

Transportation & Parking Committee

Tuesday, May 10th, 2022

12:30PM - 1:30PM

Via Zoom

In attendance: Diane Agud, Betty Anderson (guest), Paul Avery, Jeri Baker, Kristin Link, Eric Martin, Jenny McCoy, Haley Michel, Polly Middleton, Nick Quint, Jaden Ringley, Pamela Tate, David Tribble

1. Jenny greets everyone and turns the meeting over to Polly.
2. Concerns from the Commissions on university support regarding the lack of interior parking throughout campus: Polly

Faculty staff are experiencing difficult times crossing campus for commitments, such as meetings, and other campus engagements. It's also difficult for interviewees and visitors that are coming on campus to find parking.

A: How is parking rationed out for faculty staff and students throughout campus?

Q: The university is moving towards a more densely packed campus, they want campus to be walkable. They are really pushing for parking to be on the perimeter of campus. That is in conjunction with other things happening on campus, such as with the Blacksburg Transit and multi-modal transit, which should be finished in about a year. We will have less parking on the interior side of campus and more transit options to get around campus. We certainly can not build more parking that's in the center of campus, that's right outside the door of where everyone is wanting to park. We don't have the space, the expenses, and it would not be efficient.

Part of the campus master plan includes the infinite loop, which is a two mile, fully accessible pathway that would link all campus districts. This has the potential to have some autonomous pods, which is an electrically driven pod.

As for visitor and interviewers parking Departments can purchase up to 25 permits at a time, you can find more information on departmental visitor permits on our parking website, parking.vt.edu. We can reach out to Park Mobile to see if they have anything similar for departments that wish to purchase through the app.

Q: With the changes that were made in the Squires lot, has that gotten better and made parking easier?

A: Yes, it has been awesome; about 85% of the time there is a space open.

3. Limiting student parking concerns: Betty
Not allowing students to park on campus would result in them being pushed on to the Blacksburg Transit, there is already perception on the ridership that BT is a student shuttle and some of the behavior of the students is not conducive which does not encourage others to take the BT.

A: We currently have over 1000 that sit empty every day, so we don't have a supply issue. Only 20% of resident students buy parking permits. If we get to a point where we no longer had that 1000 space buffer every day, we would then talk change. There are things that we can do without having to build more parking or take away all student parking. If we have to eliminate student parking then we will have to raise the permit prices across the board.

Q: Has anyone had a conversation with BT about the student's behavior?

A: Nick and Jeri meet with BT monthly, they have currently purchased more buses and are trying to hire more bus drivers. Their goal is to have enough buses and drivers to decrease the time between routes.

Q: I notice a lot of people will get left behind because the buses get full and they have no room to pick up individuals at the next stop. What can be done about that?

A: The BT logs their pass bys, the first three weeks of the semester the BT buses are busier due to people not knowing the time it may take to travel that route, after that people learn their schedule and there is less pass bys. They also put out information on their social media platforms with updates of the busy seasons.

4. Adding an escalation to the boot fees: Jeri

Most agree that boot fees should start higher than \$35.00 and have the price increase with the amount of boots an individual receives.

5. Consideration to get fast chargers on campus: Diane

Q: There is one installed at First on Main at the mall, has campus considered installing any on campus?

A: The three units that were installed in Squires were installed for a little less than \$9,000 each, to install a level three charger on campus it would be between \$50,000-\$60,000 so we can't fit that into our budget. Now fleet may get a level three charge installed, if they do that will be available as a public charger to be used as well.

6. Q: Has the budget for the FY23 been finalized?

A: Not 100%, we are still waiting on the state budget to go through to fully approve it.

Jenny concludes the meeting at 1:40PM