Present: Gail McMillan, chair, Curtis Lynch, J.B. Sutphin, Patrick Donohoe, Courtney Beamon, Gene Reed, Pat Ballard, Widget Shannon, George Sanzone, Becky Brim (scribe)

J.B. Sutphin began the meeting highlighting the current and upcoming improvements to the sidewalks, repaving and scheduled paving areas. These included the following:

Drillfield area: Sidewalks are in the process of being raised. Apparently, the roadway base around the Drillfield is not sufficient. Before VDOT can make improvements, the sidewalks will be built up to about 9 1/2 inches. Later when VDOT repaves the Drillfield area there will be a 3 1/2 inch asphalt depth which will bring the sidewalk down to 6 inches. VDOT absorbs the cost of the repaving as the Drillfield is a major roadway.

With the construction of the new engineering building, there will be a loss of about 300 faculty/staff parking spaces. With the additional spaces at the Stanger Lot and below the power plant at Central Refrigeration about 75 spaces will help with the deficit.

Solitude area -- there are plans to have paved parking in this area; how soon remains an issue because Solitude is on the National Historic Registry and there is an approval process.

Veterinary Medicine has requested assistance with organizing parking behind their complex now that the last construction phase is completed.

Owens Parking and Lighting -- there are plans to re-do the parking area behind Owens and to improve the current lighting and provide for handicap parking. Along with these improvements will be some landscaping.

There are plans to pave the OVERFLOW area below the Duck Pond and the small parking area at the Tennis Courts associated with the South Recreational Area Parking (that is visible as one travels towards the Corporate Research Center.

Hutcheson/Smyth Parking Area was repaved. This lot has always been difficult due to the very little elevation change for proper drainage. There is a problem with a wet sub-base and the ground stays moist which results in rapid deterioration of any improvements.

Lots below the football stadium may be paved within the next one-to-two years.

There was also discussion regarding some of the pedestrian crosswalks and if anything could be done to improve the flow of pedestrian traffic. (Perhaps when the annual painting of lines and curbs is undertaken the crosswalks will be examined more closely as to the pattern/direction individuals are using the crosswalks.)
Patrick Donohoe shared with the Committee the concern from Wyatt Sasser for the Bus Stop in the Southgate area. The present bus stop is out and away from the Southgate building in the unpaved, gravel lot which is not ideal. Mr. Sasser had recommend perhaps a bus stop diagonal to the Southgate Building making the bus stop on a paved area, with loading and unloading to a sidewalk that would allow closer access to the buildings in the immediate area. Gene Reed noted that this could cause a safety hazard due to the constant traffic to Motor Pool, Central Stores, Campus Police and numerous maintenance vehicles. J.B. Sutphin, Curtis Lynch, and Gene Reed will investigate this concern and perhaps contact Mike Conley with Blacksburg Transit for solution.

Pat also brought to the Committee the need to look further into the Parking Permit fees after the start of the academic year. Two specific issues discussed at this time were:

Payroll deduction -- at the time of implementation, Parking Services did not have in place sufficient personnel or the accountability support needed to handle all of the possible scenarios of payroll deduction. Therefore, the decision was made that for an individual to have the payroll deduction, the person would pay the full annual amount and nothing would be prorated.

Prorated fees -- Two topics were discussed: (1) prorating parking fees for employees who begin work after the start of the academic year, and (2) prorating fees based on employee's grade. Curtis Lynch offered to investigate these two issues and will report back to the Committee at the next scheduled meeting.

Gail McMillan asked those present if everyone had the opportunity to review and approve the proposed revisions to the Virginia Tech Parking Services Traffic and Parking Regulations. Also a word of appreciation and thanks from the Committee by George Sanzone was expressed to Curtis Lynch for sharing these regulations and providing an opportunity to give input to this annual process. After a few minutes of general discussion the Committee endorsed the recommendations made to the regulations.

Athletic Department possibly selling parking tickets for events: This topic was briefly discussed and due to the absence of John Aughenbaugh and sufficient, reliable information (versus rumor) this was tabled until the next meeting. It was duly noted that Alumni are very upset over the possibility and not being informed or communicated with appropriately.

Tabled until the next meeting are: Graduate Teaching Assistant Parking (Aughenbaugh) Lighting in Wallace Parking Lot (Aughenbaugh)

McMillan also shared with the Committee a telephone conversation from an individual who had numerous complaints regarding parking of Service Vehicles, What is a Service Vehicle, Restrictions of Service Vehicles, defining Short-Term parking, negative effect of current parking practices on Faculty and Staff and that handicap spaces are too large. (J.B. Sutphin responded that handicap parking spaces are mandated by the American Disabilities Act - ADA.) The Chair agreed to talk with this individual to clarify and to address these concerns.
Lynch and J.B. Sutphin will be more observant to how Service Vehicles are being parked.

NEW BUSINESS:

Widget Shannon inquired as to what if anything is being done with habitual offenders. Curtis Lynch noted that as long as the individual pays the fine they are entitled to park on campus. The legalities outweigh the issue of making a permanent example of a habitual offender.

Patrick Donohoe brought up the possibility of Car Pooling. Pat discussed with the Committee this contacts with Penn State University regarding car pooling. (Note: Penn State is one of VA Tech's peer institutions.) Pat gave each person a copy of what Penn State is proposing to do to help alleviate the parking crisis on their campus. Although not implemented at this time at Penn State, there are incentives presented. The Committee was asked to review this information and at the next schedule meeting have on the agenda for discussion with recommendation to support such an initiative. (Currently employees travel from West Virginia and areas of Roanoke, Salem, Floyd, etc. If such an initiative was supported and implemented many parking spaces could come available immediately.)

Following general discussion about the recent accident at the entrance to B lot from Stanger St., it was recommended that a sign be installed to slow traffic due to the volume of pedestrians and bicyclists or sufficient crosswalks to slow vehicles. Campus Police and Blacksburg Police should review or observe traffic flow and act accordingly. Sutphin and Lynch will follow up with the appropriate agencies.

Also noted was the change in the name of this committee from the Parking and Transportation Committee to Parking/Transportation Advisory Committee. McMillan will look into this to see if the initial charge of the Committee has been affected.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, April 24, 1995 at 3 pm, in the Newman Library Board Room.