

Transportation & Parking Committee (TPC)
28 October 2013 Minutes
Third Floor Conference Room, Holtzman Alumni Center

Members present:

Virgilio Centeno, Gregory Fansler, Wendell Flinchum, Leon Geyer, Bruce Harper, Mackenzie Jarvis, Richard McCoy, Ben Poe, Kasey Richardson, Patricia Williams

Members absent:

Ladd Brown, Kathy Hosig

Agenda and minutes:

The September 16, 2013, minutes were approved.

Parking and Transportation update:

McCoy said the North End parking garage will open to be used for the first time for a Center for the Arts (CFA) event on Friday (Nov. 1). The parking rate for the public is \$5; students (even with a hang tag) must pay \$5; faculty/staff and retirees with a hangtag park for free.

An ongoing effort to reach a new agreement with the Athletic Department has been completed. The rate paid by Athletics will be \$5/space/game, which will generate \$210,000 for Parking Services. McCoy says this puts the department where it needs to be and is better than past agreement of \$14,000. This rate, which is \$1 more than a daily parking permit, will stay the same for next year, also.

In a related area, McCoy mentioned parking lot construction, which is for the future. He said the Chicken Hill lot was rebuilt not for Athletics, but to be ready for upcoming changes. Due to the construction of the Intermodal facility and a classroom building in the Perry Street lot, I-lot (The Cage) will be converted to commuter and graduate student parking. Resident student parking will be shifted to Chicken Hill. Along with this, planning will start in 2014 for the Smithfield Lot, since The Cage was impacted by the Human and Agricultural Biosciences Building. A more robust shuttle system will also be looked at as parking moves to the periphery of campus.

Second Appeals Committee – the committee will be changing from its volunteer membership structure (including dropping the parking permit giveaway incentive) to an appointment set-up, with members coming from various constituent groups. Transportation and Parking Committee will have a role in this. Membership from other groups (such as SGA, etc.) is being defined.

There was a question from Chief Flinchum about parking issues at the CFA over the weekend, with vehicles parked in fire lanes and around the loading dock. McCoy said that he will have people working weekends to monitor that area once football season ends.

There was also a brief discussion about the upcoming legislative session, a Joint Legislative and Audit Committee (JLARC) report about auxiliaries, and potential impact (none yet) on Parking Services.

Virginia Tech Police Department update:

For the reporting period of January 1 to date, there have been 63 reportable accidents on campus (reportable if there is \$1,500 damage total or complaint of injury). Of these, four were pedestrian/vehicle accidents and four bike/vehicle accidents. There have been 740 traffic summonses issued; 13 for failure of a vehicle to yield to a pedestrian and one for a pedestrian failure to yield to a vehicle. There were 198 speeding tickets issued. April has the highest number of traffic accidents per the statistics.

Another safety program involves a monthly visit from the State Police Commercial Vehicle Inspection team to check the various construction and other vehicles on campus. Flinchum reported that each visit results in about 50% of the trucks being placed out of service due to violations.

Another safety project involves the use of the radar speed buggy being placed around campus. Police cars are also parked in different locations, sometimes empty, sometimes occupied, to keep drivers on their toes.

There was a question about Drill Field traffic around Torgersen and the Library and yield issues. Construction this coming summer will address those issues, as part of the plan to change the section of the Drill Field to two-way travel between Stanger Street and Kent Street. The triangular medians near Torgersen and the Library will be modified into roundabouts to accommodate this change. Once construction plans are near complete, the project will be presented to the committee.

Another question addressed bicycles on sidewalks around the Drill Field and whether a bike lane might be possible to reduce conflicts. As part of the two-way traffic change, parking on the Drill Field is also being looked at, so there may be changes there – although a bike lane with bikes traveling against the one-way traffic probably won't be part of the plan.

VDOT Report on U.S. 460 Interchange

A public input session was recently held to present information about the new interchange and roadways to replace the at-grade intersection of Southgate Drive with the U.S. 460 bypass. A handout from the session was passed out for information.

Constituent Reports

None offered.

The next meeting will be in the Holtzman conference room on Monday, November 18 at 11 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Harper
Recorder