

Transportation & Parking Committee (TPC)
9 October 2015 Minutes
217I Hutcheson

Members present:

Kevin Foust; Annabelle Fuselier; Leon Geyer; Hunter Pittman; Cheryl Montgomery; Ryan Speer; Tami Watson

Parking update:

No report due to absence of Richard McCoy

VTPD update (Kevin Foust):

Drill field changes seem to be going well. There have been a few impatient drivers but no accidents, and there are fewer problems with wrong way bicyclists - there has been a marked decrease in need to police or ticket this violation. The committee concurred that changes have been helpful. Foust also mentioned the theft of bicycles on campus as an ongoing problem in need of continuing attention. This has been an average year statistically in terms of thefts, but there is always need to get word out. Most thefts are of unlocked bikes; U-locks are recommended, but any locks are recommended.

Parking and transportation master plan update (Steve Mouras):

The 10 year parking and transportation master plan is currently in the process of development. This master plan project is the leading edge of an overall campus master plan development process, which itself kicks off in approximately six months. The parking and transportation plan includes traffic control but also considers transit, bikes, and pedestrians: a holistic approach. VT has engaged a consulting firm, VHB, which has collected data for a few months now. The firm visited in September to host the first of three stakeholder meetings. The next meetings will be held November 11-13 at the Inn; there will be series of meetings that week handling the same business in multiple meetings, allowing for flexibility in scheduling. The consultants will collect and later report on the input received at these meetings. There will also be a town hall meeting on October 26th from 4-6 in Squires (Brush Mountain) open to all. The public can also add input to the web site, and is encouraged to do so. [<http://vt-ptmp.com/>] The project eventually will move into concept phase, developing concepts based on the input. A final stakeholder wrap up meeting is scheduled for February.

Other actions and comments:

There were some informal recommendations and discussion points brought up at various points during the meeting by committee members. 1) There were comments regarding avoiding unnecessary road closures. Mouras noted that the expected Perry street closure is dependent on release of federal funding for multi modal transit center (MMTC), which has an uncertain timeline (3-5 years). This point is included in master plan, and Steve encouraged that comments be submitted to master plan web site 2) There was another question about bus service coming back from the proposed MMTC; Mouras noted that express bus routes will cover this traffic, but McCoy could provide a more definitive answer for this question. 3) There was also a question about preferred graduate student parking, and this question was also referred to McCoy. 4) Finally, there was mention of increasingly problematic pedestrian/car conflict in the vicinity of Surge; Mouras noted that will also hopefully be addressed in the master plan.

Next meeting:

This committee Chair Geyer noted that the group will not plan to meet again until after the next transportation and parking master plan stakeholder meeting has taken place in mid-November.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Speer