



Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee  
Of The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission  
City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

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**TO:** Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Members

**FROM:** Thanh Dang, Public Works Planner

**DATE:** October 28, 2013

**RE:** Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Agenda for Monday September 23, 2012

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The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee will meet on Monday September 23, 2013 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.

Attendees: Thomas Jenkins, Nathan Barge, Elise Barella, Len Van Wyk, Carl Droms, Becky Johnston, Thanh Dang, Scott Drugo, Rachel Lipscom.

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*Welcome*

*Business*

**1. Recap: Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit September 20**  
<http://www.svbcoalition.org/bike-walk-summit>

The Bike-Walk summit was a very successful event. There were about 60 attendees. President Alger was the keynote speaker. Charlie King, VP of Finance, also attended along with other JMU staff and faculty. There was more participation from Rockingham Co as well.

Meeting summary by Lori Britt and her students will be available in the next week or so, will be posted and available online, <http://www.svbcoalition.org/bike-walk-summit>. An email will be sent to people who were not able to attend, or who had to leave early. Community members are encouraged to review the summary and sign up to help implement goals for the next year.

Rich Harris had encouraged advocates to reach out personally to others who should attend this meeting next year to invite them.

Mr. Barge noted that the Year in Review list is very impressive. This was a list of infrastructure projects, events, education and encouragement efforts, and grants received in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County over the last year. This is also a great list to share with supervisors, and others.

A Bike-Walk Summit participants list will be emailed to those who attended the meeting or upon request to Kevin McDermott at the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission.

## **2. Subcommittee Terms ending and discuss application process for new members**

Ms. Dang presented that two of the five seats on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee are up for appointment and those terms will start January 2014. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Chenault's seats. Information on term lengths and duties of the Subcommittee are available at <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-subcommittee>.

The group discussed and made changes to the application.

There is desire to get a broad cross section of representation on the committee.

There was discussion of whether the subcommittee size should be increased. Subcommittee members felt that at this time, they would keep the committee to five members, and would reevaluate next year. People who are interested in participating in the committee are encouraged to come to meetings, and can participate without being a committee member.

After this meeting, Ms. Dang will post the application on City webpage and email a notification to the city's bicycle and pedestrian email list and Mr. Jenkins will have information posted on the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition website. Others are encouraged to share this information with their groups, colleagues, neighbors, etc.

Schedule:

- Applications will be open after this meeting. They will be posted online at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-subcommittee>
- Applications due November 1
- The Subcommittee will review and discuss at November meeting and make recommendation to the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission (TSAC).
- TSAC reviews and appoints new members at their December meeting, so that the new Subcommittee members start in January.

## **3. Questions for Harrisonburg Police: Abandoned Bike Racks, Enforcement of laws effecting bicyclists**

Mr. Jenkins asked what is done with bikes that are abandoned on public, city bike racks. He has been seeing some bikes being abandoned at downtown bike racks. There was discussion that abandoned bikes take up valuable bike parking spaces and that when they get rusty they look bad. There is no city policy or city code about how abandoned bikes on racks are to be handled.

There was discussion about James Madison University's policies and procedures for dealing with abandoned bikes. JMU tags abandoned bikes, but leaves them on the rack for 90 days before removing them and then stores them for a period of time before getting rid of them. The Subcommittee and guests thought that 90 days was too long, and suggested that 2-3 weeks was enough time to tag the abandoned bike before the bikes on city bike racks were removed. These public bike racks are not meant for long term storage. Officer Drugo will meet with Lt. Pollard to come up with a policy for dealing with bikes abandoned on public bike racks and will explore what other communities do.

There was discussion on enforcement on people who are biking on sidewalks in the downtown area. Biking on sidewalks is illegal within the area bounded by Mason St., Elizabeth St., Liberty St., and Bruce St. (However, biking on sidewalks elsewhere in the City is legal.) There was further discussion on biking the wrong way, against traffic, wearing two earbuds, and biking without front lights and reflectors at night.

The Subcommittee suggested that Harrisonburg Police and JMU Public Safety should take a year to verbally warn people before enforcing tickets. It was also suggested that for both bicyclists and motorists who break laws related to bicycling that they could be offered traffic diversion classes instead of paying the ticket or to receive a reduced fine. Ms. Dang mentioned that there will be new League Cycling Instructors (LCIs) in Harrisonburg who can help with the diversion class. It was acknowledged that HPD and/or the Subcommittee should talk to local judges about traffic diversion classes.

Mr. Jenkins also shared that having a system to track traffic violations by bicyclists is needed, and said that this is what Davis, CA does. He suggested giving people first and second warnings and to issue a penalty with the third violation. Officer Drugo will also look into a warning program.

#### **4. School Crossing Guards/ Walking School Buses**

Mr. Van Wyk presented that at the last Transportation Safety and Advisory Commission meeting, Nathan Barge presented that the number of student walkers and bikers are increasing. Waterman Elementary now has walking school buses (groups of parents and students who meet up and walk/bike to school) regularly. There was also discussion that there are only 4 crossing guards in entire city, which did not seem like a lot. There is a crossing guard at Spotswood ES, Waterman ES, and two at Keister ES. Crossing guards are hired part-time positions under Harrisonburg Police Department budget.

At the TSAC meeting, there was discussion about the hiring process for new crossing guards. Officer Pete Ritchie was going to find out more information about the process.

Mr. Barge added that parents are concerned with the intersection of Chicago Avenue and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Maryland Avenue & High Street, and Roosevelt Street & Maryland Avenue. Mr. Jenkins asked if Ms. Johnston and Mr. Barge could use their knowledge and input received from parents to help determine locations where additional crossing guards are believed to be needed or desired.

Mr. Van Wyk suggested if we could have a volunteer training program for parents to assist with Walking School Buses to cross streets safely, give them authority to stop traffic. Ms. Johnston thought that parents being crossing guards may be difficult to implement due to their own time constraints (busiest times of the day for their families), and added that walking school buses may be a better solution since parents can walk/ bike with their kids.

There was discussion that 4<sup>th</sup> graders (who are the highest grade in elementary schools in Harrisonburg) are too young to be safety patrols. And questions whether the new middle school would shift 5<sup>th</sup> graders back to elementary schools.

#### **5. Wyndham Woods to Thomas Harrison Middle School Connectors – *Thomas Jenkins***

Ms. Dang and Mr. Jenkins met with Dr. and Mrs. Aamodt in early August 2013. However, no follow up response from the Aadmots has been received. Ms. Dang will follow up with them again. The Aamodts were interested in donating land to the City to connect Thomas Harrison Middle School.

Dr. and Ms. Cale already donated about 6 acres for trails last year, and will be donating more land that will help provide better connectivity.

Mr. Van Wyk shared that his daughter currently uses the Neito family's driveway that connects Wyndham Woods Circle to Thomas Harrison Middle School. Many students use the driveway also. However, the Neitos will be moving and students and families may lose access through the driveway. Mr. Jenkins has been in conversations with the Neitos and with the property owner of the undeveloped lot next door (Arch Harris). Mr. Harris had expressed to Thomas that when he used to live in the Neito's house, that parents were dropping kids off at his driveway; perceived negative.

The following hierarchy of next steps was discussed. (1) If the Aadmots are willing to donate an easement or right of way, then to go that way. (2) Explore a connector via the Harris property. Option 1 comes with difficulties, discussions available in previous meeting summaries. Some subcommittee members still feel that the City should use the land that it already owns (10-ft wide right of way between two residences on Wyndham Drive), whereas others and city staff do not feel that this is ideal and lack of support from adjacent neighbors may cause issues.

There was discussion about Thomas Harrison Middle School changing to a future elementary school and that these connectors would still serve future students traveling from neighborhoods to the elementary school, as well as, to the future middle school and current high school on Garbers Church Road. A connector through the Aadmot's property would also help neighbors get to the gym or grocery store.

#### **6. Update on projects under design/construction (Attachment A)**

Ms. Dang briefly reviewed the project statues for projects listed in Attachment A.

##### **Keister Elementary School connector**

Mr. Barge brought up a potential path that he and administrators at Keister Elementary School have been interested in to connect 40-50 students living in University Place to the school. There exists a cowpath along Blacks Run, on private property, between University Place and Keister.

Ms. Dang added that this path was discussed several months ago, and that representatives from Public Works, Parks & Rec, City Manager's Office, Harrisonburg Police, Keister ES, and school administration

had met. There was general consensus among city staff that this project is not a priority for the City to consider for development or additional review at this time, but that if the schools continue to feel this is a priority project for the school then the proposal needs to be brought to City Council for consideration.

There has been some expressed concern about liability, whether knowing students are using the property and unimproved trail now is reason to improve the trail. Discussions about whether the trail could be wide enough for a police cruiser to travel through. Concerns about Blacks Run flooding the lower property where the existing trail is. And questions on much does costs to operate 1 school bus to pick up the children at University Place each year.

Mr. Jenkins would like to revisit this site and welcomed others to join him.

### *Announcements*

#### **7. Bicycle & Pedestrian Count update**

Ms. Dang and staff will be presenting the results of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Count at the October 10 Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition meeting. Count results are also available at <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-count>.

*Next Meeting: Monday November 18, 2013 at 6pm in the Community Development Classroom, 409 South Main Street (Note: Third Monday of November due to Thanksgiving week.)*

*Adjourn*

## **ATTACHMENT A: Update on City Projects under design and construction**

For the September 23 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting. General information is also available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/transportation-projects>.

### PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR SOON TO START CONSTRUCTION

- **Erickson Avenue-Stone Spring Road Phase III** – Road improvement project includes new sidewalks and bike lanes. [www.ericksonstonespring.org](http://www.ericksonstonespring.org).
  - UPDATE: Project under construction.
- **Safe Routes to School: Waterman Elementary School** – Sidewalks on west side of Chicago Avenue between 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Rockingham Drive, bike lanes on Chicago Avenue between Gay Street and Rockingham Drive, sidewalk on south side of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street between Collicello Street to Stuart Street, sidewalk on east side of Stuart Street, sidewalks on both sides of Virginia Avenue from about 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street. Estimate cost: ~\$610,000. Funded by VDOT SRTS Program and anticipated Community Development Block Grant Funds. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/waterman-safe-routes>
  - UPDATE: Construction of new sidewalks on Virginia Avenue is 100% complete, Third Street 95% complete, Stuart Street 95% complete, and work has started on Chicago Avenue. Sidewalk project on schedule for completion by November 30, 2013. Bike lanes on Chicago Avenue will be done next year (2014) with road repaving.

### PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN/ PLANNING

- **Bluestone Trail Phase IA and IB** – Construct a 10-ft wide shared use path between Port Republic Road at Bluestone Drive to Wellness Drive off Berry Road. Estimated cost: Being developed. Anticipated construction advertisement May 2014. Funded by: DCR Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant, VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds, City funds, and anticipated JMU funds. Total length 5,000 lf. Engineering design \$250,000; Right of Way \$35,000; Construction \$1,165,000. Total Phase I cost: \$1,450,000. More information available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/Bluestone-Trail>
  - UPDATE: Design engineering underway by McCormick Taylor for portion between Butler Street to Stone Spring Road. Design engineering underway by City for portion between Hillside Avenue to Purcell Park. City is coordinating with property owners.
- **Bruce Street and Liberty Street Improvements** – The City is working with Matchbox Realty on sidewalk and other road improvements around the Casco Ice building at the corner of Bruce and Liberty Streets. Improvements being reviewed include, but are not limited to, widening sidewalks where possible to achieve ADA clearances, moving utility poles in sidewalks if possible, constructing new sidewalks with the decorative concrete design, adding pedestrian signals and crosswalks at the intersection of Liberty Street and Bruce Street.
  - UPDATE: A portion of this project along Bruce Street has been completed by adjacent property owners. Future construction on Liberty Street TBD.
- **Cale Trail 1 – Westover Park, West Market Street, & Thomas Harrison Middle School** – Shared use path to connect Thomas Harrison Middle School and Westover Park through the former Cale property that was donated to the City by Dr. William Cale and Mrs. Susan Cale.

- UPDATE: Presentation about the Cale properties to be made at the August Parks & Recreation Commission meeting. Subcommittee member and volunteer to flag new trail alignment with new land donation from Cales. City Attorney working on deed for donation of land. City staff, school staff, PTO, subcommittee members, and others to meet and discuss next steps – date TBD.
- **Thomas Harrison Middle School to Hillandale Park connectors** – Construct a path from Wyndham Wood Drive to Thomas Harrison Middle School and West Market Street, and a path between Circle Drive to Hillandale Park. This project is in the planning phase and is not yet funded.
  - **Thomas Harrison Middle School to Wyndham Drive**
    - UPDATE: Subcommittee re-initiated outreach with property owners. (Will be discussed at meeting)
  - **Wyndham Woods Circle to Hillandale Park**
    - UPDATE: City staff and property owner in discussions.
- **Carlton Street and Reservoir Street Roundabout** – This project is being funded by a combination of VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds and local funds. A roundabout at this location will improve intersection safety for motorists and pedestrians. More information: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/transportation-projects>
  - UPDATE: This project is currently under design and is being coordinated with adjacent property owners. Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer 2014.
- **Downtown Streetscape Plan Update** – Update of previous Downtown Streetscape Plan (2004) to provide a comprehensive downtown streetscape plan that will develop a vision for all streets in the study area to develop public and private expectation for project elements. Study areas include the Downtown Core, Downtown Transition Area, and Downtown Gateways. More information available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/downtown-streetscape-plan>
  - UPDATE: Will be reviewed by Planning Commission at October meeting.
- **Downtown Streetscape Project Phase 2** – This project includes replacing sidewalk on the west side of Main Street between Bruce Street and South Court Square, replacing sidewalks on the east side of Main Street between Elizabeth Street and Wolfe Street installing decorative stamped crosswalks at intersections, replacing existing street lighting with decorative lights, replace and upgrade traffic signals, and install pedestrian signals. This project is anticipated to begin construction in Summer 2014.
  - UPDATE: This project is currently under design.
- **East Market Street Sidewalk Phase IV** – Construct a 5-ft wide sidewalk with 2-ft grass strip on south side of East Market Street between Carlton Street and 400’ north of Hawkins Street. This project will also include pedestrian signals at the intersections of East Market Street with Carlton Street and Hawkins Street/Vine Street. Estimated cost: greater than \$ 400,000. Funded by VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.
  - UPDATE: This project will go to bid for construction in January and will start construction in March 2014.

- **Mt. Clinton Pike/ Chicago Avenue/ Park Road Roundabout** – Following the Chicago Avenue Corridor Study, completed in early 2013, the City initiated work on design of this roundabout to improve the intersections of Mt. Clinton Pike with Chicago Avenue and Park Road. This project is being funded by a combination of VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds and local funds. More information: <http://www.chicagoavenue.org/>.
  - UPDATE: Design is currently underway and project is being coordinated with Eastern Mennonite University and adjacent property owners. A public input meeting is anticipated for Fall 2013.
  
- **Northend Greenway** – 2.5-mile Shared use path that will run between Park View area (near EMU/EMHS) that will mostly follow Blacks Run into downtown (near Washington St & N Main St), then travel via Federal Street alley to the Farmers Market. This is a public-private partnership between the City, and New Community Project and Northend Greenway volunteers. Phase I from Main Street to Liberty Street. Phase II from Park View area to Liberty Street. Phase I & II is total 8,300 lf. Funded by VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds, City funds, and funds raised by NEG. Estimated cost: Preliminary Planning, Engineering Design, and Right of Way for Phase I and Phase II totals \$525,000. Construction for Phase I \$675,000, Construction for Phase II \$1,225,000. Total project cost \$2,425,000.
  - UPDATE: Project phasing and funding options being explored.
  
- **Oak Drive Paper Street** – Construct a natural surface trail between Circle Drive and Rocktown Trails.
  - UPDATE: City Council approved vacating of Oak Drive paper street and land swaps on September 10. City Attorney working on deeds. Once deeds are signed and recorded, Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition volunteers will be working on constructing the new trail.
  
- **Reservoir Street Project** – Widen Reservoir Street to sections of 5-lane facility and 4-lane facility with median. Project will include sidewalks on both sides and bike lanes. <http://www.reservoirstreet.org/>
  - UPDATE: Engineering design and right-of-way negotiations with property owners is currently underway. Project anticipated going to construction in 2014.