UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

Label: SGAR-61027 Date introduced: September 4th, 2024 Author(s): Sen. Awan Sponsor(s): Chair Bivens, Chair El-Hoderi, Sen. Nieto, Sen. Otero, Sen. Zeidat Committee: Admin and Finance Draft: First Read

<u>Recognizing the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee for their efforts</u> <u>in establishing the Fort Bend County Bus Line stop at the University of Houston-</u> Main

Whereas, the University of Houston strives to provide accessible and efficient transportation options for its diverse student body;

Whereas, the University of Houston has experienced significant growth in its Sugar Land campus, with increasing numbers of students commuting from the Sugar Land area, who face challenges in their daily commute;

Whereas, the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee (TPAC) has demonstrated exceptional dedication to addressing student transportation needs;

Whereas, TPAC conducted a comprehensive survey, with the support of the Daily Cougar, to gather student input on potential transportation improvements, and the survey results indicated strong student support for additional transportation options between the Sugar Land area and main campus²;

- 1. https://thedailycougar.com/2024/09/02/new-bus-line-to-begin-for-sugar-land-students-fort-bend-county-line-approved/
- 2. https://thedailycougar.com/2024/04/18/tpac-hopes-to-partner-with-fort-bend-county-to-expand-transportation-to-sugar-land/
- 3. https://thedailycougar.com/2023/09/05/students-are-frustrated-with-sugar-land-shuttle/

Whereas, TPAC initiated discussions with Fort Bend County Transportation to enhance existing transit services in response to student feedback and successfully negotiated with Fort Bend County to establish a new bus line stop, providing an alternative for students commuting from Sugar Land;

Whereas, this initiative addresses the longstanding issues of limited capacity and high demand for the Sugar Land Shuttle service and the new Fort Bend Line stop will significantly improve accessibility and convenience for students traveling to and from the UH Main campus³;

Whereas, the new Fort Bend County Line bus stop is scheduled to commence operations on September 3rd, 2024, offering three service between 6:58 am and 7:30 am in the morning from AMC Sugarland, and three services between 3:48 pm and 4:31 pm in the afternoon from UH Main¹;

Whereas, the Fort Bend County Line will provide 100 seats per trip, effectively doubling the capacity of the previous Sugar Land Shuttle service;

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Whereas, this initiative aligns with UH's commitment to sustainability by reducing the number of personal vehicles on campus and promoting public transportation;

Whereas, the success of this project demonstrates the power of collaboration between Student Government Association, university administration, and local government entities.

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Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston that:

The Student Government Association hereby commends and commemorates the efforts of the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee (TPAC) members:

- Salik Faisal,
- Anahi Ortega,
- and Zahra Gokal

for their outstanding work in establishing the new Fort Bend County Line bus stop;

Be it further resolved, SGA recognizes the substantial positive impact this initiative will have on UH students commuting from Sugar Land and surrounding areas, including:

- Increased accessibility to campus for a larger number of students,
- Reduced commute times, allowing for better work-life balance,
- Enhanced reliability of transportation services,
- Promotion of sustainable, transportation options;

Be it further resolved, SGA acknowledges that this initiative sets a precedent for future improvements in UH transportation services, including:

- Potential expansion of similar partnerships with other counties,
- Continued focus on addressing the transportation needs of commuter students,
- Exploration of innovative solutions to campus accessibility challenges;

Be it further resolved, the 61st Administration of the Student Government Association hopes for future SGA administrations to:

- Build upon the success of this initiative,
- Maintain open communication with TPAC and university administration regarding transportation issues,
- Advocate for continued improvements in transportation services for all UH students,
- Explore partnerships with other local transportation authorities to expand services;
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- 2. https://thedailycougar.com/2024/04/18/tpac-hopes-to-partner-with-fort-bend-county-to-expand-transportation-to-sugar-land/
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Be it further resolved, SGA promotes the ongoing collaboration between UH and Fort Bend County to ensure the success and potential expansion of this transportation service;

Be it further resolved, that SGA will continue to advocate for publicization of the new Fort Bend County Line stop to ensure all eligible students are aware of and can benefit from this service, including advertising potential cost-saving benefits for students via a formula developed by student representatives of TPAC;

Be it further resolved, that SGA supports TPAC continual monitoring of the effectiveness of this new bus line and gather feedback from students to inform future improvements;

BE IT FULLY RESOLVED THAT, copies of this resolution shall be sent to the UH Board of Regents, Office of the President, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment, Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee, and the Fort Bend County as a testament to the importance of this initiative and the dedication of engaged stakeholders to execute it.

Tavagoh Cockrell Speaker of the Senate Date of Senate Approval

- 1. https://thedailycougar.com/2024/09/02/new-bus-line-to-begin-for-sugar-land-students-fort-bend-county-line-approved/
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