Developing the Kyle Field Transportation Plan

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The Kyle Field Challenge

2013
• 82,500 Seats
• 5,000 to 10,000 extra tailgaters
  • ...but, 30,000 to 40,000 for Alabama game in 2013
• Pedestrian, Bus and Traffic exit plans
The Kyle Field Challenge

Now

• 102,733 Seats
• 10,000 to 20,000 extra tailgaters
• No new major street capacity
• Revised exit plans
• More aggressive traffic control
• Lots of partnerships
Kyle Field Gameday: 4th largest downtown in Texas

120,000+ attendees & workers

4 Freeway Lanes

Dallas
145,000 workers
28 Freeway Lanes

Houston
150,000 workers
35 Freeway Lanes

Austin
125,000 workers
13 Freeway Lanes
Alabama 2013, 9:15 p.m.

Wellborn at Holleman, Game Ended at 6:30 p.m.!

Cross-traffic allowed

Only two lanes south
9 p.m. Map

> Stop-and-go on 2818, Holleman, Wellborn, Bush, University & Villa Maria
> Congestion building on North Wellborn, Carson & East 29th
> Congestion declining on Texas, South College & Rock Prairie

**Game ended at 6:30 p.m.**
**Where We Started - 2013**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of Congested Major Roads</th>
<th>Aggieland Post-Game Traffic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Bottlenecks restricted use of city road system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Traffic back to normal ~4 hours postgame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16%</td>
<td>End of Game</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14%</td>
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<td>12%</td>
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**0:00 Is End of Game (4:30 p.m. for Average Day)**
What Did We Accomplish?

Integrated game operations, traffic & community
Coordinated new technology and dedicated staff
Awareness of dining, hotel & entertainment options
What Did We Accomplish?

>Handled huge crowds in 2015 with the same or less congestion as in 2013

>‘Secret Shopper’ – excellent review for TAMU traffic

For 5 of 7 games in 2015, cleared traffic within 2 hours
What Did We Accomplish?

2013
- 8 games
- 157k parked cars
- 111k bus riders

2014
- 6 games
- 128k parked cars
- 164k bus riders

2015
- 7 games
- 149k parked cars
- 210k bus riders
Kyle Field Transportation

Aggieland Post-Game Traffic

% of Congested Major Roads

- 24%
- 20%
- 16%
- 12%
- 8%
- 4%
- 0%

End of Game

Goal Line '15

Traffic crossed the goal line faster

Used more city streets to get people out of town faster

Traffic was out of parking lots faster

Hours Before/After End of Game

Crowds
- Alabama '15: 125,000
- Alabama '13: 120,000
- Miss. St. '15: 115,000
Alabama 2013    Alabama 2015

2 ½ Hours After Game End
How Did We Accomplish This?

• Traffic, Pedestrians, Buses and Enforcement
  – Officers working pedestrians and vehicles at a few close-to-Kyle intersections
  – Officers working a few signals from cabinet
  – Traffic staff adjusting most signals in real-time
  – Traffic routes that reduce conflicts

• Monitor and report frequently – involving people in evaluation gives more chances for feedback
  – Tweak plan as you go -- don’t wait for small problems to become large
Support of Partners Is Vital

- City Council & University support ‘let the leavers leave’
- Allows more restrictions for shorter periods
  - Chancellor interest was crucial to success
  - Contraflow could not happen without Council support
  - Community acceptance of traffic plan
    - South exit – 4 lane contraflow
    - West to south exit - 8 to 10 minutes of green
- Communication about actions and options is necessary
- Officers need visual cues to be proactive – easier than ‘timing’
Kyle Field Transportation Partners

Award of Excellence
Parking Program of the Year

Safety & law enforcement agencies
“Mostly Bus” Lanes & Exit Paths

4 Lanes Outbound on Discovery

West Campus Exit Paths
North of Kimbrough - go north
South of Kimbrough - go south

4 Lanes Contraflow on Wellborn
West Campus Garage Issues

- Donor parking lot exit priority
- Poor gameday design of garage
- Giant pedestrian flow
- Police officers in intersection do not have proper cues
- Different officers each game
Wellborn Rd

Wellborn Road Closed To Kyle Field

George Bush Closed at Railroad Tracks

George Bush Dr

Wellborn Road Contraflow
> 4 lanes south
> 1 lane north
> No Pedestrians cross on south side
Lessons Learned

- Many signal timing changes
- Moving equipment and communicating with personnel
- vs Alabama: Serious side-impact crash at Holleman/2818 30 mins before end; *cleared before game end*
- vs West Carolina – Crash at Luther/Wellborn 15 mins before end; *cleared by on-scene tow truck in less than 10 minutes*

*We plan, monitor AND respond!!*
What We Have Now!

- **Intersections** - monitoring cameras, upgraded signal controllers and software
- **Major exit routes** – contraflow and more green signal time
- **Buses and park-and-ride lots**
- **Partnerships** with first responders, game operations staff, community leaders
- **Lots of practice and excellent people!!!**
Key Elements

- Work the Plan not the Problem – and adjust quickly
- Separate the flows of pedestrians and cars
- Fans - Check your entry & exit routes!!
- More productive buses, better routes
- Wellborn Road & Discovery Drive contraflow
- Traffic control center, practiced staff & upgraded equipment