Transportation and Parking Committee Meeting: December 5, 2022 via Zoom

Attendees:

Jess Wenger, Scott Barker, Carey Drayton, Mark Stanis, Becca White, Bill Palmer, Trish Romer, Kendall Howell, Jennifer Ramirez, Bria Friestad

Committee Charge, Members & Meeting Notes:

<https://parking.virginia.edu/transportation-and-parking-committee-notes-and-membership>

Questions/Comments on the Read Ahead:

Emmet/Ivy Garage – Bottle neck created by the Ivy/Rotherly light in the afternoon as people are leaving the garage.

Lights will become smarter, will be set up to be triggered rather than on fixed times.

Commuters will be moved – Once the hotel is completed, the demand needs for the garage will change.

Permanent condition – One entrance only access and one exit and entrance access.

Commuters will be moved, service to new location will be developed.

North Grounds Parking Garage – On capital plan for 2023, under ‘Parking Garage’. Study is complete, no movement to next phase. Study completed, not publicly available.

Fontaine Garage – Hit the ground running. Several other projects waiting on this.

Microtransit – Albemarle County transit study to make an option toward the Discovery Park. Does not go all the way to Ruckersville, county funded likely to stay within county lines. Supposed to start in January 2023, but unsure due to staffing shortages.

CAT and Albemarle upped wages competitively - $21.50. UTS is trying to encourage other benefits to working for UVA rather than the city, current hiring wage $19.00.

Battery Electric Bus Update – Kendall Howell

Decided on Proterra – because they have their own battery department.

Near top of market range, experienced and tested, long running on the road in the field, also most robust training module.

As data is gathered, charging development and plans will be developed. Definitely overnight, most likely also midday charging.

First 4 buses – Fall 2023

Next 3-5 – 2024

Next group of buses, and charging station – 2025

Branding to make them distinct from diesel buses.

2030 goals – what needed to make electric fleet, including OnDemand.

One Cabinet, for 2 dispensers, for 2 buses – all buses can charge at once.

Millmont upgrade plan – Renovation of UTS base

Maintenance bays – safety equipment and power supply.

No replacement facility – work on plan for development to remain on Millmont.

Electric vs diesel bus ownership/running – due to political climate, comparable costs now, compared to several years ago.

Cost and availability of Diesel fuel – both problematic.

Current maintenance staff will maintain the electric buses – possible increase staff by 1. Currently understaffed already – Want to increase capacity to conduct preventative maintenance, and have a better staff to bus ratio.

Priorities for next meeting – Safety and Security, Parking and transportation Financial model, Assistance with communications strategies.

Send out form to collect topic points for second meeting – survey student body for active concerns.