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## City Awarded Grant to Reduce Cigarette Litter

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg was awarded a grant and has recently completed the project to prevent cigarette litter.

Did you know that cigarette butts contain chemicals that can leach into local waterways and harm wildlife? They are the most frequently littered item in America, and they don't just disappear – 95 percent of cigarette butts contain plastic, which does not biodegrade.

In June, the city was awarded \$1,000 from Keep Virginia Beautiful, and used the money to install proper cigarette disposals, which were completed this month. The Public Works Department partnered with the Harrisonburg Department of Public Transportation (HDPT) to identify and install cigarette receptacles at bus shelters with a high volume of pedestrian traffic.

“We hope that residents will make use of the receptacles to properly dispose of their cigarette butts and help keep litter out of our streets,” explained Kelley Junco, Public Works environmental compliance manager.

These bus shelters serve as transition points for passengers entering and exiting the bus system. These receptacles target the bus shelters with the highest volume of transit users so they have a proper way to dispose of their cigarettes.

This project is an expansion of the downtown cigarette receptacle program and the city's ongoing efforts to keep cigarette butts out of our streets and storm drains!

In total, there are 37 cigarette receptacles purchased through this grant effort that are located throughout Harrisonburg.

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*Pictured left: An example of the city's bus shelter with the newly installed cigarette receptacle outlined in red.*



*Pictured left: The newly installed cigarette receptacle.*

**The City of Harrisonburg** is centrally located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It is home to almost 55,000 people. More information about the City of Harrisonburg is online at [www.HarrisonburgVA.gov](http://www.HarrisonburgVA.gov).



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