To: Mr. Andrew Kulak
From: Tara Helms, Varun Kumar, Gabby Wilber, Patrick Gatewood
Date: April 7, 2016
Subject: Interim Status Report Memo

The purpose of this memo is to inform you of our team's current progress on the report assignment.

Introduction

Our team is currently conducting both primary and secondary research regarding Virginia Tech's parking situation. In doing so, we have moderately changed our planned topic from revamping the BT to smaller suggestions that are within the scope of this assignment.

Research Progress

We have posted a survey through Virginia Tech's survey service that has gotten 178 responses at the time of writing. This data will be invaluable in determining what sort of problems students experience in day-to-day parking. It appears that the problem most students face is driving by open restricted spots such as faculty/staff. This tells us that a reallocation of spots or dynamically allocated spots may be able to solve some gripes of Hokie parkers.

We also recently conducted an in-person interview with Jeri Baker, the Director of Parking and Transportation at Virginia Tech. Jeri told us a little more about how Parking Services worked behind the scenes and gave us some valuable information for us to consider in writing our recommendation report. She encouraged further contact with her if there were any future questions or concerns.

A rather big proposal, the Multi-Modal Transit Facility, could remove our parking crisis altogether. As a whole, Tech sees investing in this massive transit overhaul as a better, longer-lasting solution to our ever-increasing student population. Rather than revamping the current parking system, Tech plans to expand transit in this regard. The group hopes to do further research into the progress of the Multi-Modal Transit Facility as the articles listed below were written two to three years ago, and plans have most likely changed since their conception. Through further research, the group hopes to update the time table on the facility and if the time table is showing results later than expected, the group plans to offer possible improvements.

See these links to learn more about the proposed Multi-Modal Transit facility:

- **http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/articles/2014/09/091914-vpa-multimodal.html**
- **http://www.collegiatetimes.com/news/virginia_tech/tech-bt-to-construct-bus-hub-in-parking-lot/article_b358e918-4b9f-5bc1-89ea-bff0fe2e69b9.html**
- **Blacksburg Transit – Proposed Multi-Modal Transit Facility …**

Future research can be done regarding visitor parking, figuring out how many passes are issued a day, seeing if there is a truly substantial impact on parking around campus. The group can also research which lots do have excess parking everyday. As per Jeri Baker there is a surplus of parking spots on a daily basis, creating little motivation for parking services to redistribute F/S lots.

Draft Progress

Since our research is just beginning to come in, our draft has not yet been completed. The draft is due April 15th, so we need to begin working on it if we are to produce a quality draft. The bulk of the draft writing will be completed early next week, as that is when our team members are the most available.

The primary sources for the draft will be the survey responses and the interview with Jeri Baker. The survey responses is a good way to identify areas of concern, such as which parking lots are most in demand and the issue of F/S spot distributions. The interview with Jeri Baker serves as an outlet for an opinion from the school on the topic, while allowing the group to get specific questions answered by parking services.

Questions and Concerns

One of the main concerns for the group is that parking services itself is a self funded organization, with little actual support from Virginia Tech. This makes it extremely difficult to suggest larger changes to the system, as there could be budget limitations in place.

Another concern the group has, is the timetable for the Multi-Modal Transit Facility. All current research on the facility is outdated by a factor of two to three years, meaning that the group has to do more research into when construction will begin for the facility. If the construction is planned to begin soon, the group will focus a large amount of its attention on the facility and plans, while if it is delayed the group will focus on unique solutions or perhaps suggestions that could help expedite construction.

A question that the group has, is whether to focus more on Parking Services or Virginia Tech itself. Virginia Tech and the Parking Services Administration are for the most part two seperate entities that contribute to parking on campus. This naturally brings up the question of who does Parking Services communicate with within the school administration. Virginia Tech itself may hold more power in making final decisions about parking, however, currently the group has had more contact and discussion with the Parking Services Administration. To answer this question, the group needs to do more research into the Virginia Tech administration itself.