



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: October 16, 2014

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting Summary of October 6, 2014 – Special Meeting

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday October 6, 2014 at 6:00pm in City Council Chambers at 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg. Meetings are open to the public.

Welcome

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

Business

1. Northend Greenway Project & Funds

Thanh Dang briefly reviewed the memorandum sent to the Subcommittee (See Attachment A).

The Subcommittee opened the floor to public comment and discussion.

- A member of the Northend Greenway Steering Committee stated that they have been in communications with the large property owner along Section 3, and that the property owner has continued to express interest in donating easements for the project. There was discussion that formal dedication of easement or right of way would not occur until the project design was further, so that the path's alignment and limits of grading and construction could be reflected on deeds and plats.
- There was discussion regarding potential rezoning requests made by property owners who also happen to be adjacent or impacted by the project. The City has a review process for rezoning requests requiring Planning Commission and City Council approval.

- A guest stated their support of the recommendation being made by the Subcommittee to City Council, and likes the public process. He stated that Option A to construct the entire Northend Greenway is preferred, but also supports phasing the project in F1 and F2.

Subcommittee members discussed that there is a significant gap between Options F1 and F2 from the other options that follow.

A subcommittee member recommended that the letter to City Council call out Option B, and state that giving back funds is not considered a viable option. It would be better for future revenue sharing applications if the City were to proceed in such a way that includes construction of this project.

The Subcommittee all voted in favor of the proposed recommendation to City Council. Options are ranked in the following order with the preferred option is listed first:

- **Option F1 (Segments 2, 3 and 4)** - This option runs from the intersection of Mt. Clinton Pike and Virginia Avenue to the end of pavement at Suter Street.
- **Option F2 plus Segment 4 (Segments 4 and 5)** - This option runs from Suter Street & Liberty Street to Washington Street.
- **Option E (Segments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)** - This option “combines” the Northend Greenway project with the Mt. Clinton Pike Roundabout and Road Improvement Project.
- **Option D (Segments 2, 7, 8, and 4)** – This option considers an alternative alignment starting at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Mt. Clinton Pike, and travel east on Mt. Clinton Pike to Liberty Street intersection.
- **Option C (Segments 2, 7, 8 and 9)** – This option starts at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Mt. Clinton Pike, and travel east on Mt. Clinton Pike to Technology Drive

Next Meeting: Monday November 17 at 6pm (Note: This is the third Monday due to Thanksgiving week the following week.)

Adjourn



The City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Office of the Public Works
Department

STREET MAINTENANCE
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
REFUSE/ RECYCLING
RESOURCE RECOVERY
CENTRAL STORES

Memorandum

To: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee
From: Thanh Dang, Transportation & Environmental Planning Manager
Date: September 29, 2014 (updated September 30, 2014)
Re: Northend Greenway Project & Funds

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee will hold a “special” meeting on Monday October 6, 2014 at 6pm in City Council Chambers to make a recommendation to City Council about the Northend Greenway Project & Funds.

On September 22, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee held a regular meeting and continued discussions about the Northend Greenway project funds. The September 22 meeting summary for the Northend Greenway project funds portion of the meeting is available below in Attachment A. (The full September 22 meeting summary will be posted online in mid-October. The September 4 meeting summary is available at, <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-summaries>.)

To date, no written comments have been received from the public. Any written comments received between today and ~~October 4~~ October 6, will be presented at the Subcommittee’s October 6 meeting.

ATTACHMENT A – BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – SEPTEMBER 22, 2014

Thanh Dang reviewed the memorandum she sent on September 15 to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee. Ms. Dang reviewed each of the options along with the map provided in the memorandum.

Discussions, comments, and questions from Subcommittee members and guests included:

- Question: Is there a way to get from Suter Street to Washington Street on city streets? Response: Yes. Bicyclists and pedestrians can use neighborhood streets, which have low speeds and low traffic volumes.
- Question: If Option F1 is built, will improvements at the intersection of Mt. Clinton Pike and Virginia Avenue, which include new pedestrian signals and crosswalks, be included as part of the Northend Greenway project or the Mt. Clinton Pike Road Improvement project? Response: Staff responded that the intersection improvements would be relatively small components of either project, and inclusion into either project will be determined as design for both projects got further along.
- Question: What are the City's plans for crossing over the railroad tracks east of Virginia Avenue along Mt. Clinton Pike? Response: Options for crossing the tracks have been discussed, but are only preliminary. Additional engineering design work is needed along with discussions with railroad track owners.
- Comment: Segments 2, 3, and 4 holds true to what the Northend Greenway group and community hoped to begin with.
- Comment: Best to construct the Northend Greenway sooner, rather than later. Before the area develops.
- Comment: Although construction of Segments 3 and 4 is preferred, Segments 4, 5, and 6 is also good and would be a nice linear park.
- Comment: Option C (Segments 2, 7, 8, and 9) don't have much to do with the Northend Greenway.
- Comment: Segment 1 which is the path section that will be included as part of the Mt. Clinton Pike Road Improvement Project has not been fully funded. Public support is still needed for the project, which will include stormwater infrastructure, road improvements, and new trails.

The Subcommittee came to consensus, and ranked their proposed recommendation to City Council in the following order. The preferred option is listed first:

- **Option F1 (Segments 2, 3 and 4)** - This option runs from the intersection of Mt. Clinton Pike and Virginia Avenue to the end of pavement at Suter Street.
- **Option F2 plus Segment 4 (Segments 4 and 5)** - This option runs from Suter Street & Liberty Street to Washington Street.
- **Option E (Segments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)** - This option "combines" the Northend Greenway project with the Mt. Clinton Pike Roundabout and Road Improvement Project.
- **Option D (Segments 2, 7, 8, and 4)** – This option considers an alternative alignment starting at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Mt. Clinton Pike, and travel east on Mt. Clinton Pike to Liberty Street intersection.
- **Option C (Segments 2, 7, 8 and 9)** – This option starts at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Mt. Clinton Pike, and travel east on Mt. Clinton Pike to Technology Drive
- **Option B** – This option recommends doing nothing with the Northend Greenway project, and would likely return funds to VDOT for reallocation to another project in Virginia.

Although Option A (Segments 2, 3, 4, and 5) would be the preferred option if funding were available, it was not considered in the ranking because there is a significant deficit in funding needed to construct the entire project.

The Subcommittee encourages input from the public. Reactions to the proposed recommendation, questions, and comments may be sent to Thanh Dang, Public Works Department, at Thanh.Dang@HarrisonburgVA.gov, and will be reviewed by the Subcommittee on October 6, 2014. The Subcommittee will make their final vote on October 6, 2014, after which their recommendations will be presented to City Council.