

Transportation & Parking Committee (TPC)
16 September 2013 Minutes
Third Floor Conference Room, Holtzman Alumni Center

Members present:

Ladd Brown, Virgilio Centeno, Gregory Fansler, Wendell Flinchum, Bruce Harper, Kathy Hosig, Richard McCoy, Ben Poe, Patricia Williams

Members absent:

Mackenzie Jarvis

Attendees:

Agenda and minutes:

The 13 May 2013 minutes were approved. A document on the Commission on University Support reporting committees and the TPC roster were distributed.

Parking & Transportation (P&T) update:

McCoy reported that:

- this year, P&T will be conducting a Parking and Transportation Master Plan Study, which is the necessary preparation before issuing an Request for Proposals (RFP) to planning vendors late this year or early next year. The last Parking and Transportation Master Plan was done ten years ago.
- everything was going smoothly for the new North End Parking Garage; when the Center for Arts officially opens, there will be some changes to accommodate arts patrons
- older automated parking gate responders are being replaced by newer models

Virginia Tech Police Department (VTPD) update:

Flinchum reported that there were no significant issues at this time. He added that the VTPD were seeing bicyclists violating the one-way traffic on the Drillfield; the VTPD is enforcing the one-way traffic code.

Flinchum also expressed a concern raised by the town of Blacksburg for the new College Avenue configuration (where Otey and College intersect near Squires). Here is some background presented before the discussion:

- the roadway (College Avenue) as well as the sidewalk from Top of the Stairs (TOTS) to North Main is town
- the sidewalks on the Squires side, all the way up to North Main, as well as the sidewalk from the Squires plaza up to TOTS is Tech
- bicyclists are not allowed on town sidewalks
- bicyclists headed east from the plaza and continuing onto College are going the wrong way

Following discussion, it is the consensus of the TPC that:

- the TPC recognizes the potential for bicycle-vehicle and bicycle-pedestrian incidents in and around this location
- the TPC endorses the placement of warning signs or any other similar, preventative indicators in and/or around the immediate area

Carpool Parking Permit discussion:

The committee reviewed a series of August e-mails between Alternative Transportation (AT) Manager Debby Freed, TPC ex-chair Harper, and a carpool permit holder. The basic conflict in

this issue is that a carpool permit holder attempted to purchase a parking permit for a scooter; carpool permit holders cannot purchase another permit.

The ensuing discussion brought up a number of points:

- carpoolers are allowed a limited number of daily permits
- AT programs need to be a fit for participants
- scooters present a variety of challenges for P&T, among them are:
 - scooters on walkways and racks
 - inability to identify the owners of unregistered scooters
 - the subtle delineations in the Commonwealth's Department of Motor Vehicles' definition of scooter, mopeds, and motorcycles at <http://www.dmv.org/va-virginia/other-types.php>
 - should scooter be subject to impounding?

The committee also briefly touched on the proposed changes to non-conventional vehicles which are contained in Senate Bill 1038: <http://www.richmondsunlight.com/bill/2013/sb1038/>

Constituent Group updates:

There were no updates from constituent groups.

General discussion / announcements:

- There will be two roundabouts by the grassy areas near War Memorial Chapel on the Drillfield; this will allow southbound Stranger Street traffic to make a left-hand turn onto Alumni Mall
- The VTPD will hold a Community Day on Sunday, September 29 on the Drillfield. Safety and educational activities are fully-described at <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2013/09/091913-hr-vpa-pdcommsserviceday.html>
- There is a new solar-powered pedestrian crossing sign on Washington Street [see 16 August 2013 posting on the VTPD facebook page https://www.facebook.com/VirginiaTechPolice/app_125363730877251]
- There was discussion about the golf carts (i.e., Electric/Gas Utility-type Vehicles [EGUV]) on campus; it was mentioned that not all EGUV-using campus departments adhere to Policy 5005 <http://www.policies.vt.edu/5005.pdf>
- There was an announcement concerning the Second Appeals Hearing Committee; details to follow at a future TPC meeting

Meetings for the 2013--2014 meetings will be scheduled on the **third Monday of the month, 11:00 am.**, Third Floor Conference Room, Holtzman Alumni Center unless otherwise scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Ladd Brown
Recorder