CBE agreed.

Parrott moved that the CBE adopt the concept of a Student Services Corridor as a precursor to developing the district plans called for in the Campus Master Plan. Development of the district plans will enhance the sense of campus identity and community and provide synergies to support the goals of the university.

Summers seconded. During discussion, the CBE agreed that the plan should be professionally developed. The motion carried unanimously.

#### Space Use Proposal from Student Affairs

Parrott said that in considering the space currently occupied by the Division of Student Affairs, he had developed two alternate plans, each of which could provide additional space for Faculty Reinvestment needs within the Academic Corridor.

In what Parrott called Plan A, the moves could free 10,000 square feet in the Academic Corridor.

In Plan B, the moves could free 23,000 square feet in the Academic Corridor.

After outlining the moves in Plan A and Plan B, Parrott said that he would bring a fleshed out proposal to the CBE in two weeks. Regan suggested that the plan needed to be vetted carefully. Floyd commended Parrott for seeking conceptual approval from CBE before proceeding with planning and asked that Parrott include a communication plan and a vetting plan with the concept proposal.

#### Other Business

Wixson inquired about the status of several issues brought before the CBE in recent weeks, including the Agricultural Headquarters Building, the grade separations at Jones and Lamar, and the Research Foundation. In response, Sippial noted that Dean Murano is scheduled to meet with the CBE next week to discuss the sites being considered for the Agriculture Headquarters and that the grade separations are part of the plans for Wellborn Road that are being developed by the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Floyd indicated that consideration of the Research Foundation space is part of a larger consideration of research management in general.

As a point of information, Floyd said that the Faculty Club was closed for asbestos abatement and renovation. The Club will not move; so consideration of the space did not come before the CBE.

Clint Magill asked about the recent news stories related to an Indoor Practice Facility. Floyd reminded the Council that when the CBE approved the Athletic Master Plan it was on the condition that the Athletic Department must return to CBE for the approval of specific plans. Plans for the Indoor Practice Facility have not been approved by the CBE.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.