



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: July 23, 2014

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Agenda for Monday July 28, 2014

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee will meet on Monday July 28, 2014 at 6:00pm in **City Council Chambers** at 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg. Meetings are always open to the public and citizens are encouraged to attend.

Welcome

Subcommittee members: John McGhee, Eric Saner, Elise Barrella, Len Van Wyk, and Carl Droms

Guests: Thanh Dang, Corporal Phillip Reed, Office Langhans, Nathan Barge, Thomas Jenkins, and Eleanor Price

Public comments, limited to 5 minutes each, for topics not on the agenda.

Business

1. New School and Bike/Ped Access

Mr. Jenkins presented that although the new school site has not been identified, it appears that City Council and the School Board will select a site on Garbers Church Road. Mr. Jenkins stated that many parents have approached him at Shenandoah Bicycle Company to ask him about the status of plans for a connector between Hillandale Park to Gabers Church Road. He is curious if parents and local advocates should go to City Council. And is curious what the Subcommittee's role in advising City Council is on what facilities are needed to and on Garbers Church Road.

Mr. McGehee has discussed the matter briefly with Dany Fleming who serves on the School Board. He understands that there is potential for the new school's construction budget to include funding for some of the transportation improvements needed.

There was discussion if whether improvements on Garbers Church Road should include a road diet and/or shared use path. It was acknowledged that road diets (removal of one travel lane) will result in loss of funding from the state for road maintenance and that long term plans in Rockingham County for Switchboard Road include a four lane facility to which Garbers Church Road would tie in with.

There as discussion and support that kids will more likely travel on a shared use path rather than on bike lanes on Erickson Avenue. There was expression that both a shared use path and road diet should be provided on Garbers Church Road. There was question of how much more Garbers Church Road would be used by bicyclists if bike lanes were added by road diet. Mr. Jenkins replied that many more people had used Garbers Church Road as a cycling route prior to it being stripped to 4 lanes.

Ms. Dang encouraged Mr. Jenkins to continue reaching out to City Council and School Board members, and let them know that the Subcommittee is available to provide advice, if needed.

2. Update on properties and trails near Thomas Harrison MS

Ms. Dang shared that the single property owner that the City had been in discussions with regarding a path connection between Wyndham Drive and Thomas Harrison MS is requesting the City make additional upgrades to the street and extensions of utilities. The City and the property owner are unable to come to an agreement.

At this time, City staff is looking at the 10-ft wide city right of way between 1022 and 1032 Wyndham Drive for a potential path connection.

3. Safe Routes to School routes planning around Spotswood ES

Ms. Dang presented a map showing proposed improvements around Spotswood Elementary School. See Attachment. Improvements consists of new sidewalks along Reservoir Street and Sterling Street, proposed flashing beacons at proposed crosswalk locations, and a new pedestrian signal.

City staff is considering submitting this project for VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funding. Note: Former VDOT Safe Routes to School infrastructure grants have been combined with former VDOT Transportation Enhancement grants into VDOT TAP grants.

4. Update on Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

<http://www.virginiadot.org/business/prehancegrants.asp>

Ms. Dang presented that City staff is considering the following projects for a future TAP grant application: Sidewalks and other improvements around Spotswood Elementary School, path construction around Thomas Harrison Middle School including the Cale Trail, new sidewalks along North Main Street between Charles Street to Vine Street, Downtown Streetscape Phase III on Main Street between Wolfe Street and Elizabeth Street, and the Northend Greenway.

Ms. Dang asked the Subcommittee if they had additional recommendations for projects that might be funded by the TAP grant, and for feedback on the projects currently being considered.

A few subcommittee members expressed support for the Spotswood ES sidewalks and other improvements projects. They have observed many people walking in the street because there are no sidewalks. Many of the residents in the area are underserved and low income.

5. Committee Updates

a. Complete Streets – John McGehee, Elise Barella, Eric Saner, Kyle Lawrence

Members of this committee present discussed drafting a letter to the City Engineer and Director of Community Development to introduce the principals of Complete Streets Policies, and to inquire what next steps should take place.

b. Abandoned Bikes – Thanh Dang & Scott Drugo

Corporal Reed said that a new city ordinance would be needed for the city to tag and remove abandoned bicycles. He expressed that abandoned bicycles has not been a problem for Harrisonburg Police. Ms. Barrella suggested that the city should get ahead of the issue before it becomes a problem.

c. Bicycle, Pedestrian, Motorist Education Campaign - Thanh Dang, Public Works, Police, Public Information Office

<http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/share-the-road> &
<http://beheardharrisonburg.org/discussions/share-the-road>

No update available.

d. Community Bike Map Project – Thanh Dang (Brad Reed, Lee Echelman, Mike Damolin Thomas Jenkins, Robbie Huff)

Process information: <http://transweb.sjsu.edu/project/1005.html>

City staff, JMU staff, and Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission staff continue to work on developing the Community Bike Map. Public input will be solicited prior to finalization of the map in early 2015.

6. Updates on projects under design/construction (Attachment A)

7. Save the Date & Request for Volunteers: Bike & Ped Count, Tues Sept 9 and Sat Sept 13

Ms. Dang handed out flyers announcing the upcoming Bicycle & Pedestrian Count dates on September 9 and September 13. Volunteers are needed to count at various locations in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. More information at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-count>

8. Open Discussion

Announcements

9. **Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit, Save the Date! Friday, October 10, 2014.**
<http://svbcoalition.org/bike-walk-summit/>
10. **Pedestrian Policy Plan** – VDOT seeking comments. Comments due July 31, 2014.
http://www.viriniadot.org/programs/bicycling_and_walking/pedestrian_policy_plan.asp
11. **VTrans2040 Multimodal Transportation Plan** – Commonwealth Transportation Board seeking comments through October 15. <https://www.research.net/s/vtrans>
12. **Be Heard Harrisonburg!** - <http://beheardharrisonburg.org/>
13. **Harrisonburg Rockingham MPO Public Notice for Transit Study Final Report**

Next Meeting: Monday September 22, 2014 at 6pm

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A: Update on City Projects under design or construction

For the July 28, 2014 Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting. General information is also available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/transportation-projects>.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR SOON TO START CONSTRUCTION

- **Bluestone Trail Phase IA** – Construct 10-ft wide shared use path between Butler Street to Port Republic Road. Funded by James Madison University. More information available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/Bluestone-Trail>
 - UPDATE: Project construction awarded to F. Clayton Plecker & Sons for \$350,687. Construction began in May 2014 and will be completed by August 1, 2014. NOTE: JMU is also working on the Newman Dam Improvement Project which will include extending the Bluestone Trail from Port Republic Road to Sonner Hall.
- **Bluestone Trail Phase IB** – Construct a 10-ft wide shared use path between Stone Spring Road to Butler Street. Funded by DCR Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant, VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds, and City funds. More information available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/Bluestone-Trail>
 - UPDATE: Project construction awarded to Hammond-Mitchell, Inc for \$1,072,417. Construction began in April and will be completed by December 31, 2014.
- **Downtown Streetscape Project Phase 2** – This project includes replacing sidewalk on the west side of Main Street between Bruce Street and South Court Square installing decorative stamped crosswalks at intersections, replacing existing street lighting with decorative lights, replace and upgrade traffic signals, and install pedestrian signals. More information available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/downtown-streetscape-next-steps>
 - UPDATE: Project scope was revised and replacement of sidewalks on the east side of Main Street between Elizabeth Street and Wolfe Street will not occur with this phase. Construction started in July 2014 and will be completed December 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: This plan was adopted by City Council June 24, 2014.
- **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. Funded by VDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program.
 - UPDATE: Bids were opened in January was awarded to Toro Concrete, Inc. for \$334,178. Project is nearly complete.

PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN/ PLANNING

- **Cale Trail – 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: The Cales are not yet able to donate the new land. When they are, the City and Cales will work together to further develop this project.
- **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/carlton-street>
 - UPDATE: This project is in final phases of design and right-of-way. Due to delays in with right-of-way, the project construction will begin in 2015.
- **Country Club Road Sidewalk** – In early 2014, citizens requested that new sidewalk be constructed on Country Club Road. City Council approved funding for sidewalks to be placed on the south/ west side of Country Club Road between Spotswood Mobile Home Park and Linda Lane.
 - UPDATE: Right-of-way from adjacent property owners is required in order to construct new sidewalks along Country Club Road. City staff has been trying to work with adjacent property owners. No construction schedule available at this time.
- **Thomas Harrison Middle School to Wyndham Drive**
 - UPDATE: City Surveyor has marked 25-ft proposed easement and citizen volunteers have delineated a proposed trail alignment. Ms. Dang has been in touch with the property owners regarding potential land donation.
- **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 TBD.
- **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. To be 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; a proposal was anticipated early February and was received in mid-April. City staff and those making the proposal are in discussion.
- **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 underway. Utility relocations underway. Road project anticipated going to construction in 2015.
- **Safe Routes to School Stone Spring ES** – Funded by Virginia Department of Transportation’s Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Grant, this project will construct new sidewalks on the east side of Peach Grove Avenue between King Edwards Way to Decca Drive, install a new traffic signal at the intersection of Peach Grove Avenue and Stone Spring ES entrance, and include some additional sidewalk work on school property. Grant funds: \$292,000.
 - UPDATE: Surveying has been complete and engineering design underway through early 2015. Project construction to start Summer 2015.

