Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
February 10, 2006

Present: Catherine Caldwell (for Wyatt Sasser), Carolyne Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Edward Lener, Richard McCoy, Steve Mouras, Elizabeth Reed, Josh Sarfity, James Tyger

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The January 13, 2006 minutes were approved with one typographical correction.

Old Business:

- Patrick Donohoe updated everyone on plans to change the makeup of the committee. This proposal has now gone through the Commission on University Support and had its first reading at University Council. Patrick will contact the VT Police Department and ask them to name a representative to the committee as soon as possible.

- Steve Mouras led a discussion of some of the problems caused by current practices regarding state vehicle parking practices, particularly those associated with driving on sidewalks. Damage to the grounds and potential safety issues were among the major concerns. Some areas of campus are not otherwise accessible though so any changes will need to be considered carefully. The committee will seek input from individuals in charge of those areas of the university that oversee large vehicle fleets. Richard McCoy also brought up the issue of some departments using prime faculty/staff spaces for long-term parking of state vehicles. Those vehicles not in regular use should be parked in one of the overflow lots instead.

- The committee discussed the T-shaped intersection of Spring Road and Washington Street near the Coliseum. Steve Mouras indicated that he would investigate options for possible improvement, including adding a dedicated left-turn lane. However the high volume of pedestrians, especially at class changes, may still limit traffic flow and lead to backups on Spring Road.

- James Tyger raised a few questions from the previous meeting that he had heard from members of the Commission on University Support. The first concerned the status of plans for changes to visitor parking with the proposed kiosks. Steve Mouras indicated that pricing and policies were still being developed. James also passed along requests to increase the frequency of buses to the Corporate Research Center and to expand the coverage area of the Hokie Express shuttle. Steve Mouras indicated that the low passenger volume on the current route to the CRC means that it may actually be subject to future cutbacks. In addition, the Hokie Express may be discontinued during the summer months. Both changes would reflect an attempt to maximize overall efficiency by making changes on routes with the lowest use.
New Business:

Patrick Donohoe asked about eliminating some parking meters at the Sterrett Center and adding a few dedicated visitor-only spaces in their place. Steve Mouras indicated that a number of changes had already been made to parking arrangements there in recent years to try to accommodate different requests he had received. Before further changes will be considered by the committee he wanted to hear a clear consensus from the major occupants of the building about their needs.

Steve Mouras reported briefly on tentative plans to add van pooling. Complicating matters are regulations on the use of state vehicles for getting from home to work. Debbie Freed, who serves as Alternative Transportation Manager, is the best person to contact with questions about the program.

Josh Safity asked about parking lot etiquette. In particular he has found some people stopping in the middle of lots and waiting for extended periods. This blocks other vehicles and can create a safety concern.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for March 17th at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder