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SFA EVENING SHUTTLE

POSTED BY COREY STANFIELD ON SEP 16, 2012 IN [CAMPUS LIFE](#), [STUDENTS](#) | [COMMENTS OFF](#)

JACK TRACK

SFA

SHUTTLE

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The SFA Parking and Traffic Department has implemented a trial evening shuttle service for the fall 2012 semester. This bus arrived st 5:30 pm on Thursday to drop off and pick up students at the commuter lot.

The SFA Parking and Traffic Department has started an evening shuttle to accommodate students by circulating through campus on a fixed route schedule.

Times And Locations

The evening **Jack Track** shuttle system stops at six different locations from Sunday to Thursday between 5:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. The six stopping points are the commuter lot, Lumberjack Landing, the recreation center, Lumberjack Village, Baker Patillo Student Center, and Aikman Drive Parking Garage. The six stop route takes approximately 15 minutes on an average day.

The evening shuttle is an addition to the already existent daytime service that Jack Track provides. The daytime shuttle runs Monday through Friday from 7:20 a.m. to 5:20 p.m. The addition of the evening shuttle results in Saturday being the only day without service, and four out of seven days of the week Jack Track will run all day long.

At this time the six stopping points are the same for the daytime and evening schedules excluding one. The fourth stop is located at Miller Science for the daytime schedule, and is switched to Lumberjack Village

for the evening.

However, this is all subject to change for subsequent years according to T.R. Dugger of [SFA Parking and Traffic](#).

The evening bus schedule for future semesters is dependent on how this semester goes, according to Dugger.

“This fall semester is a test phase,” stated Dugger.

Shelters and Planning

One thing that is certain is the implementation of bus stop shelters.

Dugger says that soon there will be shelters at various spots to ensure safety. The designated areas will have ample roofing and glass framing for the convenience of students waiting for the next shuttle bus to arrive. As of right now the commuter lot is the only stop that has any form of shelter. These new shelters should provide protection from bad weather and the bright sun during the day.

The shuttles are also in coordination with the Nextbus application. This application tracks the shuttles and calculates the amount of time it will take to get to the specified stop. With the use of a smart phone or laptop it will show an animation of the Jack Track route and where the closest shuttle bus is at that time. With the use of this application students can determine if waiting for the bus or walking is the best option. The Nextbus application is available for iPhone and Android.

Special Services

Jack Track shuttles are in compliance with the ADA regulations. Their shuttles are accessible to passengers with special needs, equipped with a lift ramp, and can hold two wheelchairs. There are a total of four shuttles on campus that each seat 24 passengers and are climate controlled. Even though students are the primary demographic the shuttle service is targeting, it is also available for staff and faculty members.

The Jack Track happens to provide more accommodations than the aforementioned schedules. On Friday afternoons Jack Track takes a trip off campus to the local Walmart. For any students that need to do some shopping this should be highly considered. The shuttle takes off from

the Lumberjack Landing stop at 3:00 pm and heads to Walmart. The shuttle heads back to campus at 4:00 pm, leaving a sufficient amount of time for shopping or errands.

The upgrades keep adding on for the shuttle system. In the past the shuttle only stopped at the commuter lot and a stop on the other side of campus. The next upgrade was adding six spots for the daytime. Now there is the addition of the evening schedule and the planning of bus shelters. These continuing additions add up to one conclusion. Getting around campus is becoming simpler and easier and students aren't taking this luxury for granted.

Safety

For safety purposes, SFA Parking and Traffic has some easy to follow guidelines. These guidelines apply to both daytime and evening riders.

- If an item is lost on one of the shuttles go to the University Police Department or contact them at (936)468-2608.
- If there is no seating available and standing is the only option, make sure to stand behind the white line that is located at the front of the bus.
- Riders should avoid walking in front of the shuttle after exiting.
- When crossing the street use a crosswalk.

The shuttle system operates during the fall and spring semesters. They do not operate during summer, December break, or holidays.

Seating availability and times can be subject to change during bad weather, rush hour traffic, and peak class times.

Once the driver has pulled away from the stop passengers can't be let off until the next stop.

Again these are to ensure the safety of everyone involved. SFA is not liable for any stolen items, so be sure to always check for all belongings.

If for any reason a student, staff, or faculty member feels the need to be escorted from or to a stop this option is available by the **University Police Department**. They may also be contacted if the shuttle is off duty and an individual needs a ride on campus. There are two ways to contact the

University Police Department: By calling their department at (936)468-2608 or using an emergency call box. The emergency call boxes are located at various locations on campus. Just look for a bright yellow box with "POLICE" written on it in black. To operate them press the appropriate button and it will connect to the department.

Benefits

In talking with some SFA students, there was no unanimous reason for riding the evening shuttle. But they all added up to not using a car. Some good reasons that other students should consider include:

- Being frugal and not wanting to use up gas by driving your car around campus.
- Not wanting to lose a good parking spot.
- Not owning a car.
- One less car on the road is one positive step forward in reducing pollution.

Jack Track is beneficial to commuters and on campus residents alike. The more the shuttle system is used by students, staff, and faculty, the more it will improve.

Sources:

<http://www.sfasu.edu/jacktrack/index.asp>

<http://www.sfasu.edu/6383.asp>

<http://www.sfasu.edu/jacktrack/104.asp>

<http://www.sfasu.edu/parking/343.asp>

<http://www.sfasu.edu/upd/services.asp>

<http://www.nextbus.com/>

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