Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
January 13, 2006

Present: Carolyne Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Edward Lener, Richard McCoy, Hesham Rakha, Elizabeth Reed, Wyatt Sasser, James Tyger

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

The November 11, 2005 minutes were approved. As the meeting originally scheduled for December 9, 2005 was cancelled due to bad weather several items have been carried forward to today’s meeting.

Old Business:
- Patrick Donohoe and James Tyger updated everyone on plans to formally change the makeup of the committee. This proposal is now going through the Commission on University Support and had its first reading on Nov. 17. If approved at their next meeting it will then go on to University Council.

- Richard McCoy and Wyatt Sasser reported that new “Carpool only” signs have been added to supplement existing signage for carpool spaces as recommended at the last meeting. This should reduce any potential confusion about who can use those spaces.

- Richard McCoy briefly updated the committee on parking privileges in lots near the dining halls for those students in the Oak Lane Community. The extended hours will go into effect beginning January 17 reflecting the recommendations of the committee at its meeting on October 14. At the end of the semester the policy will be reviewed to ensure that no new problems have been created by the change in hours.

- There was some initial discussion of some of the many issues related to state vehicle parking policy changes. Wyatt Sasser asked about utilizing more small vehicles intended primarily for off-road and utility work in place of the full-size trucks and vans most commonly used at this time. Richard McCoy discussed the practice of the parking of service vehicles for extended periods in some lots. Wyatt Sasser also raised a question about the policy regarding state vehicles and handicapped parking spaces. These and other issues relate to the matter of state vehicle parking will be discussed more fully at subsequent meetings.

New Business:
- Patrick Donohoe passed along a concern he had heard about the T-shaped intersection of Spring Road and Washington Street near the Coliseum. Traffic on Spring Road can back up for quite a distance as the lead car waits to turn onto Washington Street. Making a left turn is particularly difficult given the high volume of cars and pedestrians in that area at certain times. The committee discussed possible fixes ranging from putting up stop signs on Washington Street, having police direct traffic,
building pedestrian walkways, and even adding another roundabout. The consensus though was that the most promising idea may be to add a turn lane so that those making left hand or right hand turns could proceed independently.

- James Tyger raised a few informal concerns that he had heard from members of the Commission on University Support. The first concerned the status of plans for changes to visitor parking. Richard McCoy responded that funding for the proposed kiosks has not yet been approved. Only when they are in place will all visitor parking change to a fee-based system with a small charge for each daily pass. 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. Richard McCoy indicated that Blacksburg Transit is undertaking a study of all its routes so these issues will be examined as part of that process.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for February 10th at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder