

KA Associates Report on San Marcos Transit Systems

City Council Work Session
August 7, 2018

Report Purpose

- Recommend Direct Recipient and Operating Models for Both the City of San Marcos and Texas State University
- Review Options to Enhance Transit Systems
- Investigate Ways to Maximize Transit Funding

Study Recommendations

- City of San Marcos Becomes FTA Direct Recipient
 - Greater Direct Involvement of Operation
 - Provides More Local Autonomy of Services
 - Positions The Bus System for Long Term Viability
 - Direct City Oversight May Result in Additional Administrative Costs
- Continue Operating Contract with CARTS Through Phase II Review and Transition
- Proceed to Phase II to Review Preferred Coordinated Models with Recommended Funding, Operations, and Governance

Basis for Recommendations

KA Associates Evaluation Activities

- Creates Great City / University Partnership Opportunity
- Consistent with Best Practices in Similarly Sized City / University Environment
- Promotes Local Involvement of Transit Systems
- Foundation for Greater Transparency and Responsiveness to Community Needs
- System Independence Is a Safeguard from Potential Changes Due to Census Changes

Stakeholder Summary --Vision of Transit

- Seamless Between Systems
 - “Students Can Get to All Areas of the City”
 - “Ideally One Service for City and University”
 - “Coordination Between Travel Modes”
 - “Fares and Passes Work Across Systems”
- High Frequency of Bus Service
 - “There Is a Bus Every 15 Minutes”
 - “Frequency Is Sufficient for Demand and Desires”
 - “Frequency Is Approximately 10 Minutes”
 - “Night-time Service Every 15-20 Minutes”

Stakeholder Summary Cont.

- Attract Choice Riders to the System
 - “Strong Connections Between Various Campus Modes”
 - “First Mile / Last Mile Covered”
 - “Image Is Seen as a Transportation for All People. Choice Riders; Image Is Cool”
 - “Senior Mobility Without Car Dependence”
 - “Buses Cover All Areas of Riders, Population Centers”

Coordinated Transit Benefits

- A Seamless Transit System with More Community Access
- Streamlined Administrative and Operational Efficiency
- By Combining Performance Statistics of the City and University, Potential for Additional New Transit Funding

Foundation For Phase II Process

- Review Potential Coordination Models
- Consider Community / University Transit Vision
- Assess the Roles for a Coordinated System –
 - Funding
 - Fixed Route and ADA Operation and Administration
 - Governance
 - Capital Funding
 - Federal Compliance
- Adequate Timing for Transition to Adopted Operating Model

Questions & Answers