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Did You Know:

- Texas is the only state to have the flags of 6 different nations fly over it. They are: Spain, France, Mexico, Republic of Texas, Confederate States, and the United States.
- Austin is considered the live music capital of the world.
- Texas includes 267,339 square miles, or 7.4% of the nation's total area.

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The Texas Roundup

Texas Parking Association Elects New Officers

A hoot and hollering good time was had by over 180 members and affiliates at the 2004 Texas Parking Association Conference, which was held in beautiful Austin, Texas (The Live Music Capital of The World). Members enjoyed live music, learned about the ABC's of parking, parking and technology updates, and various transportation methods. The conference was opened by an inspirational speech by legendary NCAA Championship coach Augie Garrido, with the University of Texas at Austin. The Board was also able to secure speakers for twelve different topics ranging from Parking Geometrics to Measuring Performance Standards (all topics are posted on the website). In addition to the general sessions, over thirty vendors displayed their products and services; thanks to all who showed. The golf tournament and Sixth Street venues were a blast, and provided fun for all, during "non-working times".

During the general Board Meeting, Dr. Bob Harkins with the University of Texas at Austin was elected as the new TPA Board President, Jim Moran with Walker Parking Consultants was elected Vice President, Camille Williams with the University of Texas at Dallas was elected Secretary, and Julie Allen with Texas A&M was reelected as Treasurer.

Mark your calendars, as next year's conference will be held in the Dallas/Forth Worth area in mid April. New members and board member nominations are now being accepted. Nominations or membership questions can be sent to Bob Harkins at bharkins@mail.utexas.edu. For additional information on the conference or on the Texas Parking Association, please log onto the Website at www.texasparking.org.

Texas Parking Association's Objectives

When talking to people about what it is the Texas Parking association does, often times the core objectives are not mentioned. As a result, we have outlined the core objectives for a everyone's review. But the primary intent of the association is for fellowship, and to share ideas and concepts to make the industry as a whole better.

Our Objectives are:

To Maintain a statewide organization of individuals involved with parking issues in municipalities and other government bodies whether local, state or national, parking authorities, transportation authorities, boards, bureaus, commissions or departments, also including universities, colleges, airports, hospitals, stadiums and auditoriums.

To Promote the mutual interests of the membership in the provision and operation of adequate, efficient, convenient and economical public parking as a proper and necessary function for the economic and social well being of the members.

To Act for and regularly coordinate with all members as an information source on issues of interest to the association.

To Assist and aid association members in dealing with parking problems and in fostering a current understanding of parking principles, practices and interaction with transportation objectives.

UT Bicycle Program Takes Off

by Colleen Fisher, Director of UTSHARE,
The University of Texas at Austin



“the purpose of registration had been for recovery of stolen property, and summarily as a theft deterrent, PTS sought to create a community of bicyclists and use registration to provide accountability and improve representation.”

At the University of Texas at Austin, Parking and Transportation Services (PTS) has developed a comprehensive bicycle program that not only registers bicycles and reduced theft, but also provides amenities and education to sustain and encourage new bicyclist and commuters.

The only long-term program involving bicycles at the University had been the registration program run by the University police department. In the fall of 2002, PTS incorporated this program as a cornerstone of its bicycle program.

While the purpose of registration had been for recovery of stolen property, and summarily as a theft deterrent, PTS sought to create a community of bicyclists, and use registration to provide accountability and improve representation. Two drawbacks to the previous system were the invalidation of the Texas driver's license stamped onto the bike upon change of ownership, and the lack of an expiration date or method of identifying current bicyclists.

By using the existing serial numbers that *most* manufacturers stamp onto the bicycles and registering them as vehicles in the parking management database (like a VIN for an automobile), PTS was able to transfer ownership if need be, and to register several bicycles to a single owner and keep accurate tabs on the total number of cyclists and bicycles at the University. Using the existing unique number also alleviated having to physically engrave the bicycle and therefore made online registration a popular option. With online registration, bicyclists can register on their own time in a matter of minutes.

Once registered, customers are given a decal/permit for their bicycle which is valid for two years, and renewable. The expiration date enables PTS to better determine the size of its current bicycling community. Having a quantifiable population is important when planning and soliciting funding for support services (such as bike racks, lockers, maps and locks).

While registration remains the strongest component of the bicycle program, PTS also focused on providing services to its bicycling community. Emphasis on security, safety, access and other amenities became a priority to help sustain current commuters. A bike fair was held to educate bicyclists with commuting tips and how to properly lock their bicycles; a major deterrent to theft. The fair also provided a bus with a bike rack to teach hesitant users how to utilize the racks which were installed on the UT shuttle buses. CORA bike racks were selected as the university standard because of their intuitive design which promotes users to properly lock their bicycles. PTS gained free access to shower facilities in the campus recreational facilities for registered bicyclists. More services are slated as the number of registered bicyclist's increases.



ABIA Fun Run

Over 1,200 people participated in the 5th annual fun run on May 23, 2004 at the Austin Bergstrom International Airport. The Airport shut down one of the runways at 8am, and made a 3 mile course out of the landing area and taxi staging areas. People from all across the State participated in the run, which is to benefit the United Way. Sponsored in conjunction by ABIA and RunTex, the event was highly successful, and was truly for a good cause.

Board Member Dan Huberty and daughter Brianna participated in the run, finishing in a blistering 33:41, good enough for 314th place.



UT Share Pass

By Bobby Stone, Assistant Director for Parking and Transportation, The University of Texas at Austin

The University of Texas at Austin (UT), Parking and Transportation Services Department (PTS), recently introduced a garage debit card for use in the seven garages on campus. The "UT Share Pass" was designed to accommodate any faculty or staff members parking needs, but specifically targeted those who usually use alternative transportation. The Share Pass targets these users by offering low cost, space available garage parking on those days when using their normal alternative transportation method may not be practical.

The University of Texas at Austin is a large inner city campus with approximately 15,000 parking spaces for an average of 70,000 people accessing campus each day. The UT Shuttle serves many of these people with an average of 43,000 boarding's per day. Both students and faculty/staff are allowed to use the UT Shuttle and we offer, no-charge to the user, use of our city bus, Capitol Metro, for faculty and staff. PTS has found that the bus system, in combination with other alternative transportation methods such as bicycling, walking, carpools, and vanpools, serve our campus well and are highly supported.

However, the occasional need to go off campus for an appointment or inclement weather presented challenges to those taking advantage of alternative transportation, and PTS wanted to address these issues. In tackling this problem, PTS believed that a solution could be found that would not only encourage continued use of alternative transportation, but also increase utilization by making alternative transportation options a more attractive and workable solution for commuting to campus.

It was from this, and with encouragement from the UT Staff Council, that PTS decided to launch the UT Share Pass. With the cooperation of the UT Staff Council, we tested and refined the use of the pass over a 6 week period before launching the new service in early May. Currently, this pass is sold across campus in any of the seven garage offices to eligible Faculty, Staff, or other UT affiliated employees.

The Share Pass system is controlled through the McGann software and Amano equipment that accurately tracks usage and allows additional usage to be purchased and added to the original debit card as needed. With each use of these pre-purchased cards, a predetermined amount is decremented from the card. We offer various rates depending on convenience and have some garages that offer all day parking for as little as two dollars if a UT Share Pass is utilized. The Share Pass allows for quick and convenient entrances and exits by eliminating the need to pull an entry ticket or make a daily payment. One easy trip to a garage office allows each user the opportunity to buy as little or as much parking as they believe they might need for a period of time that the customer chooses.

This program began at the end of the spring semester and as such, has not reached as wide of an audience as it will over the summer and into the fall semester. Despite the timing, we sold 165 Share Passes during the first week they were offered and received wide spread positive comments from across the campus. We believe that the UT Share Pass will be a great success and allow us to continue to develop and expand our parking services especially in regards to alternative transportation.

Web-Based Training - Cutting Travel Related Training Costs while Improving Productivity

By: Christopher J. Archer, Vice President - Associated Time & Parking

Finding ways to reduce costs while improving productivity often appear to be conflicting objectives in today's highly competitive market. Nowhere is this truer than when a company acquires a new software application. Usually the new system is acquired to provide more efficiency in managing business processes with a goal to reduce overall operating costs. Cost versus productivity becomes a management challenge in achieving the benefits of the new system as we must consider not only system implementation issues - but people issues as well. After all, it is the people of the organization that manage and navigate these new applications.



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

WWW.
TEXASPARKING.ORG

Coming Next Issue:

Conference Update

Design-build or bid-build: A Primer

Shuttle Maintenance

Here are the key people issues to consider immediately and over the life of the new application:

- How will we initially train users of the new system?
- How will we provide support to system users as their skills decline over time?
- How will we train new system users due to turnover and advancement?
- How will we train users on system changes due to upgrades or changes in configuration?

These are clearly cost versus productivity issues. When we send people to a training class, we incur event, travel and lost productivity costs. This is high cost for achieving high initial productivity. Over time, if people do not use the system skills they learned in class business productivity will decline. Also, we can anticipate turnover and advancement in the ranks, introducing a new training requirement. We can also anticipate that some critical staff will be unable to attend the initial offsite training class. If a classroom training event is our only option, then we will either choose to incur these high costs over and over again or we will rely on On-the-Job training. Either way, you suffer an inherent loss in productivity with this alternative. There is a better way...

Parking System Software customers are now able to:

- Reduce their training related travel costs
- reduce lost productivity costs, and
- Improve overall productivity.

How can we achieve these results? By integrating the Parking System Software Web Based Training (WBT) solutions with the standard in-house or off-site training classes a more comprehensive and focused training course can be implemented. These WBT courses can be used to support dealer classroom training programs, and serve as a standalone self-paced training solution. Furthermore, these WBT courses can be used as a solution: to periodic turnover related training needs, for product reference or for remedial training.

Associated Time & Parking Controls customers have the option to purchase individual licenses or they can purchase an unlimited site license to each Parking System Software WBT course. The WBT courses are accessible via a secure website that the customer will receive and be able to access anytime (24/7) using a standard web browser. At the end of each WBT course, a comprehensive post course test will be given with the ability to earn an On-Line Certification that the course has been completed successfully. An overview of the Key Features are:

Key Features

Learn at your own pace, place, & time. 24/7 access

- Comprehensive and complete.
- Interactive Audio Visual training content
- Online post test and online certification

Web Based Training is a useful and productive tool that is has been used successfully in many other fields and now is here for the Parking Industry and the benefits will be on-going.

Member News

After serving over eight years as a Board member of the Texas Parking Association, we are sad to say Kathie Mathis is resigning from the Board. Although Kathy will still be a TPA member, her knowledge and experience as a Board member will be missed...good luck Kathie.

Members Wanted

We are looking for a few Good men or women, who would like to take an active role in helping grow the Texas Parking Association. Please contact Chris Archer at carcher@associatedtime.com for more information.

About Our Organization...

The foundation of the TPA is that it is a volunteer based organization designed to enhance the parking industry within the State of Texas. The following is a list of current 2004 Board Members:

President - Bob Harkins, The University of Texas at Austin	Chris Golgert, Program Management
Vice-President – Jim Moran, Walker parking Consultants	Daniel Huberty, Ampco System Parking
Secretary – Camille Williams – The University of Texas at Dallas	Jerry Dinse – Austin Bergstrom International Airport
Treasurer - Julie Allen, Texas A&M	Brad Conner – Federal APD
Immediate Past President – Chris Archer, Associated Time and Parking Controls	Rod Wise - Texas A&M
	Donna Wade – UT Southwestern
	Patsi Davis – Texas Children's Hospital