



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:** December 29, 2014

**RE:** Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting Summary for Monday November 17, 2014

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The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday November 17, 2014 at 6:00pm in City Council Chambers at 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg. Meetings are open to the public.

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*Welcome*

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

Guests: Thanh Dang, Nathan Barge, Kylie Stone, Kelsey Lineburg, Sergio Yabeta, and Cole Turner

*Public Comments*

Mr. Barge invited Subcommittee members to join him for First Friday at Thomas Harrison Middle School on December 5 to observe the pedestrian lights at the intersection of West Market Street and the school entrance. Mr. Barge has been in communication with Public Works staff, and has suggested that this signal be upgraded to an Accessible Pedestrian Signal to help remind students when they should walk (the signal emits a tone and verbal instructions for visually impaired pedestrians). The group encouraged Mr. Barge to also continue discussions with Harrisonburg Police Department about enforcement, since drivers are not yielding to pedestrians that have the right of way.

*Business*

**1. Guests: JMU Engineering Greenway System Capstone Project**

Students from JMU's School of Engineering (Kylie Stone, Kelsey Lineburg, Sergio Yabeta, and Cole Turner) are working on a capstone project to design a greenway system for the city of Harrisonburg. They are meeting with local community organizations and neighborhoods to discuss greenways and to

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receive feedback to design a greenway for non-motorized travel. The goal of the project is to propose a path that provides active transportation options to neighborhoods in the City.

Through an interactive activity, the subcommittee members and guests shared activities they think about doing on greenways: walk dogs, transportation, family bike rides, being in nature, family & friends, picnicking. They were also asked what safety concerns they had about biking and walking on existing infrastructure: cars make it less comfortable, and less safe.

Subcommittee with members and guests also provided feedback on destinations points, by placing dots (stickers) on a map of Harrisonburg, and indicating on a questionnaire how often they walk, bike, take public transit, or drive to different destinations.

The students will continue meeting with other community organizations and neighborhoods through Spring 2015, and complete their project in Spring 2016. Their work can help inform the City's Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update, anticipated to start in Spring 2015.

## **2. Northend Greenway Project Update**

Ms. Dang provided an update on the Northend Greenway (NEG) project. On October 28, City Council voted to allocate full funding for the 1-mile section of the NEG between Mt. Clinton Pike & Virginia Avenue intersection to Suter Street (Option F1). City staff is drafting the Request for Proposal to solicit engineering firms to design the project. Proposals are due to the City on January 13, 2015. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bids-proposals>. City staff anticipates right of way to start in June 2015 and bids for construction to be advertised in January 2016.

Mr. Saner and Mr. McGehee asked that the project consider a lighting option, and if funds are not available for lighting, then to install conduit with the project for a future lighting option if needed.

## **3. Bluestone Trail Project Update**

Ms. Dang recapped that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Bluestone Trail project took place on October 22. Jim Baker, Thanh Dang, Thomas Jenkins, and Charlie Chenault spoke at the ceremony. A lot of people attended.

Public Works is still working on installing signage and markings on the Bluestone Trail and will finish that in January 2015.

The Subcommittee discussed that a lot of positive feedback from community members has been received.

## **4. Community Bike Map Project Update**

Ms. Dang presented a draft Community Bike Map to the subcommittee, and asked that the Subcommittee take time to review the map and provide feedback in December. There was general discussion about the map legend and coloring to make the most desired routes stand out.

Public Works and Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission staff continue to work on adding grade information to the maps. A public version of the draft map will be made available in early 2015, so that a final version is available in PDF in Spring 2015.

#### **5. Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit Recap**

Participants at the Bike-Walk Summit provided a recap of the event in October. The theme this year was focused on “The Benefits of Bicycling and Walking Tourism”, <http://svbcoalition.org/bike-walk-summit/>. The event is hosted by Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition and the Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization.

#### **6. Updates on projects under design/construction (Attachment B)**

#### **7. Open Discussion**

Subcommittee members remarked that the new bike lanes on Chicago Avenue are very nice.

There was an inquiry made about new sidewalks around Spotswood Elementary School. Ms. Dang explained that a Safe Routes to School grant application through the new VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program was considered, but there are many utilities and uncertainties in the area where sidewalks are needed, that staff decided not to apply this year, but to take time to do further investigation and preliminary design. (The City did apply for VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program funding for Phase III of the Downtown Streetscape project.)

Mr. Van Wyk asked about the status of the connector between Hillendale Park to Garbers Church Road, and he volunteered to draft a letter to send to City Council and the School Board requesting them to work together to fund the design and construction of the path before the new school on Garbers Church Road opens.

#### *Announcements*

None.

*Next Meeting: Monday January 26, 2015 at 6pm*

*Adjourn*

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

For the November 17, 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: COMPLETED!
- **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: COMPLETED!
- **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: Construction started in July 2014 and will be completed December 2014.
- **New Pedestrian Signals and Crosswalks at Main Street & Mosby Road and Main Street & Pleasant Hill Road.**
  - UPDATE: Project is under construction.

### 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** - In August 2014, community members and city staff worked together to delineate the 10-ft wide right of way between 1022 and 1032 Wyndham Drive, and get support of adjacent property owners.
  - UPDATE: The 10-ft wide area is being used by students to get from the neighborhood and the school. Removal of 3 trees anticipated the week of November 10. City forces to install 5-6 ft path by mid-December or in Spring 2015.
- **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** –
  - UPDATE: Update to be provided at this meeting.
- **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: Engineering design underway through early 2015. Project construction to start Summer 2015.