Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
November 11, 2005

Present: Carolyne Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Matt Gart, Edward Lener, Steve Mouras, Josh Sarfity, Wyatt Sasser, Lisa Schweitzer

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

The October 14, 2005 minutes were approved.

Old Business:
• Patrick Donohoe updated everyone on plans to formally change the makeup of the committee. This will go through the Commission on University Support which will meet next week. Patrick has spoken with Chief Duncan and confirmed plans to add a representative from the VT Police Department.

• Wyatt Sasser brought forward an issue that has been raised in parking appeals hearings. Some individuals that have been ticketed are claiming the current signage is too confusing. This complaint seems to be concentrated primarily at the start of the fall semester. Images of the current as well as past signage were distributed prior to the meeting. The current signage reads “CP F/S” in very large letters followed by “Faculty/Staff Carpool” and “University Permit Parking” in smaller lettering. The labeling and design of the signage matches that on the carpool parking permits that are issued by Parking Services. After some discussion the committee recommended that the current signs be retained and that a second smaller sign be affixed to the same post that reads “Carpool Only” to emphasize the purpose of these spaces.

• Patrick Donohoe briefly updated the committee on parking privileges in lots near the dining halls for those students in the Oak Lane Community. The committee’s recommendations from the previous meeting have been adopted will be adopted beginning in January and the same hours will be applied on the weekends as used for the weekdays. Richard McCoy has already notified the students there of the change.

• Steve Mouras indicated that the BT Schedule for Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks will run on a reduced schedule. However, in the future for the new Columbus Day “quasi-holiday” the regular schedule will be run even though there are no classes since many students and Tech employees still need to get to campus and around town.

New Business:

• Josh Sarfity updated the committee on his findings relative to the Safe Ride Program and off-campus locations. Extending the current program to off campus raised a number of questions. The committee decided to revisit this issue more fully once there is a representative from the VT Police Department at the meetings to join in the discussion.
Steve Mouras encouraged the committee to pick at least one “long-term, big picture” project to work on in the months ahead, such as was done last year with visitor parking. In particular, he suggested that the committee examine the question of parking for state vehicles on campus. Currently there is very little regulation for state vehicles. This has led to problems such as safety issues related to driving and parking on sidewalks and vehicle damage to lawns and landscaping around campus. The committee agreed to investigate this issue further. Practices at other institutions will be examined by a sub-committee (yet to be named). Appropriate rules and how to enforce them will also be discussed and possible scenarios developed for review by the entire committee.

Josh Sarfity raised a concern on behalf of a student regarding special parking privileges for students who serve in positions in University Governance. Some committee or commission meetings may be in buildings that do not have Commuter/Graduate parking space nearby. Steve Mouras responded that the only students currently allowed to purchase Faculty/Staff parking permits are the presidents of SGA and GSA. Extending this privilege further could quickly add up to a significant number of individuals. Steve also reminded everyone that those with a C/G tag are able to park in resident spaces.

On a related note Steve Mouras indicated that soon approximately 60 new Commuter/Graduate spaces will being added at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Many meetings and student events are held there and this will make it easier for students to park at the facility.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for December 9th at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder