

## **Transportation and Parking Committee Minutes September 27, 2006**

Present: Carolyne Dudding, Wendell Flinchum, Debby Freed (Guest), Brad Martens, Richard McCoy, Steve Mouras, Leslie O'Brien for Mary Finn, Tom Tucker, James Tyger

James Tyger called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and introductions were made. James Tyger will contact Graduate Student Association to see who their T&P representative is.

First draft discussion of the Service Vehicle Parking Enhancement Plan was held. Plan will help control vehicle parking on campus -- acceptable areas for vehicles to park and unacceptable areas like under trees, blocking ramps, accessible walks, etc. This draft should be widely circulated and suggestions brought back to T&P Committee. Plan will be reviewed by various groups such as Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, Student Government Association and others before it will become effective. Most plans are coordinated in the Fall, communicated in the Spring, and put in place during the Summer.

Tickets are issued to Vendor, Business, Contractor (V.B.C.) vehicles. State vehicles are not ticketed as University departments are owners of these vehicles and can not use their money to pay parking fines or tickets. It would be difficult to charge individuals because they aren't the owner of the vehicles. Parking Services will notify the department heads of vehicles in violation and have them deal with the drivers through their department's chain of command. A proposal to charge a \$15 turf permit to all vehicles parking in other than assigned parking spaces was discussed. More discussion about cost of permits and time permit is valid will be held at future meetings. The Turf fee will generate money to help Physical Plant repair ground that is damaged.

State vehicles (excluding Facility or Fleet Services parking lot) parking overnight should relocate to outer area parking lots. Let departments demonstrate they can handle the extended-period parking without problems.

Bike Safety Awareness – Solicit inputs from your constituents concerning bike/pedestrian conflicts. Should VT allow bikes on sidewalks? The Transportation Dept encourages bike riding on campus. The previous concept -- concrete for pedestrians, asphalt for cars and bikes. Need to increase awareness to get bikes and pedestrians to respect one another. Bike riders are ticketed for sidewalk and roadway violations. No State Law governs bikes on sidewalks.

Concerns were voiced on not being notified of the 3-5 minutes time limit for the second appeal procedure. Parking Services will ensure they inform people who are appealing for the second time either through email or voice mail that they do have a time limit.

The Commission on University Support Chair should send a message to the T&P Committee requesting permission to use gators/golf carts to transport Deans to meetings to save time. A policy would have to be developed governing the use of these vehicles. Fleet Service has purchased one hybrid vehicle. They are looking at getting a sedan and pickup on contract to purchase. Is this going to be a saving to VT?

NEXT MEETING: 25 October 2006

Adjourned at 11:30

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyne Dudding, Recorder

## **Transportation and Parking Committee Minutes October 25, 2006**

Present: Joey Albert, Carolyne Dudding, Mary Finn, Brad Martens, Steve Mouras, Josh Sarfity, J. Wyatt Sasser, Tom Tucker, James Tyger, Anne Zajac

James Tyger called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Agenda was approved and accepted. September minutes were approved with a few minor changes. Minutes will be forwarded on to the Commission on University Support.

With most of the committee members being new this year, Steve Mouras gave a brief description on the background of the Service Vehicle Parking Enhancement Plan. To review what has happened, the following information was given: (1) State service vehicles can park any where on campus except for handicap spaces. (2) The Budget Office has indicated that departments can not use State (E&G) money to pay fines. (3) No obligation for departments to pay tickets if they were given. (4) State vehicles are department owned – no specific owner to ticket. Tickets are given to the driver for traffic violations but to the owner of the vehicle for parking violations. (5) Leaders of the various departments (Utilities, Physical Plant, Communication Network Services, and Residential and Dining Programs) who have state-owned vehicles around campus came and spoke to the T&P Committee last year regarding how changing the service-vehicle parking regulations would affect their operation. (6) This plan is being created to help Parking Services establish regulations for state-owned vehicles parking and how to handle those vehicles that are improperly parked.

If state-owned vehicles are not properly parked, Department Heads would like to use their chain-of-command authority to take care of the problem. Need to review how to charge for the turf passes – daily, monthly, yearly. The way Virginia Tech is designed, service vehicles must be allowed to park and drive on sidewalks at times to get close to buildings to conduct their business. Committee members should take this draft to their constituents to see if this is a fair/reasonable proposal and to get suggestions and approval. The Draft of the Plan has been sent to the Leaders of the departments that visited the T&P meetings last year and they have all agreed that it is a good plan. Physical Plant will need to determine where the unacceptable areas to park are around campus. Need to put in a time period to review the Plan to see if it is working. Warning tickets will be given at first to track information on how the plan is doing.

Overnight parking problem will be for those vehicles parked in spaces for an extended period of time. If a department needs a vehicle parked close to a building, the vehicle will need to park in a service-vehicle space. A concern was voiced about not receiving support from departments – one comment was given that a vehicle could be booted if there wasn't cooperation.

Once the plan is finally approved, there will need to be a period of informing people of the change, holding meetings, having a ramp-up period, issuing warning tickets and then totally enforcing the changes. Steve Mouras will make the two suggested changes (time period to review plan to see if it is working and turf pass charges) to the Plan and resend it to the committee members. Discussion will continue at the meeting in November.

Bike Safety and Riding on campus was discussed. Violators on the road can be ticketed but no laws govern riding bikes on sidewalks. Officers use their own discretion on violations – giving a ticket or a warning. A question was asked about putting up signs with Bike Rules on it around campus and on bike racks. Signs have been previously put up around campus in the past, but the

Administrators didn't like them so they were removed. The Committee should step back and look at all aspects of bike riding on campus. What can be done to improve it and make it safer? Asked around, get suggestions. The way VT has it configured right now is definitely dysfunctional. One of the goals for the P&T Committee this year is to manage the Bike Program here on campus.

Golf cart usage has been given to another department and will not be given to the P&T Committee.

Faculty members still have a problem with Thursday night football games and teaching classes on those nights. That problem has been discussed a number of times and the best answer is that VT invites these 66,000 guests to come to football games so we must provide for them. If faculty members are holding class next to the stadium, they might want to move to another building further away.

A question was asked why a person can not use their credit card to pay their parking fine. Due to a high rate of fraud and making it a more difficult to pay fines in cash (the fine is a penalty), credit cards are not accepted at the present time. Within the next 12 months, fines may be paid online and then credit cards will be acceptable.

If people are working at The Inn, they are required to purchase a parking hang tag. If they are given a ticket because they don't have one, the fine is \$110.

Free permits with the Bike, Bus, and Walk (BB&W) Program can be used to park in public spaces on football game days. There are free spaces around campus that people can park in if they arrive early on those days.

Commuter students would like to have a one-half hour window period at 5:00 p.m. to get parking spaces before resident students can park in those spaces. The Graduate and Undergraduate Assemblies should draft a resolution to be brought before the P&T Committee.

A committee member asked if the P&T Committee could be updated on changes that may be made in parking fees.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15.

NEXT MEETING: 29 November 2006

Respectfully submitted,  
Carolyne Dudding, Recorder