Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes - December 6, 2005

Members Present:
Shamim Sisson (Chair), Carol Lohman, Mark Fletcher, Alan Cohn, Elizabeth Lawson, Mike Coleman, Leonard Schoppa, Reba Camp, Bobbie McClemens (guest), Rebecca White (ex-officio), Darius Neighbors

Welcome and Introduction:
Shamim noted that Mark Reisler from the Darden School has stepped down from the committee. Committee members provided suggestions for a replacement North Grounds representative.

Special Recognition:
Bobbie McClemens was recognized by the Chair for her devoted support of the committee and the University over her 30-year career. A beautiful gift was presented to Bobbie from the Chair and Committee as a gesture of thanks and congratulations.

Old Business:
Joint Spring Meeting with Safety and Security
In May 2005, David Neuman, University Architect, addressed a joint meeting of the Safety and Security Committee and the Transportation and Parking Committee. Mr. Neuman emphasized that both committees provide a strong resource for planning at the University. He intends to seek input from both Committees in his work with the UVA Master Planning Council.

Bus Stop Safety Update
The Chair reports that the student committee to review bus stop safety has been reconstituted and should wrap up their efforts during the Spring 2006 semester.

Graduate T.A./R.A. Request - Tabled

Late Night Bus Service Update
Each Friday and Saturday night since August 26, 2005, bus service has been extended on the regular UTS routes until 3AM. 15-minute service is being provided by an outside contractor on UTS’ Blue and Orange routes. Service has run for the most part without incident. There has been one incident this semester which occurred the second week of October. While on layover at the Madison/Preston bus stop, a projectile hit a window on the bus, shattering the glass and slightly injuring the driver (there were no passengers on board at the time). Police suspect a “bb”, but no arrests were made. Passenger counts have been slightly higher on Friday nights than Saturday with numbers averaging overall 18-19 passengers/hour (lower than the 30-passenger/hour goal). Feedback from the committee included suggestions that P&T be sure the outside contractor’s buses are properly identified with signs and that marketing efforts should be stepped up to increase potential ridership. The Chair will set a meeting with student leaders to strategize about marketing during the Spring 2006 semester.
**Emmet/Ivy Garage**
A request was made to have P&T revisit the idea of placing a post box at the Emmet/Ivy Garage. It was also noted that there is graffiti on the ground floor east stair tower door (which P&T will remove) which refers to the much-discussed locking of that door to re-entries.

**New Business**

**Student Council Initiatives**
Student council is discussing the potential need for providing bus service on football game days, especially from the North Grounds housing areas. Student council is also looking at accessibility issues for students with disabilities, transportation options for first year students getting to Student Health, and short term parking options in the area of the West Range.

**Parking & Transportation Update**

*Rolling Stones Concert* - Rebecca White provided a summary of the impact of the Rolling Stones concert on permit holders and concert-goers. The event was disruptive, especially to student permit holders on West Grounds, but overall the event was a rigorous and mostly successful exercise in planning a large event. Many lessons were learned regarding transition from work day to event operations and traffic which will help plan for events in the John Paul Jones Arena.

*Bio-Diesel Fuel* - During May, June, and July, 2005, Parking & Transportation conducted a 90-day test of a 20% blend of a soy-based diesel replacement fuel known as B20 or Bio-Diesel. B20 fuel was tested on two buses and the Recycling packer truck. Fuel efficiency, maintenance, and fuel prices were tracked during the test. The benefits of lower emissions and renewability of the fuel were deemed greater than the increased cost (11-15% higher than regular diesel) so in October 2006, Parking & Transportation started receiving exclusively B20 fuel for all diesel vehicles purchasing fuel at Parking & Transportation.

*CTS Ridership Demonstration Project* - During October 2005, Parking & Transportation and CTS conducted a demonstration project whereby all UVA staff, faculty, and students could ride any CTS route by showing a current UVA ID. In addition to a notice on the P&T web site, all UVA faculty and staff were alerted to the program through direct email from P&T. Employee Councils and HR Coordinators in various departments were also contacted directly about the program. CTS placed “seat cards” on buses. Students heard about the program through an article in the Cavalier Daily during week two of the pilot (week one was Fall Break and the week of the Rolling Stones concert). During week two and three, P&T purchased ads in the Cavalier Daily.

During the demonstration project, just over 10,000 UVA rides were logged by CTS. Analysis continues on the numbers on how these passengers split across time of day and route, but the volume is over four times more than the number of transfers issued in
October 2004 and over six times more than the average number of transfers monthly. The total ridership in October 2005 was approximately 10,000 rides higher than the months just preceding and following the demonstration project suggesting the riders were “new” riders to CTS. Parking & Transportation will continue to work with CTS on studying the results and possibly moving forward on an initiative for open ridership between the two systems.

**Budget Planning** – The current approved three-year rate plan was reviewed with Committee members noting that 2006/2007 will be the second year of that three-year plan. The Committee was reminded that the Vice President slightly altered the rates to hold the commuter and low cost storage rates lower than the rates for reserved and premium reserved. At the January meeting, Parking & Transportation will provide information regarding projected funding requirements and whether the proposed rates will cover all initiatives.

**Other**
- A student bus driver shortage during the Fall 2005 semester led to service interruptions on two routes. Grounds Loop service interruptions were covered by overlapping routes. Central Grounds Shuttle service interruptions were covered by an outside contractor. Parking & Transportation believes the shortage was due to non-aggressive recruiting tactics. P&T is aggressively recruiting student drivers for the January training class.
- Parking & Transportation is evaluating current route alignments and headways to identify where different alignments or headways may meet passenger needs more efficiently.
- After some difficulties during the Fall semester, UTS is working to improve the mechanical reliability, driver’s skill and general operational knowledge regarding the handicap lifts on buses.
- Parking & Transportation is investing car sharing companies for possible implementation at UVA.
- Parking & Transportation is working on event traffic plans for the John Paul Jones Arena.

Next Meeting – January 26, 2006