

# Transportation & Parking Committee

Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2019

1. Attendees included Richard Ashley, Ryan Speer, Jeri Baker, Nick Quint, Pam Tate, Maggie Ma, Jimmy Cornwell, Sandra Gabbert, Mac Babb, Don Fraser, Courtney Steele, Mike Dunn, Diane Agud and Hope Fralin.
2. Spring Term meeting schedule:
  - Proposed meetings will be on Wednesdays at 2:00 pm.
  - Will make final decision (and choose which Wednesday of the month we will meet on) at the December meeting.
3. Electric vehicle charging stations:
  - The Electric Vehicle Master Plan was put together by the Office of Sustainability. Nick Quint is aware of six different Green RFPs for electric vehicle charging stations, as part of the 2019-2020 Green RFP Program.
  - Plan ahead as to where to put them so that if they need to be moved they can.
  - What is the cost of the installation
  - Discussed how the charging stations are equipment specific, however most use a standard charging port at the station.
  - Vehicles can only park at the charging station if it is actively charging.
  - There will be a charge to the customer for charging their vehicle. Possible use meters to charge a customer.
  - The stations will be in public open spaces. (On the edges of Campus)
  - The charging stations will be Level 2 chargers. (0-90% charge in 7-8 hours)
  - Question was asked if a study had been done to assess the need of charging stations. Jeri stated that Virginia Tech wants to be proactive so the campus will be prepared in future years.
  - Question was asked who would maintain and install the charging stations. Also, was asked what would be the cost of the installation; and would Virginia Tech buy or would the company own them. Jeri says that Virginia Tech would have to see what is available. The state has a program with the Volkswagen settlement, however they will look into what is better for the University.
  - There was discussion on how would this affect the Inn at Virginia Tech, where these charging stations are free to use. It was mentioned that there are already other charging stations on campus: at Electric Services, at one department, at the CRC, at the Blacksburg Town Center building (Washington/Draper), and at the University Mall.

- There was discussion as to where the charging stations would be installed, and as to who is providing the funding – i.e., the vendor, Parking Services, or Alternative Transportation. Nick Quint and Jeri Baker will investigate this.

#### 4. Bicycle safety issues:

- Discussion of the West Campus bike lanes.
- Roberto Leon stated that he was knocked down by a bicycle in front of Patton Hall that was going the wrong direction. He said that he got up and was asked by the cyclist if he was OK. Committee asked if he reported the incident and he replied that he did not. This led to a discussion to the effect that all incidents need to be reported, so that data can be collected as to where problem areas are – and also as to whether there are any injuries (at the time of incident or later on). Roberto questioned why people are not being ticketed for riding in the wrong direction. Mac Babb says that instead of writing a ticket they generally try to educate the person as to what they are doing wrong by riding in the wrong direction.
- Mac Babb said that they do crosswalk enforcement by issuing tickets, and that they have also increased enforcement since the scooter deployment. He noted that they were already having these issues prior to the scooter deployment. He again noted that they would like to focus primarily on education.
- A committee member asked about looking into adding a bike lane in front of Patton Hall. Mike Dunn said that they are looking into adding a bike lane or moving parking to just one side..
- A safety walk was conducted a month ago, in which Mike Dunn witnessed both bike riders and walkers doing things incorrectly. The Committee noted that it would be desirable to increase education (regarding safety in general, and the rules for operating a bicycle). It was also noted that everyone needs to become informed as to what they need to do if there is an accident, including how to report it. (E.g., when an incident occurs, contact information and insurance information should be exchanged and information should further be turned in to the Police Department, for data collection purposes.
- The Committee noted that it is important to get the VT traffic engineering staff involved in looking at this aspect of the traffic infrastructure, to see what changes could/should be made. Collection of data with regard to problem areas is also important.
- The Committee also discussed where the reporting should go to Risk Management, to the Police Department, or to Alternative Transportation. The comment was made that Risk Management should not be used unless the University itself is involved in an accident.
- It was noted that it is important to retain an organized list of the incident data, so that it can be used for reference and also reviewed every 18 months or so, with regard to possible changes that might need to be made.
- The “Heads Up Hokies” campaign was discussed, as still being active.
- There was some discussion of directional payment markings for biking and scooters.

- Mike Dunn was asked to join the Committee, so that he can routinely participate in future meetings. He was added to the Committee listserv after the meeting concluded.

5. Next Meeting:

- Scheduled for 2:00 Wednesday December 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Decide on Spring Term meeting schedule
- Mike Mollenhaur will join us and discuss the VTTI scooter project.