



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: September 12, 2014

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting Summary for Monday May 19, 2014

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday May 19, 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 present: Carl Droms, Len Van Wyk, and John McGehee

Guests present: Thanh Dang, Becky Johnston, Nathan Barge

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

No comments

Business

1. Guest Presentation: Safe Routes to Schools

Becky Johnston and Nathan Barge gave a presentation on Safe Routes to School activities during the 2013-2014 year. See powerpoint slides in Attachment A. Additional notes (to supplement the powerpoint) are provided below:

- Safe Routes to School Programs are now in all 8 city schools.
- Started at Keister Elementary School 8 years ago.
- Student Travel Tallies in 2013 were given out to 3,500 students grades K-8.

- The Parent Survey was distributed to all schools K-12.
- Walk to School Days are celebrated in October, and all K-12 schools participate.
- 60 students attended the bike rodeo at Hillandale Park
- Skyline Middle School did a bike to school day simulation (virtual ride to school) for their 5th & 6th graders. 7th & 8th graders get to use real bikes.
- John McGehee led a bike train on Bike to School day from Old Town to Thomas Harris Middle School. 15 students rode with his group and he believes 4-5 additional students from Old Town rode separately.
- 90 students total rode their bikes on Bike to School Day to Thomas Harrison Middle School.
- Nathan and Becky received their League Cycling Instructor Certification with assistance from a Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition (SVBC) scholarship.
- Nathan and Becky worked with Public Works staff to develop Safe Routes to School maps for several of the schools. Posters were printed and displayed in front of the school, and copies of the map were sent home with parents. The maps show suggested routes with walking and biking times.

2. Bluestone Trail Project Update

Thanh provided an update that contractors have begun working on the Bluestone Trail between Stone Spring Road and Butler Street. Contractors are about to start work on the section through the James Madison University Parking Lot between Butler Street to Port Republic Road. More information at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bluestone-trail>.

3. Committee Updates

a. School Crossing Guards

This topic has been discussed at previous Subcommittee meetings. Harrisonburg Police Department has advertised for the crossing guard (employment) positions, but have been unable to fill them.

Becky and Nathan trying to build relationships with volunteers, but find that parents are unable to volunteer as crossing guards because they are busy getting their children to school, etc. Becky and Nathan hope to work with each school and request that principals make assignments to teachers, recognizing that teachers need to be rewarded/ compensated for the additional work. The Subcommittee suggested that the schools consider teacher assistance or maintenance staff to assist if possible.

The group also discussed that Spotswood Elementary School is a good candidate for a Safe Routes to School/ Transportation Alternatives Program grant for infrastructure improvements. Becky, Nathan, and Thanh will continue working on this in preparation for the TAP grant anticipated to be released by the Virginia Department of Transportation this summer.

b. Abandoned Bikes

Thanh shared with the group an email from Officer Scott Drugo from Harrisonburg Police, asking if the Subcommittee would like for HPD to propose an ordinance or receive other approval from City Council to remove abandoned bicycles from bike racks. The Subcommittee said yes.

c. Bicycle, Pedestrian, Motorist Education Campaign

Thanh gave a brief update on the Share the Road campaign. The website is up (<http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/share-the-road>) and questions also posted on www.BeHeardHarrisonburg.org.

There were suggestions of yard signs that might be placed along walking and biking routes to school.

d. Community Bike Map Project – Thanh Dang, Thomas Jenkins, along with JMU, and Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (Diana Henderson, Elise Barella, Eric Saner)

City and JMU staff have been working on developing “comfort level” maps using the methodology presented in the Mineta Transportation Institute’s “Low-Stress Bicycling Network Connectivity.” Currently, City and JMU are doing a pilot on certain areas to test the method and will be meeting on June 2 to review.

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

5. Open Discussion

An inquiry was made about bike racks at City Parks. Thanh advised requests be made directly to Lee Foerster, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Announcements

6. Bike Month Underway!

<http://svbcoalition.org/bike-month/>

7. Safe Routes to School Waterman Elementary Celebration, June 3

8. Dinner & Bikes with Elly Blue, June 19 at 7pm

Next Meeting: Monday July 28, 2014 at 6pm at City Council Chambers

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A: Update on City Projects under design and construction

For the May 19, 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 bids were opened on March 6, 2014 and will be awarded to F. Clayton Plecker & Sons for \$350,687. Construction will begin May 12, 2014 and 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 bids were opened on March 6, 2014 and will be awarded to Hammond-Mitchell, Inc for \$1,072,417. Construction is underway and will be completed by December 31, 2014.
- **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. Bid date anticipated in 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, 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. More information available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/downtown-streetscape-next-steps>
 - UPDATE: This project rebid. Bids due May 22.
- **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. Construction is underway and will be completed by August 29, 2014.

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.

- **Thomas Harrison Middle School to Wyndham Drive Connector**
 - UPDATE: City Surveyor has marked 25-ft proposed easement and citizen volunteers have delineated a proposed trail alignment. Ms. Dang and Thomas Jenkins met with the property owner in late-April to discuss project.

- **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: Staff has made updates to the Plan and will be presenting it to Planning Commission again this summer.

- **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, but has been delayed through mid-April.

- **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. Utility companies have also begun relocations. 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 is currently underway. Engineering design to take place through Fall 2014. Project construction to start Summer 2015.