

**Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
September 9, 2005**

Present: Carlyne Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Edward Lener, Richard McCoy, Steve Mouras, Hesham Rakha, Elizabeth Reed, Wyatt Sasser, Lisa Schweitzer, James Tyger

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Members introduced themselves. Steve Mouras briefly reviewed the history of the Transportation and Parking Committee and its reporting structure and purpose.

The May 3, 2005 minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- Patrick Donohoe updated everyone on plans to formally change the makeup of the committee. This will go through the Commission on University Support, which had been suspended for some time but was recently reconstituted. The addition of the Parking Manager to the committee will reflect long standing practice. Plans also call for a representative from the VT Police Department to be added.
- Steve Mouras gave an update on issues related to visitor parking. The committee's recommendation from last May to install automated dispensing machines is moving forward and has the full support of the University administration. Current plans are for a total of four machines to be installed at approximate cost of \$15,000 -20,000 each depending on features and the amount of site preparation required. Three will be located near the large maps at entrances to campus on Southgate Drive, West Campus Drive, and the University Mall. The fourth will be placed at the Inn at Virginia. The cost for visitor parking has yet to be determined and will recoup expenses over a multi-year period. Parking during nights and weekends will continue to be free.
- Richard McCoy reviewed changes made in the Squires Lot over the summer. He and Steve Mouras met with the major stakeholders in an attempt to balance needs appropriately before deciding how to reallocate the 110 spaces formerly reserved for guests at the Donaldson Brown Hotel. Of this number there were 25 two-hour meter spaces created along with 14 one-hour spaces for any University parking permit holder. The remaining spaces were all changed to commuter/graduate student parking. In addition the circular entrance in front of the Graduate Life Center has been reserved for faculty/staff and graduate parking. Some residents of the new center have expressed a desire for further enhancing their parking privileges and an initial discussion of this issue was undertaken by the committee.
- Richard McCoy reported that the Parking Appeals Committee has had several new people who have expressed interest but that they still need more student volunteers if possible. James Tyger offered to assist with student recruitment efforts.

New Business:

- Patrick Donohoe raised the issue of the routing of the Hokie Express service. Steve Mouras indicated that the route is determined by the Blacksburg Transit officials and was selected to provide service to most of the campus along with the Oak Lane Community. Blacksburg Transit has hired a consultant and will be doing a detailed analysis of all routes that should be completed later this Fall.
- James Tyger asked about the new roundabout and the crosswalks located there. Steve Mouras responded that the arrangement was designed to maximize safety and closely followed established practices for roundabout layout. James also raised a question about the rise in parking fees. Steve Mouras indicated that all budget information is available online (See <http://www.parking.vt.edu/budget.htm>) and that a portion of the increase will go towards a reserve fund to be used for the construction of a parking deck on campus.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for October 14th at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder

Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
October 14, 2005

Present: Carolyne Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Edward Lener, Richard McCoy, Steve Mouras, Hesham Rakha, Elizabeth Reed, Josh Sarfity, Wyatt Sasser, Lisa Schweitzer, James Tyger

Guests: Scott Cheatham, Sara Perich

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

The September 9, 2005 minutes were approved.
Members briefly introduced themselves.

Old Business:

- Patrick Donohoe updated everyone on plans to formally change the makeup of the committee. This will go through the Commission on University Support which has not yet met. Patrick will talk with Chief Duncan regarding the proposal to add a representative from the VT Police Department.
- Steve Mouras gave a brief update on issues related to visitor parking. A formal funding request has now been submitted. Estimated cost for the project is \$160,000.

New Business:

- Scott Cheatham, SGA Chair for Student Life, presented a resolution to the committee regarding changes to practices in the parking lots for Owens and Dietrick dining halls. These are restricted to Faculty/Staff permit holders on a 24/7 basis. However, residents of the Oak Lane Community can get a special tag that allows parking during weekdays from 4:30 to 9:30 pm at Owens and from 4:30 pm to 12:30 am at Dietrick. The SGA resolution asked that these same hours be extended for the weekend and that additional hours from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm be added on Saturdays and Sundays.
- The committee discussed the pros and cons of the requested changes at length. The two lots in question are both small, with very high demand. It is also important that Faculty and Staff working at the dining facilities are able to park nearby. The committee decided to vote on the requests of the SGA in two separate parts. The first part consisted of extending the same hours currently offered during the weekdays to the weekends. Many members felt this would reduce confusion as well as making it easier for Oak Lane residents to access the building on those days. This passed by a vote of 7 in favor of the measure to 2 against and this recommendation will now be passed along to Parking Services for their review and consideration. A second vote was then taken on the issue of adding additional hours from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. This measure was defeated by a vote of 1 for and 8 against.

- Steve Mouras reviewed a faculty complaint related to motorcycle parking. A small number of spaces reserved for motorcycles are designated faculty/staff only but most are open for student use as well. Demand for motorcycle spaces is highly seasonal. In addition, many of them were created using “leftover” spots in the lots that are not big enough for a regular parking space. Steve recommended against creating additional spaces that are for faculty/staff use only since the overall demand on campus at this time is modest. Also if the one of the currently available motorcycle-only spaces is full then the faculty or staff person may simply park in a regular space.
- Wyatt Sasser voiced a concern related to parking appeals and carpool parking spaces. Some individuals who are ticketed for parking there say they didn’t realize it was not a regular commuter/graduate or faculty/staff space. Signs have already been changed once to reduce potential confusion of this sort. The issue will be discussed further at the next meeting and images of the signs in question will be distributed.
- Ed Lener raised an issue on behalf of a Faculty Senate member who felt that signage at the new Inn at Virginia Tech was inadequate and confusing with regard to guest parking. The committee discussed the current layout of the parking lots there and Steve Mouras reminded everyone that the policy of reserved spaces for overnight guests was also in place previously at the former Donaldson Brown Hotel. Parking Services will work with staff at the Inn to try to make sure that parking policies are communicated clearly. All overnight guests of the hotel should be given a parking pass at check-in. Faculty and staff coming to a meeting at the conference center or to the restaurant should park in the designated F/S spaces.
- Ed Lener also raised a concern relating to the Blacksburg Transit schedule on Monday, October 10. The BT went on the same reduced schedule as is used for other break periods. The result was less frequent operation, runs that ended several hours earlier than normal, and no operation of the Hokie Express around campus or to the Oak Lane area. Although there were no classes on this day, all campus offices were open regular hours and most students were still here in Blacksburg. Steve Mouras indicated that this was the first time this day in the fall semester with no classes was in effect and that he would pass along these concerns at the next board meeting for Blacksburg Transit.
- Josh Sarfity brought up a question about expanding the Safe-Ride program to include off-campus areas. Steve Mouras responded that this was an initiative of the VT Police Department and that they are the primary ones to determine policies for the service. The committee will discuss the issue further as needed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for November 11th at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder

**Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
November 11, 2005**

Present: Carlyne Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Matt Gart, Edward Lener, Steve Mouras, Josh Sarfity, Wyatt Sasser, Lisa Schweitzer

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

The October 14, 2005 minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- Patrick Donohoe updated everyone on plans to formally change the makeup of the committee. This will go through the Commission on University Support which will meet next week. Patrick has spoken with Chief Duncan and confirmed plans to add a representative from the VT Police Department.
- Wyatt Sasser brought forward an issue that has been raised in parking appeals hearings. Some individuals that have been ticketed are claiming the current signage is too confusing. This complaint seems to be concentrated primarily at the start of the fall semester. Images of the current as well as past signage were distributed prior to the meeting. The current signage reads “CP F/S” in very large letters followed by “Faculty/Staff Carpool” and “University Permit Parking” in smaller lettering. The labeling and design of the signage matches that on the carpool parking permits that are issued by Parking Services. After some discussion the committee recommended that the current signs be retained and that a second smaller sign be affixed to the same post that reads “Carpool Only” to emphasize the purpose of these spaces.
- Patrick Donohoe briefly updated the committee on parking privileges in lots near the dining halls for those students in the Oak Lane Community. The committee’s recommendations from the previous meeting have been adopted will be adopted beginning in January and the same hours will be applied on the weekends as used for the weekdays. Richard McCoy has already notified the students there of the change.
- Steve Mouras indicated that the BT Schedule for Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks will run on a reduced schedule. However, in the future for the new Columbus Day “quasi-holiday” the regular schedule will be run even though there are no classes since many students and Tech employees still need to get to campus and around town.

New Business:

- Josh Sarfity updated the committee on his findings relative to the Safe Ride Program and off-campus locations. Extending the current program to off campus raised a number of questions. The committee decided to revisit this issue more fully once there is a representative from the VT Police Department at the meetings to join in the discussion.

- Steve Mouras encouraged the committee to pick at least one “long-term, big picture” project to work on in the months ahead, such as was done last year with visitor parking. In particular, he suggested that the committee examine the question of parking for state vehicles on campus. Currently there is very little regulation for state vehicles. This has led to problems such as safety issues related to driving and parking on sidewalks and vehicle damage to lawns and landscaping around campus. The committee agreed to investigate this issue further. Practices at other institutions will be examined by a sub-committee (yet to be named). Appropriate rules and how to enforce them will also be discussed and possible scenarios developed for review by the entire committee.
- Josh Sarfity raised a concern on behalf of a student regarding special parking privileges for students who serve in positions in University Governance. Some committee or commission meetings may be in buildings that do not have Commuter/Graduate parking space nearby. Steve Mouras responded that the only students currently allowed to purchase Faculty/Staff parking permits are the presidents of SGA and GSA. Extending this privilege further could quickly add up to a significant number of individuals. Steve also reminded everyone that those with a C/G tag are able to park in resident spaces.
- On a related note Steve Mouras indicated that soon approximately 60 new Commuter/Graduate spaces will be added at the Inn at Virginia Tech. Many meetings and student events are held there and this will make it easier for students to park at the facility.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for December 9th at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder

**Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
January 13, 2006**

Present: Carolyne Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Edward Lener, Richard McCoy, Hesham Rakha, Elizabeth Reed, Wyatt Sasser, James Tyger

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The November 11, 2005 minutes were approved. As the meeting originally scheduled for December 9, 2005 was cancelled due to bad weather several items have been carried forward to today's meeting.

Old Business:

- Patrick Donohoe and James Tyger updated everyone on plans to formally change the makeup of the committee. This proposal is now going through the Commission on University Support and had its first reading on Nov. 17. If approved at their next meeting it will then go on to University Council.
- Richard McCoy and Wyatt Sasser reported that new "Carpool only" signs have been added to supplement existing signage for carpool spaces as recommended at the last meeting. This should reduce any potential confusion about who can use those spaces.
- Richard McCoy briefly updated the committee on parking privileges in lots near the dining halls for those students in the Oak Lane Community. The extended hours will go into effect beginning January 17 reflecting the recommendations of the committee at its meeting on October 14. At the end of the semester the policy will be reviewed to ensure that no new problems have been created by the change in hours.
- There was some initial discussion of some of the many issues related to state vehicle parking policy changes. Wyatt Sasser asked about utilizing more small vehicles intended primarily for off-road and utility work in place of the full-size trucks and vans most commonly used at this time. Richard McCoy discussed the practice of the parking of service vehicles for extended periods in some lots. Wyatt Sasser also raised a question about the policy regarding state vehicles and handicapped parking spaces. These and other issues relate to the matter of state vehicle parking will be discussed more fully at subsequent meetings.

New Business:

- Patrick Donohoe passed along a concern he had heard about the T-shaped intersection of Spring Road and Washington Street near the Coliseum. Traffic on Spring Road can back up for quite a distance as the lead car waits to turn onto Washington Street. Making a left turn is particularly difficult given the high volume of cars and pedestrians in that area at certain times. The committee discussed possible fixes ranging from putting up stop signs on Washington Street, having police direct traffic,

building pedestrian walkways, and even adding another roundabout. The consensus though was that the most promising idea may be to add a turn lane so that those making left hand or right hand turns could proceed independently.

- James Tyger raised a few informal concerns that he had heard from members of the Commission on University Support. The first concerned the status of plans for changes to visitor parking. Richard McCoy responded that funding for the proposed kiosks has not yet been approved. Only when they are in place will all visitor parking change to a fee-based system with a small charge for each daily pass. James also passed along requests to increase the frequency of buses to the Corporate Research Center and to expand the coverage area of the Hokie Express shuttle. Richard McCoy indicated that Blacksburg Transit is undertaking a study of all its routes so these issues will be examined as part of that process.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for February 10th at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder

Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
February 10, 2006

Present: Catherine Caldwell (for Wyatt Sasser), Carolyn Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Edward Lener, Richard McCoy, Steve Mouras, Elizabeth Reed, Josh Sarfity, James Tyger

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The January 13, 2006 minutes were approved with one typographical correction.

Old Business:

- Patrick Donohoe updated everyone on plans to change the makeup of the committee. This proposal has now gone through the Commission on University Support and had its first reading at University Council. Patrick will contact the VT Police Department and ask them to name a representative to the committee as soon as possible.

- Steve Mouras led a discussion of some of the problems caused by current practices regarding state vehicle parking practices, particularly those associated with driving on sidewalks. Damage to the grounds and potential safety issues of were among the major concerns. Some areas of campus are not otherwise accessible though so any changes will need to be considered carefully. The committee will seek input from individuals in chare of those areas of the university that oversee large vehicle fleets. Richard McCoy also brought up the issue of some departments using prime faculty/staff spaces for long-term parking of state vehicles. Those vehicles not in regular use should be parked in one of the overflow lots instead.

- The committee discussed the T-shaped intersection of Spring Road and Washington Street near the Coliseum. Steve Mouras indicated that he would investigate options for possible improvement, including adding a dedicated left-turn lane. However the high volume of pedestrians, especially at class changes, may still limit traffic flow and lead to backups on Spring Road.

- James Tyger raised a few questions from the previous meeting that he had heard from members of the Commission on University Support. The first concerned the status of plans for changes to visitor parking with the proposed kiosks. Steve Mouras indicated that pricing and policies were still being developed. James also passed along requests to increase the frequency of buses to the Corporate Research Center and to expand the coverage area of the Hokie Express shuttle. Steve Mouras indicated that the low passenger volume on the current route to the CRC means that it may actually be subject to future cutbacks. In addition, the Hokie Express may be discontinued during the summer months. Both changes would reflect an attempt to maximize overall efficiency by making changes on routes with the lowest use.

New Business:

Patrick Donohoe asked about eliminating some parking meters at the Sterrett Center and adding a few dedicated visitor-only spaces in their place. Steve Mouras indicated that a number of changes had already been made to parking arrangements there in recent years to try to accommodate different requests he had received. Before further changes will be considered by the committee he wanted to hear a clear consensus from the major occupants of the building about their needs.

Steve Mouras reported briefly on tentative plans to add van pooling. Complicating matters are regulations on the use of state vehicles for getting from home to work. Debbie Freed, who serves as Alternative Transportation Manager, is the best person to contact with questions about the program.

Josh Safity asked about parking lot etiquette. In particular he has found some people stopping in the middle of lots and waiting for extended periods. This blocks other vehicles and can create a safety concern.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for March 17th at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder

Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
March 17, 2006

Present: Joey Albert, Mark Armstrong, John Beach (Guest),Carolyn Dudding, Patrick Donohoe, Edward Lener, Richard McCoy, Steve Mouras, Ben Myers (Guest), Hesham Rakha, Elizabeth Reed, Josh Sarfity, Wyatt Sasser

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The February 10, 2006 minutes were approved.

Patrick Donohoe welcomed two new members of the committee. Mark Amstrong will be representing the Commission on University Support and Joey Albert is the designated representative for the VT Police Department. Members went around the table and introduced themselves.

Old Business:

- Patrick Donohoe let everyone know that the plans to change the makeup of the committee now have final approval of University Council and distributed a copy of the resolution.
- Steve Mouras briefly reviewed some of the problems caused by current practices regarding state vehicle parking practices, particularly those associated with driving on sidewalks. Damage to the grounds and potential safety issues of were among the major concerns. Two guests both of whom oversee large vehicle fleets were then asked to share their thoughts and concerns.
- John Beach, the Director of Physical Plant, indicated that in his position he understood both sides of the issue. From a maintenance perspective he argued it is important for vehicles to have close proximity to work areas so as to have access to tools or to be able move heavy objects. From a grounds perspective though he also deals with some of the problems and repairs that can result. John emphasized the need to have an adequate number of service vehicle spaces close to buildings. He also spoke about the use of alternative vehicles designed primarily for off-road use such as several John Deere “Gators” that the department is testing. These are quite versatile and can get to more places on campus without tearing up the lawns. However there are concerns with longevity, safety in low-light conditions, and limited carrying capacity relative to more conventional pickup trucks.
- John reminded those present that there are several other units on campus that utilize state vehicles (Note – the committee plans to try to talk to representatives from Residential and Dining Services and from Communications Network Services in future meetings.) He also spoke about concerns relating to commercial delivery vehicles such as those from Coca-Cola, UPS, Federal Express, etc. and emphasized that these can also be a source of problems on campus.

- Some other considerations that John Beach raised included adding satellite locations for Physical Plant that handle routine and preventative maintenance. This would lower the number of vehicles that need to be sent for service calls. He also indicated that the elimination of Central Receiving several years ago due to budget cuts has had an impact in increasing commercial delivery activity throughout campus.
- Ben Myers, who serves as Director of Utilities, spoke about vehicles involved in servicing electric lights, steam tunnels, and sewer and water lines around campus. Much of the equipment required is quite large and heavy so some damage may be inevitable. However crews receive special training and every attempt is made to keep this to a minimum. Ben also noted that all crews and vehicles return to their designated area at the end of the day so nothing is left scattered around overnight.
- Both John and Ben emphasized that their vehicles are marked with identifying numbers on the bumpers and that if problems are noted, especially those involving unsafe operation, that Tech students and employees should report the incident. In some cases photographs have also been helpful in documenting what has happened.
- An extensive discussion ensued on how to minimize some of the problems associated with state vehicles moving across all areas of campus without creating rules that are too unwieldy or that interfere with legitimate access needs. The committee also examined questions related to accountability. In the current environment some units are quite responsive when problems are reported while others are not. Cooperation is important because if enforcement and ticketing is to be effective it is important to first be able to correctly identify the individual vehicle operator responsible.
- The committee briefly discussed the issue of the intersection of Spring Road and Washington Street. Standard lane widths are a minimum of 12 feet. Steve Mouras will investigate further whether it is feasible to add the extra width and markings for a left-turn lane.

New Business:

- Elections for a new chair and recorder were postponed to the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for April 21 at 8:30 in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder

Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
April 21, 2006

Present: Mark Armstrong, Patrick Donohoe, Rick Johnson (Guest), Doug Jones (Guest), Edward Lener, Richard McCoy, Amanda Mitchell, Steve Mouras, John Pollard (Guest), Pat Rodgers (Guest), Josh Sarfity, James Tyger, Wyatt Sasser

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

The March 17, 2006 minutes were approved. Several guests were in attendance so everyone went around the table and introduced themselves.

Old Business:

- Steve Mouras briefly reviewed some of the problems caused by current practices regarding state vehicle parking practices. He indicated that this was the second meeting to gather data and input from those around campus who oversee large vehicle fleets. The guests were then asked to each share their thoughts and concerns.
- John Pollard, the Director of Engineering Operations for Communications Network Services, reported that his field service activities fall into two main categories. For outside work, such as adding cable underground or in steam tunnels, a service vehicle is usually needed to provide power and ventilation during the installation process. For inside work he argued it is also important for vehicles to have close proximity to work areas so as to have access to tools, ladders, cable reels, etc. Since they operate on a cost-recovery basis more time spent going between the vehicle and job site could translate to higher fees.
- CNS vehicles all return to their designated area overnight. John indicated that they may need to look at a vehicle by vehicle basis as to which ones need turf permits. When asked about identifying numbers for CNS vehicles John indicated that this is not currently done but that he was willing to consider adding numbers to the bumpers.
- Doug Jones, Field Engineering Manager from CNS, added that members of his staff do troubleshooting and repair of telephone and network services in different buildings on campus. Added restrictions on parking may make it harder to keep scheduled appointments if it means additional travel time. He indicated that his unit has weekly staff meetings and that these meetings often include reminders about vehicle-related issues such as potential damage to tree roots caused by parking under trees.
- Doug also inquired about service vehicle parking in plaza areas such as at War Memorial Gym, near McBryde, and between the University Bookstore and Newman Library. Both Doug and John indicated that adding service vehicle spaces in certain places on campus would aid in reducing the problem of parking on sidewalks.

- Steve Mouras asked everyone for their thoughts on the best way to ensure accountability if new rules are put into place. One option is to ticket individual vehicle operators. The other is to treat it strictly as a personnel matter for disciplinary action. Either would require that the vehicle operator who committed the violation be identified and to do this cooperation from the various units would be essential. Those present seemed to favor the ticketing approach as it provided an immediate incentive for drivers to comply yet would not have any of the long-term impacts that might be associated with personnel action. If ticketed, vehicle operators would have an opportunity to appeal through the usual channels.
- Rick Johnson, Director of Housing and Dining Services, said he was unclear about what the exact rules are at the present time and stressed that any new policy be clear and well-communicated. For the dining facilities vehicle access is generally good. However on the housing side of operations there are many areas of campus that do not have access roads. His crews need to be able to get close to buildings to maintain the residence halls. They are exploring the use of more off-road vehicles that have less impact on the turf but these have limitations and can't be used for larger tasks such as transporting mattresses.
- Rick also spoke about employee morale in relation to any changes that are made with regard to state vehicles on campus. In particular he noted similar concerns relating to commercial delivery vehicles such as those from Coca-Cola, UPS, Federal Express, etc. and emphasized that these also need to be addressed by any new policy. Richard McCoy responded that commercial vehicles on campus are now subject to a Vendor Business Contractor (VBC) policy and that things have improved in recent years as a result. One problem when violations are reported is that the delivery vehicles are only in one spot for a very short time so it can be hard to ticket them.
- Pat Rodgers, Director of Business Technologies, oversees mail service on campus. She emphasized the importance of being able to get close to the buildings when transporting large quantities of mail each day to departments and to students. Frequency of such deliveries may have to be reduced if new restrictions are imposed that significantly increase delivery and pickup time. Richard McCoy responded that certain buildings may need to be looked at on a case by case basis and cited Litton Reaves as an example. At present the mail truck does not use the loading dock there but parks on the sidewalk directly in front of the building.
- Steve Mouras thanked the above guests for their input. He and Patrick Donohoe then led a brief discussion of how the committee wanted to proceed. Richard McCoy suggested inviting guests from certain departments on campus that have large numbers of state vehicles that are parked in spaces long-term to get input on that aspect of the issue. The committee agreed that this would be a good idea and that the final meeting of the academic year would be used to complete the information gathering process. Steve indicated that his office would prepare some draft proposals for the committee to review when it resumes in the fall.

- The committee briefly discussed the issue of the intersection of Spring Road and Washington Street. Steve Mouras indicated this is now on the list of campus projects but did not have an estimated completion date at this time.

New Business:

- Patrick Donohoe sought volunteers for a new co-chair of the committee and for a new recorder. Wyatt Sasser offered to serve as co-chair provided his appointment to the committee is renewed. No one present volunteered for the recorder position so this will be on the agenda again for the May meeting.
- Josh Sarfity passed along a suggestion for the timing of Blacksburg Transit schedules. During the evening hours buses run less frequently and the current BT schedule does not correspond to the class schedule. Bringing the two into closer alignment would help reduce wait times and might boost ridership.
- Josh Sarfity also expressed concern from students over changes in the Perry Street lots associated with the new sewer line being run through Derring Lot and into the commuter lot areas. The first question was whether adequate notice had been given when some spaces were designated for faculty/staff use. Richard McCoy reported that bright yellow signs went up a week in advance of the change and that for two weeks afterward his staff only issued warning tickets rather than real ones. Everyone agreed that this was sufficient for people to become aware of the change. Josh also asked about Perry Street Lot 2 which has many faculty/staff spaces sitting empty. Steve Mouras indicated that this was a temporary problem. One entrance to the lot has been blocked as a result of construction so that lot has had limited access. This entrance should be reopening within a few days. Steve Mouras also emphasized that route of the new sewer line was largely determined by the topography of the area and must follow the lowest route. Since the project is estimated to require 8 months time to complete there was no way to avoid an impact during the school year.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 A.M.

Next meeting scheduled for **Wednesday, May 3 at 10:00 A.M.** in the Sterrett Center, Room 90R.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder

Transportation and Parking Committee
Minutes
May 3, 2006

Present: Patrick Donohoe, Carlyne Dudding, Edward Lener, Steve Mouras, Don Orth (Guest), Josh Sarfity, Bob Shaffer (Guest), Wyatt Sasser

Patrick Donohoe called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The April 21, 2006 minutes were approved.

Old Business:

- Steve Mouras briefly reviewed some of the issues related to management of state vehicles. He indicated that this was the third meeting to gather data and input from affected units around campus. This meeting focuses on the long-term parking of state vehicles in high-demand lots such as Cheatham/Engel and Derring. The guests were then asked to each share their thoughts and concerns.
- Don Orth, Head of the Fisheries and Wildlife Department, indicated that he was open to the idea of university-wide policy on long-term parking of state vehicles. As a department head, Don already asks those in his area not to do this but enforcement is left up to him. Department-owned vehicles do have a sign-out log so it is possible to check to see who last used one. Since multiple individuals use the vehicles it is also important that they be left in a consistent location so other drivers can readily find them later. (Steve Mouras indicated that the overflow lot near the Duckpond is the best place for this purpose at this time.)
- Don also stressed that it is important for vans, four-wheel drive vehicles, and occasionally even buses to be able to park in the lot for short periods since these vehicles are regularly used for instructional field trips. As long as reasonable accommodation is made for such needs he welcomed having clearer rules for long-term parking and not needing to handle enforcement himself.
- Bob Shaffer, Charles Nettleton Professor of Forestry, echoed many of sentiments expressed by Don Orth. Bob also spoke about the need of faculty and staff to travel back and forth during the day from the Brooks Forest Products Center in the Corporate Research Center. Don also spoke about the high demand for parking at remote facilities that the College of Natural Resources operates near campus. Use of alternative vehicles like golf carts or gators may provide a more economical way to meet some transport needs.
- Wyatt Sasser asked about the impact of Latham Hall and other buildings that are soon to be built in that part of campus. This of course will only increase pressure on existing lots for parking. Steve Mouras indicated that he plans to gate the lot at Cheatham/Engel for faculty and staff use only. An analysis of the area will be done

to determine the number of service vehicle spots needed and a few more will likely be added. Some other changes to the layout may also be made to increase capacity.

- The Geosciences department was unable to send a representative to the meeting but an e-mail from Dr. James Spotilla was circulated. He indicated that the department has three state vehicles at this time, one of which is regularly used and two of which are used more occasionally for field trips and the like. He stressed the need to be able to park in the Derring Hall lot when loading students and their gear.
- Steve Mouras thanked the above guests for their input. Since this was the final meeting of the transportation and parking committee for this academic year Steve indicated that his office would prepare some draft proposals based on all the input gathered for the committee to review when it resumes in the fall.
- The committee briefly discussed the issue of the intersection of Spring Road and Washington Street. Steve Mouras indicated that the initial analysis has been done and that the design will be finished soon. Since the existing roadbed is wide enough no construction will be needed. The last part of Spring Road will be marked to add separate right and left turn lanes.
- Josh Sarfity's suggestion for the timing of Blacksburg Transit schedules during evening hours was briefly discussed. Bringing the BT Schedule into closer alignment with class times would help reduce wait times and might boost ridership. One challenge, however, is that not all professors adhere to the standard times for classes.
- Josh Sarfity reported that he has observed that Perry Lot 2 is now getting more use by faculty and staff but still has excess capacity. Steve Mouras responded the construction of the ICTAS building near Durham Hall and the proposed new surge building in the Lower Stanger lot will lead to more changes in parking in that vicinity.
- Patrick Donohoe again asked for a volunteer to serve as recorder for the committee next year. Since no one volunteered he will follow up by e-mail.

New Business:

- Carlyne Dudding asked about parking for dining hall employees at West End Market. On the weekends the Cheatham/Engel lot is usually packed with students. Steve Mouras indicated that other dining halls on campus do have a small number of restricted spaces and something similar may need to be done here. He will have Richard McCoy investigate the matter further.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 A.M.

Next meeting will be in Fall 2006, time and date TBA

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Lener, Recorder