

Fall 2005

moving forward

Changes at the Motor Pool, oops Make That "Fleet Services"

ON AUGUST 1, 2005, the Motor Pool officially changed its name to Fleet Services. This change is taken to more accurately reflect the primary mission of the department: to provide services for the University's vehicle fleet. Fleet Services supports Virginia Tech with daily and long-term vehicle rentals, repair and maintenance of state vehicles, and fuel sales.

In addition to the new name, look for the following improvements: 1) Vehicle maintenance and service requests will now be



handled in the main office. This will result in quicker service and better communication, while allowing our service folks to concentrate on vehicle repairs. 2) The restriction on our

large passenger vans has been lifted and we can now carry 12 passengers (instead of just 10). This is good news for many groups on campus using the larger vans.

As always the folks at Fleet Services look forward to assisting you with your ground transportation needs. For questions or vehicle reservation please visit our website at: www.fs.vt.edu or email us at: fleetservices@vt.edu

Parking Services' Move to On-Line Permit Sales is a Success!

THE ON-LINE parking permit program E-Z Permit, launched in July 2004, was a great success! Over 6,000 permits were purchased on-line last year. This new program provided users with an easy way to purchase permits online without the frustration of long lines. Parking Services is encouraged by the larger number of faculty, staff, and students using the on-line program again this year – www.parking.vt.edu

Future E-Z Permit Developments

PARKING SERVICES is enhancing the E-Z Permit program to support on-line ticket payment, ticket appeals and payroll deduction for full-time faculty & staff. This new service should be available in spring 2006.

Sewer Line Maddrness

OUR LOCAL sanitary sewer authority has been busy upgrading our sewer lines to meet increasing demand. Two sewer line projects are currently underway. The first one runs from the Graduate Life Center to the Drill Field, and the second project runs under the parking lot at the new Inn at Virginia Tech and through the golf course. The anticipated completion date for these projects is October, 2005.

Prices Fork Lot Sewer Project

MORE SEWER DISRUPTION . . . The Prices Fork Lot will be the site of more sewer upgrades. As construction on the sewer line that runs through the Prices Fork Lot and Perry Street begins, expect some disruption in the traffic flow on Perry Street and some temporary displacement of Prices Fork Lot parking spaces. Work on this project will begin in early winter '05 - '06.

Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes – On Washington Street

Virginia Tech Roundabout @Washington Street and West Campus Drive

ONE OF THE MORE NOTICEABLE changes that occurred over the summer affecting motorists, cyclists and pedestrians on campus is the new roundabout at West Campus Drive and Washington Street. The roundabout will improve safety and reduce delays at this heavily used intersection. Roundabouts have been shown to reduce fatal and injury accidents as much

as 75%. The reduction in accidents is attributed to slower speeds and reduced number of conflict points. Remember, when entering the

roundabout
• Always bear to the right
• Always yield to vehicles already in the circle
Pedestrians should use the designated crosswalks provided at the roundabout. A web site has been developed that allows those unfamiliar with the use of a roundabout and may be found at www.ot.vt.edu; click on "roundabout". Please visit our website for more information.



Pedestrian Safety Demonstration on Washington St.

DOES WASHINGTON STREET LOOK DIFFERENT – even after you take the roundabout into consideration? Over the summer several changes were made to the road and crosswalk striping on Washington Street between West Campus Drive and Kent Street. These changes, which increase pedestrian visibility and motorist awareness of pedestrians crossing Washington Street, are being evaluated for possible use in other areas of campus. Look for these changes:

- A new crosswalk pattern, alternating white and yellow-green continental stripes is in place in the areas of highest pedestrian crossings.
- High visibility "LOOK" text has been placed on the pavement to alert motorists to pedestrian crossings.
- The crosswalks between Spring Road and Kent Street have been striped with white and yellow-green parallel stripes.
- Parallel parking was removed from the Coliseum side of Washington Street, to increase pedestrian visibility.
- Former parallel parking spaces were converted into a bike lane, not only improving pedestrian visibility, but also enhancing bicycling facilities on campus.
- The no parking zone has been increased by 1 car length before each crosswalk, increasing visibility for cars and pedestrians.

The next time you're on Washington Street, pay attention to the new striping and crosswalks – and the pedestrians using them.



More Money for Bike Trails

VIRGINIA TECH'S application for federal enhancement grant funding for Phase III of the Hokie Bikeways project, the Historic Smithfield Bike Trail, was approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in the amount of \$143,000. This is the third phase of the Hokie Bikeways project that has been approved for federal enhancement funds.

Phase III will provide an east-west connection to campus from the largest planned use development in Blacksburg, the Hethwood Community. It will also connect to the Huckleberry Trail extension, which is presently under development. Additionally, the Smithfield Bike Trail will include spurs to Smithfield Plantation, the Miller's cabin, and Stroubles Creek.

Traveling to the National Capital Region (NCR) ... Let Us Do the Driving.

Use the new VT Campus to Campus (C2C) Shuttle

FROM SEPTEMBER 12 - DECEMBER 16, 2005, Virginia Tech's Fleet Services (formerly Motor Pool) will offer a new shuttle service to the NCR, as part of a feasibility demonstration. Fleet Services will provide the driver and use its new 19-passenger mini-bus.



The round-trip cost from VT to NCR will be \$125. The shuttle service is available for all university personnel (student, staff, faculty) on official university business with payment only thru department accounts. We have a "no-stranded" policy . . . if we take you there than we'll come back to get you! Shuttle service between Falls Church and Alexandria is also available. Travel days are Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday with an 8 a.m. departure from Blacksburg and a 3 p.m. departure from Falls Church (which should get you back by 8 p.m.).

Call Fleet Services at 231-6141 to make your reservation. This demonstration is being subsidized

by NCR operations and the Graduate School. We encourage your participation so we can have a successful demonstration and continue this service for the entire year!

FREE Research Flights to Washington DC

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH funds seats on VT aircraft for researchers and administrators traveling to the DC area for the purpose of securing or extending sponsored support. These flights are NOT to be used for travel to conferences. Eligibility questions should be addressed to Dr. James Blair, Assoc VP for Research and Interdisciplinary Studies.



Weekly flights, alternating Tuesdays and Wednesdays, leave the Virginia Tech Airport, arriving at the Dulles Airport in Washington, DC. These flights require a minimum of three passengers, and accommodate a maximum of seven passengers.

For more information, contact the Air Transportation Services dispatcher at 231-2636 or email rsyoung@vt.edu.

▶ Message from the Director

WE'VE HAD a very interesting summer from the perspective of transportation! I'm going to admit something . . . even though I'm the guy who sends out the emails telling folks which roads are closed . . . on more than one occasion I ended up driving around in circles trying to get across campus. Now that we're put back together, I hope you all agree that it was worth the driving challenges.

We start the school year with two vastly improved intersections (the roundabout at Washington & W Campus and the signal light on Southgate Dr) that function better and are much safer for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. One or two of you may have also noticed the "Big Dig" that took place on the Drill Field and next to Eggleston Hall. Our local Sanitation Authority is upgrading sewer lines to

meet increasing demand . . . we appreciate their efforts to work with us to minimize the impact to our campus. "The Big Dig II" will start this winter, with an upgrade to the sewer line that runs under the large commuter lot by Prices Fork Rd . . . stay tuned for more details. And next summer we hope to build a new surface lot at the intersection of Duck Pond Dr and Smithfield Rd to provide more student commuter parking.

As always, we appreciate your patience as we push forward to keep our University moving.

Steve
Steven L. Mouras
Director of Transportation

The First Traffic Light on Campus Virginia Tech's First Traffic Light

VIRGINIA TECH in partnership with VDOT has installed a new traffic signal (including pedestrian lights) at the intersection of Southgate Dr and Spring Road/Tech Center Dr. This intersection has become more challenging over time with the continued growth in vehicles and pedestrian traffic in this area. The traffic light should alleviate many of the delays and improve vehicular and pedestrian safety. Our thanks to the VDOT Salem District Office for their fine support in making this happen.



BT Shelter Amenities Program

LIGHTS, GARBAGE CANS, BENCHES, all of these improvements will be coming soon to a campus bus shelter near you. Virginia Tech, in cooperation with Blacksburg Transit, will be adding amenities to many of the campus bus shelters.

Improvements to 15 on-campus shelters include:

- Electrical work to provide or restore lighting to all campus shelters, including plans for solar panels for two of the shelters.
- Three of the shelters will be receiving garbage cans.
- Upgrade to benches.

If you know of specific on-campus shelters in need of improvements, please call 231-1737, or email dfreed@vt.edu.

