

Transportation & Parking Committee (TPC)
28 September 2016 Minutes
Alternative Transportation Center Conference Room

Present:

Mac Babb, Jeri Baker, John Bartos, Virgilio Centeno, Annabelle Fuselier, Bo Frazier, Debbie Greer, Austin Hannon, Bruce Harper, Ryan Speer, Pam Tate,

Members excused:

Bruce Harper, Tami Watson

AGENDA

Selection of Recorder:

Annabelle agreed to serve as recorder for today's meeting.

Announcement of approval of April 2016 minutes

Meeting minutes were approved by e-mail. Committee members introduced themselves and the areas they represent.

Election of Vice-Chair

Email Ryan if you are interested in serving as Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair steps in and leads the meeting when the Chair is out of town or unable to attend, and succeeds the Chair next year.

Parking and Transportation update:

Jeri updated the committee on the request from the spouse of a deceased emeritus faculty member who requested to continue using the retiree permit for ongoing access to campus. The policy change was approved by the VP Admin and VP for Finance. The approval benefits the University as the spouse continues to support faculty on campus. Currently one person is utilizing this benefit now.

Jeri also provided an update on the Chicken Hill reduced permit pilot. The pilot was extended to pay band 3 employees and so far is very successful.

Jeri explained the funding structure for Parking and Transportation for new committee members. Parking and Transportation Services are 100% self-funded and receives no tax revenue. The debt service on Perry Street garage and North End Center were explained in the context of funding. The collection of funds from faculty, staff and students was discussed in terms of equity and the expectation of those who pay for parking on campus. The governance structure for the rules about parking follows a chain of command (BOV, President and Dr. Sherwood Wilson).

Jeri explained the three items her office has been tasked with as part of the FY18 Budget

1. Zonal or tiered approach to parking instead of current system. Seventy faculty/staff spaces in front of Burruss have been identified for a pilot program. Special permits will be created at a cost of three times the rate of current permits.
2. A similar pilot program is being discussed for students in the Perry Street area. The proposed Multi-Modal Transit Facility (MMTF) that will be located in front of the Perry St. Parking Garage at the corner of West Campus Drive and Perry Street is at 60% design phase and feedback is still needed from constituents. The proposed timeline is 90% by December. Presentations to Town Council and BOV by February 2017. Requests for bid in March/April and by June/July start of construction. The MMTF will disrupt approximately 1200 spaces and plans are to move F/S spaces to the Perry Street garage and C/G spaces to Smithfield and Duck Pond lots. Lots 1-6 will be where students can park.
3. Charging fees for camp conference participants is proposed to start in June 2017.

Committee feedback is requested by the October meeting.

Virginia Tech Police Department update:

Mac discussed a parking past theft case being solved. Cameras captured the incident and the person was charged with grand larceny.

There has been a normal start of the school year. There have been a few parking lot hit and run accidents, car verses bike accidents. As a result, there is an increased presence of officers on West Campus Drive.

Mac is investigating a way to get information about an educational program through social media to remind drivers of blind spots.

Road closures were discussed on Southgate that will affect traffic patterns for the Miami game.

Constituent reports: None offered

Questions and answers:

Process for requesting a crosswalk

Ryan inquired about the process for crosswalk space on Otey Street. Jeri stated that there would need to be an investigation and the safety committee would need to be involved. Contacts for investigations are Mike Don and Steve Mouras.

An update on the cross walk near the Surge Building was given. The town took over this area and now pedestrians cross at the light.

Question about parking permit price zonal and tier pilots

Debbie inquired about the permit price structure for the 70 spaces in front of Burruss

and expressed concern about staff, visitors and VP's finding spaces. Jeri stated that the pricing structure is coming for Dr. Wilson's office. It was explained that the zonal parking would guarantee spaces for those who pay for the premium parking and would eliminate the number of people driving around the Drillfield for the designated spots. To address the needs of those opting not to pay for premium spots, Jeri also referred to the time limited parking areas near Williams hall for guests and faculty or staff visiting Burruss. If the pilot programs are successful, it could be instituted across campus.

Campus Master Plan

Debbie requested an updated version of the campus master plan. An e-mail with the link will be sent to the committee. Jeri explained that the Master Plan is in limbo at the moment because of the University Master Plan preparations.

Questions about Pokémon incidents

Jeri asked if the Police department had to deal with Pokémon over the summer. Mac said they had a few incidents of reckless driving.

Recommendations Received for Parking Services

Charge visitors to park on campus
Look at zonal parking as supply and demand
Investigate campus movement and intersection vehicle conflicts

Price of Commuter/Graduate spaces

John asked a question about cost of spaces. Jeri explained that the price would be 1.5 times higher than they currently are.

Next meeting:

The committee will reconvene on October 26, 2016

Adjourn

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Annabelle and seconded by Ryan and Mac. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Annabelle Fuselier
Recorder