



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: January 28, 2015

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Agenda for Monday February 2, 2015

Due to inclement weather on Monday, January 26, 2015, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee meeting was rescheduled for Monday February 2, 2015 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, and Alleyn Harned

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

Alleyn Harned was introduced as the new subcommittee member and Elise Barrella was announced to be the new chair of the subcommittee.

Public comments, limited to 5 minutes each.

There were no public comments.

Business

1. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update

Ms. Dang recommended that they subcommittee begin updating the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan this year (Spring 2015). The Plan was last updated in 2010, and an amendment made in 2011. Ms. Dang asked the group to brainstorm ideas for developing the plan, and asked the group to consider additional ideas to share at the subcommittee's March meeting to kick off the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan update.

The subcommittee discussed having a series of public “brainstorming” meetings early in the update process. Proposed were 2-3 meetings in different neighborhoods, potential locations being JMU’s Memorial Hall, Simms Center, and/or Skyline Middle School. These meetings would be an opportunity to solicit ideas from the public before planning and prioritizing work is done by staff and the subcommittee. Suggested were city maps laid out at tables, were a subcommittee member and/or staff member could facilitate small group discussions and draw on maps.

We should also clearly outline and discuss the 5E’s at the public meeting. Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Evaluation. These would also be elements of the written Plan.

Surveys are another way to solicit ideas from the public. We can use www.beheardharrisonburg.org.

Possibly create an online Wiki map similar to what the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization did last year.

A project webpage will be on the city’s website when planning begins.

The Plan should acknowledge what has been going well, and highlight the accomplishments of the City and the community. Examples can be seen in the Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit, and it’s Year In Review. <http://svbcoalition.org/bike-walk-summit/>

The City’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan should also integrate with JMU and Rockingham County’s Bicycle & Pedestrian Plans:

- JMU Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan (final report April 2014), <http://www.jmu.edu/bikepedplan/documents-maps.shtml>
- Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO Plan (under development), <http://www.hrvampo.org/MPO-Web/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=76>
- Rockingham Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan (under development).

There was discussion about bringing in advisory members for the Plan update from Harrisonburg Department of Public Transit, Harrisonburg Police Department, Economic Development Department, and Sentara RMH Community Health/ Safe Routes to School Program.

Following is a rough proposed schedule for updating the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan:

- March 2015 – At subcommittee meeting, further discuss schedule and steps for Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update.
- Late-April through May - 2-3 public meetings and public comment period
- June through September – city staff to write draft plan, develop maps, and subcommittee reviews
- September – At subcommittee meeting, review draft plan
- October/ November – release draft plan for public input and host public meetings
- December/ January – update draft plan
- January/ March 2016 – At subcommittee meeting, review draft plan and make recommendation
- 2016 - City Council Adoption

The schedule will be discussed at the subcommittee's March meeting and is like to be refined in the future.

2. Complete Streets Policy Development Update

Ms. Barrella updated the group that she and Brad Reed (City Transportation Planner) are working together on gathering resources on complete streets policies around the country. She has a JMU graduate student from public administration who is interning with her on this effort. Ms. Barrella and Mr. Reed anticipate spending February through March to gather information.

The recommendation for a complete streets policy came up at the 2013 Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit.

3. Updates on projects under design/construction (Attachment B)

Ms. Dang briefly went through Attachment B and provided updates on city projects.

4. Open Discussion

Rails-With-Trails

Mr. Harned said that he has been talking with other community members about an idea for "rails-with-trails" behind the Ice House and in other places in the City. These rails-with-trails could provide access to existing and future networks of trails.

Conflicts for Bike Lanes at Intersections

Mr. Saner asked what protocols the City used when installing painted bike lanes on streets. He has noticed a number of conflict areas that are unsafe, where bike lanes abruptly end. Example locations discussed were:

- Chicago Avenue & Gay Street – Chicago Avenue going southbound, the street offset makes it difficult for bicyclists going straight from the bike lane onto the other side of Chicago Avenue
- Central Avenue & Maryland Avenue – He asked why the bike lane going southbound on Central Avenue didn't start at Maryland Avenue
- Neff Avenue & Port Republic Road – Neff Avenue bike lane going westbound to Peach Grove Avenue where there is no bike lane
- Carrier Drive & University Boulevard
- Chestnut Ridge Drive & E Market Street
- Stonewall Drive & Reservoir Street

Ms. Dang expressed that in many cases the bike lanes end before the intersection or start after the intersection because of insufficient road width to fit the bike lanes. In other cases, she could not recall the reason. Ms. Dang will look into these locations and report back to the subcommittee in March. Other locations identified by the Subcommittee or any suggestions for these locations should be emailed to Ms. Dang.

There was discussion that the bike lane Park Road and Mt. Clinton Pike works well. There was discussion about experimenting with bike boxes, which Charlottesville is experimenting with now. There was discussion of both upsides and downsides of bike boxes.

Announcements

5. Bike Month Planning, <http://svbcoalition.org/bike-month/>

Carl announced that Bike Month Planning has begun. Anyone who wishes to volunteer can contact him here, <http://www.svbcoalition.org/bike-month>.

6. Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization I-81 Exits 245 and 247 Interchange Alternatives Analysis Study: Public Meeting: TBA. Contact: Kevin McDermott, kevin@cspdc.org

Ms. Dang announced that the HRMPO's public meeting for the Interchange Study will be in late-February or early-March.

Next Meeting: Monday March 23, 2015 at 6pm

Adjourn

ATTACHMENT A: Update on City Projects under design and construction

General information is also available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/transportation-projects>.

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR SOON TO START CONSTRUCTION

- **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 completed! Bicycle rack across from Newman Avenue to be adjusted.
- **New Pedestrian Signals and Crosswalks at Main Street & Mosby Road and Main Street & Pleasant Hill Road.**
 - UPDATE: Signal work for project completed. Waiting for warmer weather to apply thermoplastic crosswalks, at which time the pedestrian signals will be in operation.
- **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 anticipated to go to bid in the next few weeks.
- **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 nearly complete. Project construction to be bided in April 2015. Project construction to start Summer 2015.
- **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 completed. City forces to install 5-6 ft path in Spring 2015 when weather warms up for paving.
- **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 continues. Utility relocations underway. Anticipate going to bid in 2015.

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 attorney and the City Attorney are working on finalizing the deed for land donation. There is currently no city funding available for construction of the path. City staff will work with community members to explore other opportunities.
- **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.
- **Mt. Clinton Pike Road Improvement Project (includes Roundabout and Northend Greenway)** – City is working on road improvement design on Mt. Clinton Pike between Park Road to Virginia Avenue (Route 42). This project will include the construction of a shared use path along Mt. Clinton Pike that will tie into the Northend Greenway. This project is being funded by a combination of VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds and local funds.
 - 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 Phase I** – This project involves the design and construction of a shared use path between the intersection of Mt. Clinton Pike and Virginia Avenue (Route 42) to Suter Street (near Liberty Street). This project is being funded by a combination of VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds and local funds. No schedule for future phases.
 - UPDATE: City had released a request for proposal (RFP) and received proposals for the design of the Northend Greenway on January 13, 2015. City staff is currently reviewing proposals to select a consultant design team. City staff in discussions with property owners. Project anticipated to begin construction in 2016.