Parking and Transportation Services

Frequently Asked Questions

Prepared by the
Welfare and Security Committee
in conjunction with the
Department of Parking and Transportation
February 3, 2004
Parking and Transportation Frequently Asked Questions
Prepared by the Welfare and Security Committee
in conjunction with the Department of Parking and Transportation

Table of Contents:

Introduction

Parking FAQ’s
1. Related campus organizations/offices
2. Parking next to Buildings where you work
   a. Proximity parking for temporary health reasons
   b. Parking on football game days
   c. After hours parking
   d. GCATT Faculty parking on campus
   e. Changes in ECE parking
3. Parking and transit options available at Technology Square
4. Parking deck security improvements
   a. Improved lighting in parking decks
   b. Security grating
   c. CCTV/security cameras
   d. Emergency call boxes
   e. Police canines on patrol
   f. Increase in police officers
   g. Security patrols in parking decks
5. Official Business Permits
6. Dual parking access privileges
7. Parking fees
   a. Parking fee consolidation
   b. Discounted day passes
   c. Cost of off-campus parking near Tech
8. Visitor parking
9. Car pooling

Transportation FAQ’s
1. Available transit services
   a. Tech Trolleys
   b. Stinger Bus Service
   c. Stingerette Service
2. Other transit services and improvements
   a. Kroger Grocery Shuttle
   b. Global Positioning System (GPS)
   c. New transit signage
   d. Air quality improvement
3. Motorized carts
Parking and Transportation Frequently Asked Questions

Introduction
This document was prepared by the Faculty Welfare and Security Committee (in conjunction with the Office of Parking and Transportation) to provide general information and specific answers to some frequently asked questions about parking and transportation policies, services and operating procedures, and plans that have been posed by faculty members.

Please note: The italicized text indicated as “Policy” below is taken from the Parking and Transportation webpage: http://www.parking.gatech.edu

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Parking Services:

1. What campus organizations/offices may be contacted to discuss issues regarding parking services?
   a. Office of Parking & Transportation
      Director: Bob Furniss [bob.furniss@parking.gatech.edu]
   b. Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC)
      Chair: Rosalind Meyers [rosalind.meyers@aux.gatech.edu]
   c. Faculty Welfare and Security Committee.
      2003-04 Chair: Frank Lambert [frank.lambert@neetrac.gatech.edu]
      This committee has two members on the Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee.
   d. Undergraduate Student Government
      2003-04 President:  Nate Watson (gte093@prism.gatech.edu)
   e. Graduate Student Senate
      2003-04 President:  Pelham Norville (gradpres@sga.gatech.edu)

2. What are the procedures for faculty who need to park next to buildings where they work (specifically for temporary health reasons, for safety after dark, or during home football game days)?

The current Campus Master Plan provides the framework for a safer, greener, and more pedestrian friendly campus core. The plan includes walkways for pedestrians and service vehicles and involves replacing existing parking lots with parking decks strategically placed on the perimeter of campus. Surface parking lots will give way to new buildings, and green space and convenient parking adjacent to buildings will be significantly reduced. Reserved spaces in existing parking lots are currently available on a limited basis for a premium annual fee, but Parking Services defines the actual location for these reserved spaces.

   a. Proximity parking for temporary health reasons
      Policy: Students and employees with temporary disabilities must follow the same procedures as those persons with chronic disabilities. Temporarily disabled persons will be issued a temporary permit with an expiration date. Only the ADAPTS coordinator (for students) or the Disability Service Coordinator (for employees and visitors) are allowed to determine eligibility or approve temporary disabled parking requests. Employee and visitor requests for disabled parking should be directed to the Office of Human Resources Disability Services Coordinator, Jean Fuller, at (404-894-9411). Student requests for disabled parking should be directed to the ADAPTS Office located in the Student Services building (404-898-2561).

      Additional Information: The Parking Office issues temporary permits on a daily basis. Handicap spaces are located throughout campus in designated zones and are located as close as possible to accessible walkways and/or building access points. Parking and Transportation Services determines the number and location of handicap spaces based on demand and usage.

   b. Parking on football game days
      Policy: During football games and other large campus events, specific areas of the campus may be designated as reserved parking for guests of the President, the Development Office, the Athletic
Association, donors, and other special visitors. Notification of the reservation of such areas will be made in advance by posted signs and/or email. Motor vehicles must be removed from these spaces/areas by the time stipulated or the vehicles will be subject to impoundment. An alternate campus parking area will be available for those having to move their car. Notices will be posted at least three days (72 hours) prior to the event, when possible.

Additional Information: During football games, most campus parking lots are usually full two hours before game time. All of the parking lots located east of Atlantic Street are controlled by either the Development Office or the Athletic Association, and special parking passes (distributed by Development and AA) are required to enter these lots on game day. Parking Services instructs all regular permit holders in these lots that they must relocate their vehicles to lots on the west side of campus at least six hours prior to game time. All the remaining lots on campus (West side) are operated by Parking Services on game days and any Georgia Tech permit holder may park in these lots, provided space is available and their permit is displayed. Parking Services directs faculty and staff to park in W21/A11, W24/A15, or W25/A16, which are three of the larger lots located near the center of campus. Faculty and staff are advised to arrive as early as possible.

c. After hours parking
     **Policy:** A valid Georgia Tech parking permit MUST be displayed to park anywhere on campus, at any time, except in visitor lots or at paid meters. All parking lots/areas designated as E and W Zones are enforced 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The residential parking areas designated as ER and WR Zones are restricted to permit parking only and enforced 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Parking meters in residential zones are also enforced 24 hours per day. Hours of enforcement and rates are posted inside every Georgia Tech parking meter. Enforcement regulations include semester breaks, but exclude official Institute holidays.

     Additional Information: The President has requested that parking enforcement be relaxed in several lots in close proximity to the library (E42, E43 and meters in E44) after 5:00 p.m. to provide safe and free parking. Additionally, the lower level of Peters (ER52) is open for parking after 5:00 p.m. to accommodate visitor parking in the east residential area.

d. GCATT Faculty parking on campus
     Faculty with E70 permits may have access to E43/A09 and W21/A11 without an Official Business Permit (OBP). However, these lots are over-subscribed for efficient usage and there may not be spaces available during peak periods.

e. Changes in ECE parking
     The E43/A09 parking lot (204 spaces) will be closed at the completion of the construction of the Klaus Advanced Computing Building (KACB), anticipated to be January, 2006. KACB will house 522 parking spaces underground and KACB building occupants and faculty and staff displaced from E43 will be given priority to park in the new deck.

3. **What parking and transit options are available at Technology Square and how does faculty take advantage of these services?**

There are two parking decks located at Technology Square. Georgia Tech owns and operates the Technology Square deck (Georgia Tech parking designation - E81), which is located adjacent to the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center between 4th & 5th Streets. This deck accommodates visitor, guest, and permit parking, as well as public parking, for the Georgia Tech complex located on the south side of 5th Street. The Centergy parking deck (Georgia Tech parking designation - E82) is located on the north side of the Technology Square Research Building and accommodates visitor, guest, and permit parking for TSRB, ATDC and the Centergy building. The deck is owned by Centergy and operated by Lanier Parking Systems.

Georgia Tech Parking Services issues permits to both parking decks. Visitors to both of these decks who are Georgia Tech permit holders must pay out of pocket and seek reimbursement from departments. All Georgia Tech permit holders may park in E81 (Tech Square deck) between the hours of 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and all day on Sat/Sun (except game days).
All faculty, staff and students are encouraged to use the Tech Trolley system connecting main campus and Technology Square (trolleys run every 5 to 6 minutes), and GCATT employees are encouraged to take a Stinger bus (Green Route) and transfer to the Tech Trolley (for an approximate total travel time of 10-20 minutes).

4. **What is Parking and Transportation Services doing to improve campus parking deck security?**

   Parking and Transportation is working with the campus Police Department to improve security in all campus parking lots. Some of the actions taken include: improved lighting, security grating, emergency call boxes, and increased presence of security staff and police.

   a. **Improved lighting in parking decks**
      Parking Services has a capital plan to replace or improve lighting in all decks. The Student Center deck was re-lamped this past summer. The Burge deck is currently in progress. The Peters deck will be completed this spring. Individuals who notice a lighting deficiency in parking lots/areas should contact Parking Operations and Maintenance at 404-385-3031.

   b. **Security grating on the perimeter of parking decks**
      Security grating will be installed around the perimeter of the ground level floors of parking decks to prevent easy entry and exit by criminals. Peters Deck will be the first existing deck to have security grating installed. The State Street deck and the new parking deck at Technology Square have security grating which will become a construction standard in future parking decks.

   c. **CCTV/security cameras**
      Existing parking decks will not be retrofitted with CCTV and video recording capability until Georgia Tech has analyzed the impact that improved lighting and the installation of security grating has on existing crime in the parking decks. The parking deck at Technology Square is equipped with this security technology, and future decks will be designed with the infrastructure in place for CCTV capability.

   d. **Emergency call boxes**
      The Georgia Tech Police Department has installed emergency call boxes throughout campus. The cost of these boxes is approximately $3,000 each.

   e. **Police canines on patrol**
      The Georgia Tech Police Department currently has two German Shepherd police canine units patrolling the campus. These canine units have been very effective in criminal apprehension and deterrence.

   f. **Increase in police officers**
      The Georgia Tech Police Department continues to hire additional police officers and personnel to improve the safety and security of the campus.

   g. **Security patrols in parking decks**
      Both the Georgia Tech Police and Parking enforcement staff regularly patrol parking decks and lots on a daily basis. Parking enforcement is now staffed 24/7.

5. **What is an Official Business Permit (OBP) and how and by whom is it used?**

   **Policy:** OBP s are to be used for official business only, and are issued to departments, not to individuals. OBP s are valid: (1) when displayed along with a VALID Georgia Tech parking permit; (2) in loading zones and service vehicle spaces, with a 30-minute parking limit, and in zoned parking spaces, with a 2-hour parking limit. They are not valid: (1) in no parking zones; (2) on yellow curb/hash marks; (3) in reserved or handicap spaces; and (4) in gated lots, visitor pay lots or at parking meters.

6. **What is the policy on dual parking access privileges and under what conditions is it granted?**

   Dual parking (Buzz Card) access privileges are not allowed. However, faculty/staff with current Georgia
Tech parking permits who are affiliated with Yamacraw and have daily responsibilities in TSRB may request an exception for dual access into the Centergy Deck. Requests for dual access privileges must be submitted by Yamacraw in writing to the Provost for authorization, and exceptions, if granted, will be on a semester basis only.

7. **Annual parking fees have been increasing the past few years. What will the fees be next year and are there any special considerations for faculty who need parking on an occasional basis?**

The parking fee structure is responsive to the State’s requirement that parking be self-sustaining. Parking income is used to cover the cost of lot and deck construction, repairs and improvements, pay the salaries of cashiers and enforcement officers, and cover the cost of parking operations. The consolidation of annual permit fees will be completed in 2005; a discounted daily pass option has been introduced, and our overall parking rate structure is competitively priced and compares favorably with commercial parking in the Atlanta metropolitan area.

   a. **Parking fee consolidation**
      The consolidation and standardization of permit fees will be completed in fiscal year 2005; a single rate of $500 will be charged for faculty, staff, and student parking on campus.

   b. **Discounted day passes**
      Smart Park is being piloted at the Technology Square deck (E81). This pass is available from the Parking Office for an initial fee of $100.00 ($20.00 for the permit and $80.00 in a separate Buzz card declining balance account that is used by the permit holder for daily parking in E81 at $4.00 per use). Smart Park is economical for people who park two or three days per week. If successful, Smart Park may become available in the North deck and Student Center deck next year.

   c. **Cost of off-campus parking near Tech**
      Commercial parking in the vicinity of Spring Street, North Avenue, Peachtree Street, and West Peachtree ranges from $2.25 to $8.50 per day, and monthly rates range from $50.00 to $85.00.

8. **Where should campus visitors be directed to park, and what are the costs?**

*Parking meters* costing $.50 per half hour are located all around campus. All parking meters, with the exception of meters located in the Burge deck, accept coinage for up to 2 hours of parking. The Burge deck meters are programmed to accept payment for up to 10 hours. Parking meters located at Technology Square are owned and maintained by the City of Atlanta. Rates are determined by the City and enforcement is provided by Georgia Tech Parking and Transportation Services.

*Visitor parking lots* are located at strategic locations on campus:

   **Student Center and State Street visitor lots** are open from 6:00 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., and the fees are $.50 per half hour up to a maximum daily cost of $8.00.

   **North Deck (W23)** is open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and the fees are $.50 per half hour up to a maximum daily cost of $8.00.

   **GCATT Deck (E70)** is open from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and the fees are $4.00 per vehicle flat fee (regardless of length of time parked).

   **Technology Square Deck (E81)** is open 24/7, and the daily rate structure is:

   - Less than 1 hour = $1.00
   - 1 to 2 hours = $2.00
   - 2 to 3 hours = $4.00
   - 3 to 4 hours = $6.00
   - 4 to 5 hours = $8.00
   - 5 to 24 hours = $10.00

   (Rates repeat every 24 hours.)
9. **Does Georgia Tech support carpooling, and, if so, how would faculty members take advantage of this service?**

Georgia Tech supports carpooling, and administering carpools is another service provided by Parking and Transportation. Subsidized carpools may only be formed during parking registration, which is April 15 – June 30 of each year. Subsidies will not be available for carpools formed after the registration period. Two or more persons may form a carpool, and all participants must be Georgia Tech faculty, staff, or students who do not reside on the Georgia Tech Campus or live within 3 miles of the Georgia Tech campus. The cost will be 1/2 of the lot/permit price. The primary driver/contact will be responsible for the amount due for the parking permit, and this person will then be responsible for recovering portions of the expense from the other participants in the carpool. The car/van pool permit will allow access to one parking location, and every effort will be made to accommodate reasonable needs of the car/van pool participants.

**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about Transportation Services:**

1. **What transit services are available to faculty, and what are the schedules and routes?**

Georgia Tech’s transit system has been developed to provide faculty, staff, and students with effective and safe transportation alternatives around the campus and within specified boundaries. The system includes the Tech Trolleys, Stinger Bus Service, and Stingerette Services. These services are fare free and funded primarily with student fees and a modest administration subsidy. The Tech Trolley and Stinger Bus services are operated by an outside contractor and managed by Parking and Transportation Services. The Stingerette Services are managed and operated by Parking and Transportation Services.

   a. **Tech Trolleys** operate on a single route and provide service between Central Campus (beginning at Health Services/ CRC), Technology Square and the MARTA Midtown station.

      - On weekdays, the trolleys operate on the following schedule:
        5:45 am to 7:30 am 3 trolleys on route with 10 minute headways
        7:30 am to 7:00 pm 6 trolleys on route with 6 to 8 minute headways
        7:00 pm to 11:00 pm 1 trolley on route with a 30 minute headway
      - On Saturdays,* the Trolleys operate from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.
      - On Sundays, the Trolleys operate from 3:00 pm to 11:00 pm

      * No service on home football game Saturdays.

   b. **Stinger Bus Service** operates Monday through Friday on three distinct routes providing continuous service between 6:45 a.m. and midnight. The three routes include: the Red Route, which runs a loop clockwise around the core of campus; the Blue Route, which runs a loop counter-clockwise around the core of campus; and the Green Route, which connects the GCATT parking deck with the campus core. The Green (GCATT) Route operates with two units and provides service Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m., with approximately 15 minute headways.

   c. **Stingerette Services** include two types of transit service: paratransit services and evening escort services:

      - **Stingerette Paratransit Service** operates Monday through Friday during normal Institute business hours and provides call-in, reserved, on-campus transportation for faculty, staff, and students. This service is intended for persons who may require assistance getting around campus due to permanent or temporary mobility impairments. Authorization for use of the Stingerette Paratransit Service must be obtained in advance from the ADAPTS office at 404-894-2561.

      - **Stingerette Evening Escort Service** operates Monday through Sunday between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 2:30 a.m. It provides safe, after-hours escorts for faculty, staff, and students. This service is intended for use when alternative safe travel is not available. It is limited to transportation between living quarters and academic buildings within the service area. The Stingerette Evening Escort Service can be reached at 404-894-9649.
2. What other transit services are available and what is Parking and Transportation Services doing to improve the transit system?

a. Kroger Grocery Shuttle is a Stinger bus that runs on Saturdays* between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and provides hourly service to and from the east and west campus residential areas and the Kroger grocery store located on Howell Mill Road.
   * No service on home football game Saturdays.

b. Global Positioning System (GPS) provided and supported by NextBus has been installed as a pilot program on the Tech Trolleys. GPS enables individuals to see on the internet where the trolleys are located along the campus route and what the arrival time intervals are between specific transit stops. You can connect to this live, interactive web page by clicking on the picture of the Tech Trolley on the Parking and Transportation web page (www.parking.gatech.edu). Additionally, electronic (LED) signs will soon be located at several key stops along the trolley route. These signs will display the arrival time of the next trolley. The GPS system also provides data that will be used to manage and improve service levels.

c. New transit signage has been installed at every trolley and bus stop on campus. This new signage package is part of the campus master way-finding plan, and it includes maps of the transit routes.

d. Air quality improvement. Parking and Transportation supports the Georgia Clean Air Campaign by striving to achieve the Georgia Department of Transportation mandate that 40% of departmental fleets must be powered by alternative fuels. Georgia Tech’s participation includes the 8 new trolleys that are powered by compressed natural gas (CNG), 8 electric golf carts/GEM cars, and 1 propane cart.

3. What is being done to regulate motorized carts? They are becoming more prevalent on campus sidewalks, grounds, and roadways and are causing safety issues for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

The use of motorized carts on campus is growing, and the need to review and/or establish policies and procedures to govern the safe and effective use of these vehicles is becoming an urgent priority. Departments under pressure to optimize budget dollars, reduce operating costs, and become more efficient, are rethinking the type of vehicles they use on campus. Additionally, external influences to improve air quality, campus master planning for a more pedestrian friendly campus, the cost of fuel, and the maintenance of internal combustion vehicles are factors that will have a positive influence on the proliferation of golf carts, GEM cars and other on/off road vehicles. However, factors such as pedestrian safety, campus aesthetics, parking and storage, departmental versus personal use, motor vehicle code, state and federal laws, and risk management need to be addressed. A committee chaired by Police Chief Crocker has been commissioned to review all of these issues and to develop and propose recommendations specific to the current and future use of motorized carts on campus.