



**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

TO: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Members

FROM: Thanh Dang, Public Works Planner

DATE: February 1, 2011

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting Summary for Monday January 24, 2011

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday January 24, 2011 at 6:00pm in the Community Development classroom, 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg. Meetings are always open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.

Members present included: Thomas Jenkins, Len Van Wyk, Charles Chenault, Paul Johnston, and Lara Mack.

City staff and guests present included: Thanh Dang (Public Works), Drew Williams (Public Works), Adam Fletcher (Community Development), Betsy Dunneberger (City Schools), Ofc. Joe Palaskey (Police), Bill Blessing (Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission), and Nicolas Detweiller-Stoddard (citizen).

Welcome

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Review recommendation to Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission regarding North End Greenway (see Attachment A)**

Ms. Dang recounted that members of the Subcommittee had met in December with representatives of the New Community Project (NCP), who is working on the North End Greenway. Ms. Dang requested that the Subcommittee provide a formal recommendation to the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission regarding the request (Attachment A). The Subcommittee recommended in favor of amending the City Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to include the North End Greenway, acknowledging that they are asking the North End Greenway designers to consult with city staff and the Subcommittee as details on areas of concern are being worked on (proposed crossing on Mt. Clinton Pike west of Virginia

Avenue, intersection of Mt. Clinton Pike and Virginia Avenue and section of Mt. Clinton Pike to the east, and intersection of the North End Greenway with Jefferson Street).

Mr. Chenault noted the City's shared use path priorities are currently the Bluestone Trail and the Hillendale to Garbers Church Road path in that order. He stated that NCP believes they have significant support to raise between \$500-600K of the \$1 million project estimate and suggested that it would be helpful to NCP's fundraising efforts if the Subcommittee considered changing the project priorities. Ms. Mack, who also represents NCP, noted that she did not feel NCP was trying to make a strong push for the City to change priorities at this time.

Ms. Dang added that neither the Bluestone Trail nor the North End Greenway has secured easements or right-of-way needed for the projects and that both are projects at between 10-15% design. Ms. Dang suggested that both projects continue with design and acquisition of easements (city staff on Bluestone Trail and New Community Project on North End Greenway), and that the Subcommittee (and/or City Council) makes a decision to change priorities, if needed, later.

Mr. Williams added that the City does not currently have funds budgeted for the construction for either project.

Mr. Williams noted that long-term maintenance of all facilities must also be considered and budgeted (snow removal, mowing, litter control, police response, etc.).

3. Review League of American Bicyclists' Bicycle Friendly Community Application (see Attachment B)

Ms. Dang provided an overview of the Bicycle Friendly Community award and thanked everyone for the comments received so far on the application. Last year, the City of Harrisonburg received an "honorable mention" from the League of American Bicyclists. More information on the award: <http://www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/communities/>. The application is due February 18.

The Subcommittee decided it would not make formal presentation to City Council about this round of applications, but would send a copy of the application to each City Council member.

4. Bike Month 2011

Ms. Mack presented that last year was the first Bike Month celebration in Harrisonburg. The Bike Month Committee has reconvened and met on January 23. Last year events included a bicycle scavenger hunt, a ride of silence, and other events celebrating bicycle culture and building awareness about commuter cycling. She asked if anyone has comments or ideas to improve outreach to please contact her. (Email: lmack4286@gmail.com). A second planning meeting will be scheduled in February. Anyone interested is welcome to participate.

Ms. Dang suggested a Mayor lead bicycle ride and noted that it is a question on the Bicycle Friendly Community Application.

5. Thomas Harrison Middle School shared use path

Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Johnston recapped their discussions with the Ammodts and Vondraks regarding an easement through their property for the connection between Wyndham Drive to West Market Street/Thomas Harrison Middle School. Mr. Jenkins stated it appeared Mr. Vondrak is interested; however, he is concerned about maintaining privacy in his yard.

Ms. Dunnenberger noted that a safe path for the students is a priority. There was some discussion about students riding bicycles for the bike class from the school to Hillandale Park's Rocktown Trails. There was also discussion about determining the alignment of the trail through Thomas Harrison Middle School's property. Mr. Jenkins, Ms. Dang, and Ms. Dunnenberger agreed to schedule a meeting to discuss this.

Some discussion was had about the city right-of-way between two properties on Wyndham Drive. The Subcommittee concluded that although it was agreed by the developer to have a cut-through at that location, the City has lost the opportunity to create a path there now. The City should have required or had the path to be constructed prior to neighbors moving in.

There was discussion that the area desired for the trail construction on the Ammodt's property would be within the property setback. The Subcommittee decided for the next step was to talk to the Ammodt's again and asked that City staff initiate this next contact.

6. Safe Routes to School: Stone Spring Elementary School

Ms. Dang informed the Subcommittee that she is working with parents, teachers and the assistant principal at Stone Spring ES on another Safe Routes to School Grant. Public Works staff will be conducting traffic counts in the area shortly and the group will work on determining infrastructure needs.

7. Update for projects under design/construction (see to Attachment C)

Public Works staff will be presenting the Bluestone Trail project to the Parks & Recreation Commission on Monday February 28 at 7pm.

8. Bicycling in City Parks

Ms. Dang and Mr. Jenkins stated that they had presented the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to the Parks & Recreation Commission in November 2010. They added that they also inquired with Parks & Recreation Commission about the bicycles in parks policy and were told that bicycles have been allowed to ride in

City Parks for several years now. If there are any “no bike” signs remaining, citizens should contact the Parks & Recreation Department so that the signs may be removed.

There was discussion that allowing bicycles in City Parks opens up great opportunities for families to ride away from motor vehicle traffic. Parks with gravel trails include Westover, Hillandale, Purcell, and Liberty Park.

Ms. Dang and Mr. Jenkins added that they agreed at the Parks & Recreation Commission to promote education about trail etiquette so that an increase number of bicycles on the trails do not create a hazard to park users. It was also noted that before an educational effort begins that an assessment/evaluation of the gravel trails should be completed to address any safety issues. Subcommittee members will divide the list of trails and conduct an assessment. It was also suggested that someone contact Dan Fudala at Parks & Recreation for suggestions.

Other Business/ Announcements

9. Request from Shenandoah Regional Bike-Ped Committee to identify off-road and family-friendly bicycle routes in the region

Ms. Dang presented this item on behalf of Phil Alexander from the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission. The CSPDC’s Bike-Ped Committee is requesting assistance with identifying off-road and family-friendly bicycle routes in the region. Provided to the Subcommittee is a questionnaire to be filled out for each facility identified. Please submit completed applications to Mr. Alexander at phil@cspdc.org.

These identified facilities will be added to the on-road bicycle routes already identified and mapped. A full listing and downloadable route maps is available at www.bikethevalley.org.

Ms. Dang added that all of this contributes to the CSPDC’s efforts in partnership with local Tourism Departments to increase bicycling tourism in the region.

10. Comprehensive Plan Update, www.harrisonburgva.gov/compplan

Mr. Fletcher stated that the Comprehensive Plan update has been occurring since October 2009 and is 95% complete. There will be a Public Information Meeting at the Simms School on March 23 from 7-9pm. Following that meeting there will be a public hearing at Planning Commission in April and a final public hearing at City Council in May for adoption of the Plan.

11. Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Ofc. Palaskey asked that as new trail projects were being designed that CPTED strategies be considered. CPTED is a multi-disciplinary approach to deterring criminal behavior through good environmental design. Ofc. Palaskey is CPTED certified and is able to assist with projects as needed.

12. Friendly Enforcement

Mr. Jenkins noted that he would like for the Subcommittee to have a future discussion about how Harrisonburg Police Department and JMU Police can do friendly enforcement and hold bicyclists accountable for running stop signs, etc.

Ofc. Palaskey added that there is a partnership between HPD and JMU. Currently 4 JMU officers are working with him.

13. Chicago Avenue and Waterman Drive Intersection

Mr. Jenkins inquired about the Chicago Avenue and Waterman Drive intersection. Mr. Williams responded that city staff has developed an improvement project for the intersection and that work has not yet begun due to weather. Mr. Williams expects the work to be completed within the next month, depending on weather. The work includes a new crosswalk across Waterman Drive at the shared use path and paint to tighten up the turn from southbound Chicago Avenue to westbound Waterman Drive. He added that this project is a temporary solution to future, bigger plans for the intersection. There is a roundabout concept being considered as part of the Chicago Avenue study.

14. Announcements

Mr. Jenkins made the following announcements:

- Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) is having an annual potluck on February 7th from 6:30-9:30pm at Clementine Café. All are invited to attend.
- Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) started a new advocacy blog around paved (road) advocacy and projects. They have had a lot of good feedback on their trail advocacy blog.

Adjourned 7:15pm.

Next Meeting: Monday March 28 at 6pm in the Community Development Classroom, 409 South Main Street

- **Attachment A: North End Greenway Request**

Request: New Community Project requests that City Council endorse the North End Greenway concept and amend the City Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan to include this project. With the North End Greenway added to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan, the City will be asked to contribute staff time to review plans, be the easement holder, and assume long-term maintenance for the trail.

Proposed Amendment to Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan:

In the table titled “Goals to complete within 5 years” (on pages 24-25) add:

	Facility Type	Approximate distance (miles)	Estimate cost
North End Greenway – construct a shared use path approximately following Blacks Run from North Main Street near Johnson to Mt. Clinton Pike and on Mt. Clinton Pike towards Park Road.	Shared use path	1.6	\$1,023,277

Amend Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Maps as shown in attachment to include the North End Greenway.

Project Background and Proposal:

New Community Project (NCP) is a 501(c)3 non-profit that focuses on environmental sustainability and global justice. NCP works to promote sustainable food systems, transportation, and green building, especially for underserved populations.

NCP staff and volunteers have initiated planning for the North End Greenway, which is a proposed shared use path that follows Blacks Run from North Main Street near Johnson Street to Mt. Clinton Pike, and then west along Mt. Clinton Pike towards Park Road. The proposed path is about 1.6-miles long. As the section from Johnson Street to Madison Street involves overcoming significant hurdles, it is suggested as a separate phase for later completion though still remaining part of the North End Greenway plan. See attached conceptual maps (Appendix A).

The North End Greenway has the potential to serve a diverse population, including the Park View neighborhood and lower income neighborhoods, with an inexpensive form of transportation and recreation. It is an off road facility that would be safe for families and children to use. By providing a beautiful space, the greenway would encourage people of all incomes, ages and fitness levels to enjoy bicycling, walking or jogging as alternatives to motorized travel.

NCP began looking at this concept about one year ago and the group has initiated discussions with property owners that the path would impact, including Eastern Mennonite University and Eastern Mennonite School. The path is proposed to be paved with a width of 10 feet, although there may be short sections of the path that will be reduced to 8-ft wide due to physical constraints.

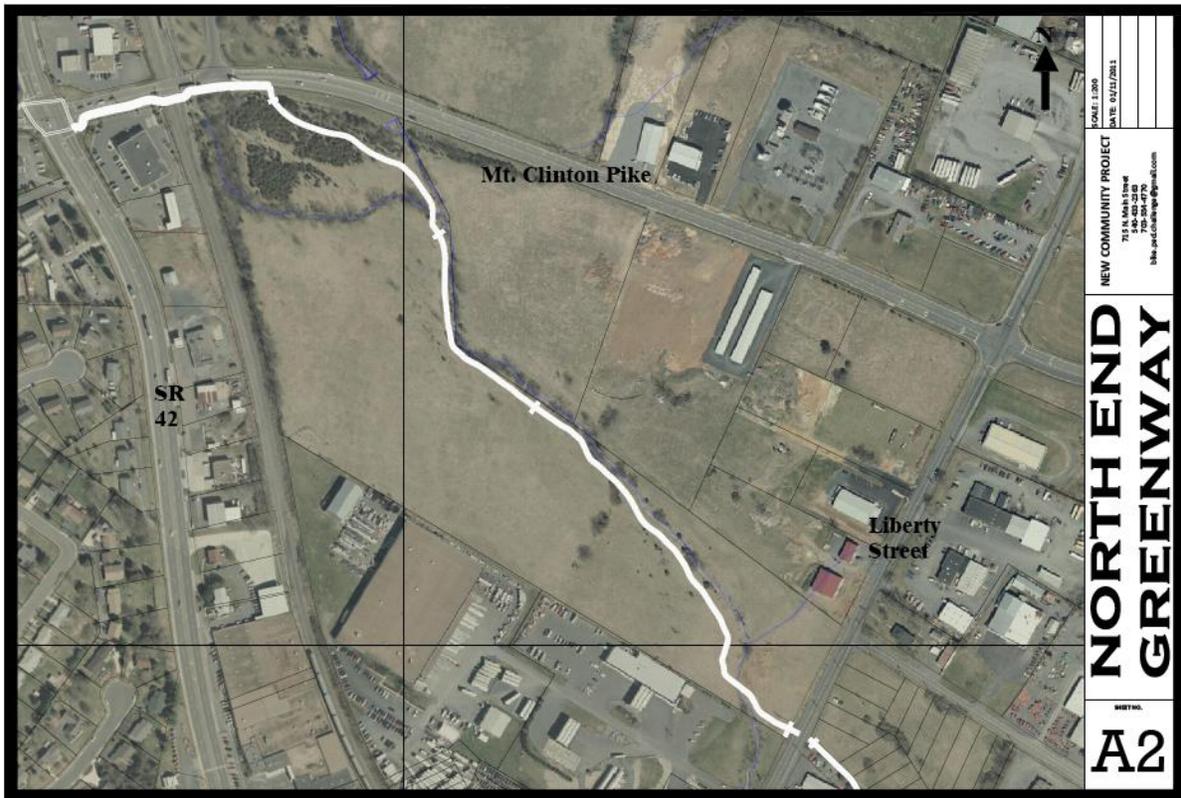
The path is being designed by Johann Zimmerman, PE and is currently estimated to cost \$1,023,277 to construct. See attached cost estimate summary (Appendix B). This estimate incorporates all costs including the purchase of a small vehicle for future trail maintenance by the City. Necessary surveys, permitting and construction will be done through hired consultants except where desirable for city or NCP staff to do so.

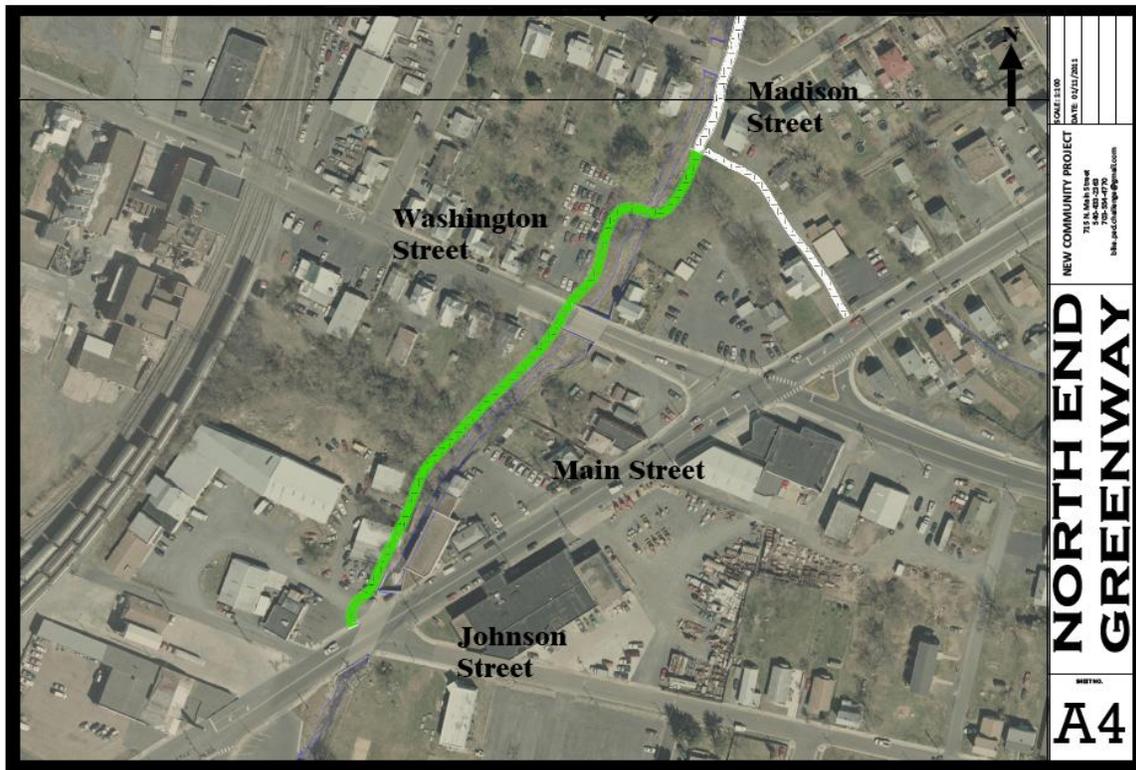
NCP requests that the City

- Provide city staff time for looking over and making revisions to greenway plans.
- Be the easement holder and assume all long-term maintenance for the path including mowing, signage, snow removal, repairs, etc.

Upon endorsement by City Council of this concept, NCP will create and implement a strategy that procures the necessary funds to complete the project. NCP, along with city staff, will also develop the final alignment, engineering design, and easement language templates, followed by acquisition of easements and right-of-way needed for the path, and project construction. Construction may occur in phases starting as soon as funds are available.

Appendix A: Path Route figures





Appendix B: Cost estimate

<u>Item</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<u>CONSTRUCTION</u>				
stakeout	TOTAL	1	5,000	5,000
clearing	TOTAL	1	5,000	5,000
excavation	TOTAL	1	60,000	60,000
hauling	TOTAL	1	5,000	5,000
curb cuts	EA	13	2,000	26,000
fill, rock & dirt combination (RDC)	TON	4,211	12.65	53,269
aggregate, 21A	TON	4,211	12.65	53,269
asphaltic concrete, SM 12.5A	SY	9547.78	12.00	114,573
silt fence	LF	2,000	2.50	5,000
grass seed	SF	171,860	0.0144	2,475
fencing	LF	1,700	1.00	1,700
			Subtotal	331,286
<u>SIGNS</u>				
stop (for path)	EA	6	250	1,500
stop ahead (for path)	EA	6	250	1,500
yield (for path)	EA	4	250	1,000
yield ahead (for path)	EA	4	250	1,000
stoplight ahead (for path)	EA	2	250	500
bridge ahead (for path)	EA	6	250	1,500
cross street names (for path)	EA	11	250	2,750
no motor vehicles (on path, visible from road)	EA	11	250	2,750
path Xing ahead (for road)	EA	10	250	2,500
path Xing (for road)	EA	10	250	2,500
railroad Xing (for path)	EA	2	250	500
curve	EA	8	250	2,000
path narrows	EA	4	250	1,000
North End Greenway logo/awareness (for road)	EA	12	500	6,000
map & points of interest	EA	3	800	2,400
path rules	EA	2	800	1,600
graphic designer labor	TOTAL	1	100	100
emergency locator / mile marker signs	EA	17	300.00	5,100
			Subtotal	36,200
<u>BRIDGES & CULVERTS</u>				
north bridge on Harmon property	TOTAL	1	25,000	25,000
south bridge on Harmon property	TOTAL	1	25,000	25,000
bridge near Washington St.	TOTAL	1	50,000	50,000

low-water bridge	TOTAL	1	8,500	8,500
culverts	TOTAL	1	8,000	8,000
			Subtotal	116,500

CONCRETE

trash can pads	CY	1		
bike rack pads	CY	11		
bench pads	CY	6		
			Subtotal	9,200



MISCELLANEOUS

bollards to prevent motor vehicle access	EA	11	1,100	12,100
centerline paint (for path)	LF	275	0.80	220
equipment and mobilization for painting	TOTAL	1	1,000	1,000
thermoplastic crosswalks	EA	4	450	1,800
thermoplastic stop bars on path	EA	11		
safety railings	LF	300	130	39,000
segmental retaining wall (75' long, 3' high)	TOTAL	1	3,500	3,500
construction of railroad Xing for path	TOTAL	1	20,000	20,000
benches	EA	5	600	3,000
trash cans	EA	5	550	2,750
pet waste stations	EA	4	400	1,600
solar powered crossing ahead sign with flashing beacon	EA	2	9,200	18,400
pedestrian crosswalk signals	TOTAL	1	15,000	15,000
bike racks	EA	4	600	2,400
city maintenance vehicle	TOTAL	1	10,000	10,000
			Subtotal	130,770

LEGAL

right-of-way & property acquisition	TOTAL	1	200,000	200,000
right-of-way negotiator	TOTAL	1		0
filing of deeds	EA	15	300	4,500
permits	TOTAL	1		0
			Subtotal	204,500

Subtotal Sum 828,456

CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEYING (10% of construction)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT (6%)

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT (2%)

45,699
49,707
16,569

CONTINGENCY (10%)

82,846

Total Cost 1,023,277

Ethan Gingerich, 01/10/2011, North End
Greenway Preliminary Cost Estimate

- **Attachment B: Draft Bicycle Friendly Community Application, provided as a separate attachment.**

Visit www.harrisonburgva.gov/bikeped after February 18 for the most up to date copy of the application.

- **Attachment C: Update on City Projects under design and construction**

For the January 24, Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting:

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- Safe Routes to School: Keister Elementary – Construct sidewalks on South Avenue between S. Dogwood Drive and S. Main Street, Central Avenue between South Avenue and Southampton Drive, and Maryland Avenue between S. High Street and Chestnut Drive. Includes pedestrian signals. Estimate cost: >\$450,000. Funded by VDOT SRTS Program and city funds.
 - UPDATE: Project under construction by Contracting Unlimited. Construction began late October 2010 and expected to be completed May 2011.
- East Market Street Sidewalk Phase II – Construct a 10-ft wide sidewalk with 5-ft grass strip on north side of East Market Street between Spotswood Shopping Center entrance and Linda Lane. Estimated cost: <\$184,000. Funded by VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.
 - UPDATE: Contractor, A&J Development and Excavation, began this project in early December 2010. This project is expected to be completed by February 15, 2011.
- Neff Avenue Crossing – crossing from trailhead of Arboretum trail to opposite side of Neff Avenue, includes construction of ADA ramp, installation of crosswalks and flashing pedestrian crossing warning lights and signage. Funded by city.
 - UPDATE: Equipment for warning lights has been ordered. Work to construct and install will be done in Summer 2011.

PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN

- Bluestone Trail Phase I – Construct a 10-ft wide shared use path between Port Republic Road at Bluestone Drive to Stone Spring Road across from RMH Wellness Center. Estimated cost: >\$600,000. No funding yet available.
 - UPDATE: Engineering design continues by city staff. Challenges encountered with two choke points within Purcell Park. Staff from Public Works, Parks & Recreation, City Engineering, and City Manager's Office met to discuss. Next step: Public Works will present project to Parks & Recreation Commission for endorsement and to discuss if and how the trail will be integrated with Purcell Park and its facilities.

- East Market Street Sidewalk Phase III – Construct a 5-ft wide sidewalk with 3-ft grass strip on south side of East Market Street between University Boulevard and Evelyn Byrd Avenue. Estimated cost: >\$212,000. Funded by VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.
 - UPDATE: Project is currently under design by city staff. Construction anticipated to begin late 2011 and to be completed in 2012.
- Safe Routes to School: Waterman Elementary School – Sidewalks on west side of Chicago Avenue between 2nd Street and Rockingham Drive, bike lanes on Chicago Avenue between Gay Street and Rockingham Drive, sidewalk on south side of 3rd Street between Collicello Street to Stuart Street, sidewalk on east side of Stuart Street, sidewalks on both sides of Virginia Avenue from about 2nd Street to 5th Street. Estimate cost: >\$500,000. Funded by VDOT SRTS Program and city funds.
 - UPDATE: Engineering design continues by city staff; about 75% design completed. Right of way has not yet started and is not anticipated to start until February 2011.