

Transportation & Parking Committee
{Meeting: 1:00 p.m. September 2, 2020 via Zoom}

Attendees: Richard Ashley, Jeri Baker, Mac Babb, Eric Martin, Roberto Leon, Diane Agud, Ryan Speer, Kirk Felton, Sandra Gabbert, Donald Fraser, Tommy Lam, Pam Tate, Kristin Link, Betty Anderson, Nick Quint

- Committee members introduced themselves

- Eric Martin mentioned a conflict with the scheduled meeting time. The group came to a consensus that the start time could be adjusted. Meetings will now take place the first Wednesday of each month from 1:15 – 2:15.

- Jeri Baker provided a summary of issues and topics:
 - The Committee does not yet have a representative from the student government association. Jeri had met with the group and stressed to them the importance of their participation on the committee.
 - Jeri shared the Committee’s charge and noted that it includes traffic, which is usually the purview of the Virginia Tech Police Department.
 - As per State statutes from the 1970s, Parking Services is required to operate as a self-supported auxiliary of university and cannot use State funds.
 - The most significant expenses are debt service on the two parking garages, North End and Perry Street.
 - The impetus for charging visitors for parking comes from the need to be better stewards of faculty, staff, and student resources. VT’s Parking & Transportation Master Plan (finalized in 2016) included language stressing the need to be more equitable and relieve employees and students from shouldering the entirety of the cost burden of providing parking services on campus.
 - Two major changes were made to Parking Services operations this summer:
 1. Charging visitors to park on campus from 7 AM to 10 PM;
 2. Increased enforcement hours until 10 PM weeknights
 - Additionally, an evening-only permit was created, and all student permit holders are now allowed to park on the Drillfield in the evenings. All these changes were implemented on August 3 when the campus reopened.
 - The activity of the task force analyzing Policy 5005 (regarding personal mobility) is still on hold, and task force meetings have not yet restarted. Scooters were removed from campus as of August 18. These scooters were part of a VTTI research project; the report on the results of this research study will be presented to President Sands and Dr. Pinkney later this term. The Committee recognizes that any subsequent program will likely be approved outside of University governance -- i.e., not through the Commission on University Support.

- Richard Ashley commended Parking Services for making permits easy to purchase online and for providing so many different new types of permit. Jeri Baker clarified several of the new options. In particular, these include daily permits (for faculty, staff, students, and visitors), evening-only passes (annual or by the semester, and remote parking student passes for the Chicken Hill lot.

- Jeri Baker also reported that the implementation of a new pay-by-the-hour app is in the pipeline; she provided a brief explanation of the process and stated that more information will be forthcoming. It is estimated that the provider will keep only ca. \$0.30 per transaction.
- Richard Ashley will follow up with the SGA to recruit a representative for the committee.
- Jeri Baker will reach out to a faculty member who had expressed concerns regarding research subjects having to pay for parking.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, October 7 at 1:15 PM.