



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, Transportation & Environmental Planning Manager

**DATE:** August 18, 2015

**RE:** Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Agenda for Monday June 22, 2015

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The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday June 22, 2015 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: Elise Barrella, Carl Droms

Guests: Thanh Dang, Brad Reed, Tom Hartman, Thomas Jenkins, Cory Allison (VDOT)

*Public comments, limited to 5 minutes each.*

*Business*

**1. Bicycle Comfort Map Update**

Mr. Reed updated the subcommittee on the Bicycle Comfort Map. The map is available at, <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bike-map>. He has received positive feedback from a few people who are using the map. Harrisonburg Tourism also has copies of the map to hand out to visitors.

Moving forward, Mr. Reed will be working to expand street grade designations to more streets. Presently, they are only shown for arterial streets.

The subcommittee discussed possibilities for future printed versions of the map to include bicycle laws on it, and to create a google map or phone app. Funding and resources would need to be identified to do these.

## **2. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Discussion**

Ms. Dang presented the planned schedule and summarized activities to date (Attachment A). The May 19 Workshop Summary and comments received are available at, <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-plan>. Subcommittee members reflected that comments received included comments from drivers and there was a balance of pedestrian comments, there were a lot of comments about education and enforcement needs, and there were a lot of comments about Mason Street.

Ms. Dang introduced the idea of creating stakeholder focus groups to deeper input from community members. Originally proposed were:

- Business and Economic Vitality
- Safety, Enforcement, Safe Route to School
- Underserved Communities / Equity

After further discussion, the subcommittee members added:

- Housing Providers: Apt Complex & Property Owners
- Institutions: Higher Ed & Retirement Communities

A subcommittee member expressed that now that we are having focus groups they are less concerned about not having additional wiki mapping. Targeted meetings will be more useful.

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

Ms. Dang reviewed the projects in Attachment B.

Mr. Hartman presented the Martin Luther King Jr Way Road Improvement Project. The scope of services is being finalized. The City is administering the project to add a right turn lane on South Main Street to MLK Jr Way, and administering the additional lane to be added on MLK Jr. Way. JMU is administering the project to add a dual left turn lane on Grace Street onto MLK Jr. Way.

Mr. Jenkins expressed concern that these projects have not addressed infrastructure needs to get bicyclists and pedestrians safety from Memorial Hall to Main Campus via Grace Street. Many people use Grace Street to get east to west, including residents of the Sunset Heights Neighborhood behind Memorial Hall.

## **4. Open Discussion**

Mr. Jenkins gave an updated on the Smithland Road Bridge Project. He stated that he met with Jim Baker, Tom Hartman, and Thanh Dang. Mr. Jenkins also met with Ron Taber, VDOT Engineer. The new bridge will be built in two phases. The first phase was going to include 1 sidewalk without any bike accommodations. Now the project will provide 5-ft bike lanes, which VDOT will add through a change of work order. Mr. Jenkins said he spoke with city and VDOT representatives about better communication in the future.

Subcommittee members asked if there were plans to add pedestrian signals at the intersection of Liberty Street and Bruce Street. With the opening of the Ice House, there are an increasing number of pedestrians crossing at the corner. Mr. Reed said that pedestrian signals are recommended, but there is great difficulty at this location. The traffic lights are currently on span wires, and there are not adequate poles to mount pedestrian signals on.

Ms. Dang shared that the sidewalk along Liberty Street in front of the Ice House has been widened. A project completed in partnership between the developer and the City. New benches, trash cans, and a bike rack will be installed.

Mr. Hartman shared that street print (aka Traffic Print XD) intersections will be installed along South Main Street between Bruce Street to One Court Square this summer.

Dr. Barrella shared that JMU is beginning to address skateboarders and longboarders as a mode of transportation. She encouraged the City and the subcommittee to think about this, and consider including them in the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. A subcommittee asked what specifically can we do to help them? Dr. Barrella stated that grade information on maps similar to the Bike Comfort Map can help skateboarders and longboarders. Additionally, Harrisonburg Police and JMU Police need to be consistent with their enforcement.

#### *Announcements*

5. **Central Shenandoah Valley Bicycling Survey – Take Survey at,**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/shenvalleybiking> **(Please share with others)– Thanh Dang**
6. **Save The Date! Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit, November 13, 2015,**  
<http://svbcoalition.org/bike-walk-summit>

*Next Meeting: Monday July 27, 2015 at 6pm– Location TBD*

#### *Adjourn*

**ATTACHMENT A: Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update**

# Proposed BP Plan Schedule

- June 17 – Public Comments due
- June 22 – At subcommittee meeting, review comments
- July 27 – At subcommittee meeting, introduce weighted scales for prioritization
- August – One kick off meeting with City Department representatives; schedule one-on-one meetings through August as appropriate
- August-September –Focus Group meetings
- September 28 – At subcommittee meeting, discuss and recommend weighted scales for prioritization
- November 16 – At subcommittee meeting, discussion of drafted compiled comments and maps, prioritization by weighted scales
- January 25 – At subcommittee meeting, present draft Plan
- January 25 – March 1 – Public Comment Period Open
- Mid-February – Host Public Open House

# Schedule (con't)

- March 28 – At subcommittee meeting, review changes and discussions, and make recommendation
- April 12 – Submit Draft Plan to Planning Commission, and Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission
- May 11 – Present to Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission
- May 11 – Present to Planning Commission and Public Hearing
- June 14 – Present to City Council and Public Hearing
- June 28 – City Council Second Reading

# Summary of Comments

- Over 30 attendees at Workshop
- Total written comments received: 59
  - Public meeting: 2
  - Email: 5
  - Be Heard Harrisonburg: 52
- HRMPO Wiki Mapping – 361 unique entries for Harrisonburg and Rockingham Co

# Project Stakeholders

## Project Sponsors:

- Harrisonburg Department of Public Works
- Harrisonburg Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee
- Harrisonburg Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission
- Harrisonburg Planning Commission

## City Departments:

- Planning & Community Development
- Parks & Recreation
  - Parks & Rec Commission
- Public Transportation
- Police
- Economic Development

## Community Outreach:

- Harrisonburg City Public Schools
- James Madison University
- Eastern Mennonite University
- Blue Ridge Community College
- Shenandoah Valley Partnership
- Chamber of Commerce
- Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition
- Sentara RMH Community Health
- Valley Associates for Independent Living
- Harrisonburg Redevelopment & Housing Authority
- Our Community Place
- New Community Project
- Neighborhood Associations
  - Northeast Neighborhood
  - Sunset Heights Neighborhood
  - Friends of Old Town



# Proposed Focus Groups

- Business and Economic Vitality
- Safety, Enforcement, Safe Routes to School
- Underserved Communities/ Equity

Discussions will include all transportation modes for future transportation network planning

Meetings in Aug-Sept

Subcommittee participation

# Project Prioritization Introduction

- ActiveTrans Priority Tool -

[http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/planning/tools\\_apr.cfm](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/planning/tools_apr.cfm)



## PLANNING & DESIGN

### Planning & Data Collection Tools

Crash Data

Counts

Surveys

Inventories

Audits

Secondary Data Sources

### Performance & Analysis

Level & Quality of Service

Intersection Safety Indices

PBCAT

### Sample Policies &

## ActiveTrans Priority Tool

The "ActiveTrans Priority Tool (APT)" is a step-by-step methodology for prioritizing improvements to pedestrian and bicycle facilities, either separately or together as part of a "complete streets" evaluation approach. The methodology is flexible, allowing the user to assign goals and values that reflect those of the agency and the community. It is also transparent, breaking down the process into a series of discrete steps that can be easily documented and communicated to the public.

While users are encouraged to read through the entire [Guidebook](#) before implementing the methodology, individual sections are provided below to allow information to be accessed more easily:

### ActiveTrans Priority Tool Overview

This [section](#) provides an overview of how the ActiveTrans Priority Tool may be used, key terms, and a brief description of the two phases of the methodology.

# Charlottesville Example

Factor	Factor Weight
Equity	8
Existing roadway conditions	4
Implementation Effort	4
Network connectivity	10
Public support	8
Safety and demonstrated need	10

\*Harrisonburg to develop its own Factor Weights

# Example Continued

Factor	Factor Weight	Variable	Score & Scaling
Equity	8	Population density	Projects in areas with higher population density receive higher scores; scaled proportionately
		Level of Poverty	Projects in areas with higher levels of poverty receive higher scores; scaled proportionately

Factor	Factor Weight	Variable	Score & Scaling
Implementation Effort	4	Planning level cost estimate	Less expensive projects receive higher scores; scaled by quantile to reduce impact of outliers
		Major action needed	For each project, the major action is considered the implementation action that will be the most impactful to traffic and nearby residents. Projects with less impactful major actions receive higher scores; scaled proportionately

## ATTACHMENT B: Updates on projects under design

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

### PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR SOON TO START CONSTRUCTION

- **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: Construction underway.
- **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: Construction underway and will be completed 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: Construction 5-ft path and associated fencing complete. Will work with landowners on landscaping for Fall 2015 planting.
- **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: Bidding delayed.
- **West Mosby Road Sidewalk Project** – Construct new sidewalks on south side of West Mosby Road from Main Street to eastern Millwood Loop entrance. Bus shelter will be installed next to Sharp Shopper. This project is funded by Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
  - UPDATE: Right of way is underway. Construction may start as early as Summer 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.
- **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.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Way Road Improvement Project** – VHB, Inc. and Valley Engineering will be assisting the City with engineering design for widening along portions of MLK, Jr. Way, S. Main St, and E. Grace Street. Construction anticipated to begin late-Summer 2016.
  - UPDATE: Scope of services being finalized.
- **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 anticipated in May 2015/ 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.  
<http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/northend-greenway>
  - UPDATE: The City has awarded Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) to assist with engineering services for the Northend Greenway Phase 1. Project construction anticipated to begin in 2016.
- **Pleasant Valley Road Bridge Replacement** – Bridge replacement project on Pleasant Valley Road over Blacks Run near MTC and Fire Station #4. Bridge will be built to include width for 2-travel lanes, plus center turn lane, bike lanes, and sidewalks on both sides, in anticipation of long-term future road improvements for Pleasant Valley Road. Bridge replacement anticipated to take place in 2016.
  - UPDATE: Engineering design underway.