Parking/Transportation Advisory Committee
Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University

Minutes: Sept. 26, 1994,
11 a.m., Newman Library Board Room

Present: John Aughenbaugh (scribe), Pat Ballard, Courtney Beamon,
Patrick Donohoe, Hayward Farrar, Gail McMillan (chair), Patti Murdock,
Eugene Reed, Widget Shannon, Ann Spencer, J. B. Sutphin

1. McMillan opened the meeting by reviewing the Committee's charge and
to which Commission it reports. She stressed that the Committee does
not make decisions, but it makes recommendations.

2. The minutes of June 30, 1994 were presented for approval. Since no
one volunteered to be the scribe, it was decided to rotate the task
alphabetically among the committee members. A question was raised
regarding the status of parking permits for student leaders. Spencer
said she had a meeting with Student Affairs representatives the
following week which would clear up this issue. The minutes of June
30th were approved as presented.

3. Patti Murdock made a report from Parking Services. She stated that
there was an increase in the number of commuter and resident parking
tags purchased for the 1994/95 fall semester. J.B. Sutphin requested a
full report of the fall semester parking permit situation be given at
the next meeting. Murdock also said that two Virginia Tech Police
officers were aiding Parking Services in the regulation of bike
traffic.

Questions were raised concerning skateboarding and in-line skating
policies. Spencer said that she would bring the new in-line skating
policy to the next meeting. She also commented that Dr. Goodale would
be meeting with skateboarding representatives in the near term; Spencer
will bring an update of that meeting to this committee's next meeting.

McMillan queried Murdock about the possibility of having a branch of
Parking Services on the main part of campus. Murdock said that, with
the exception of purchasing permits at Express Check-In, Parking
Services would not be moving any part of its operation closer to
campus. A suggestion was made that the offering of parking permits
during the beginning of the fall semester to be moved to Cassell
Coliseum to accommodate the parking pressures that arise with the
buying of permits.

4. Sutphin answered questions concerning improvements to campus parking
lots. He said that with the construction of a new Engineering building
this winter in the lot east of Whittemore Hall, the University will
lose approximately 300 parking spaces. Even with compensations made in
surrounding areas, over 200 parking spaces will be lost due to the
construction of this edifice.

Queries arose about constructing parking decks to handle parking
demands. Sutphin commented that any additional parking structures would
cause an increase in the cost of parking permits and tickets to pay for
structures. Farrar remarked that an increase in parking fees and tickets may be necessary to meet increased parking demands or to address parking management problems that already exist. A brief discussion of parking management strategies ensued. Sutphin noted that it costs more per parking spot if a parking deck is erected compared to the construction of surface parking lots. He also suggested to the Committee that Virginia Tech was spoiled in regards to the proximity of existing lots to workplaces and classrooms and the excellent service offered by the Blacksburg Transit.

Sutphin also told the Committee that he had a request to check on the lighting near Owens; Murdock also asked that he check on the lighting in the Media Lot.

5. More questions/concerns were offered to the Parking Services representatives at the meeting. These included: the new parking tags often do not cling as they are supposed to*; during the first weeks of class some parking violators got ticketed while others received warnings (Murdock responded that the only lot where violators received warnings was the CEC lot); the dangerous traffic patterns caused by vendors parking around McBryde Hall and the pedestrian traffic near Norris Hall during peak class times; the continuing issue of children of faculty and staff using their parent's parking permits; and the costs of tickets ($10 for illegal parking, $50 for parking in a handicapped spot, and $100 for unauthorized use of a parking permit).

6. The Committee decided to address a letter from J. Paxton Marshall regarding traffic patterns on West Campus Drive at its next meeting. Sutphin was asked to provide background on this issue at the next meeting.

7. Aughenbaugh asked that a review of the Graduate Teaching Assistant parking program be placed on the next Committee meeting agenda for discussion purposes.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

*Dip the clingcals in water to refresh the clinging action.

Gail McMillan, chair Parking/Transportation Advisory Committee Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University