



Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee
Of The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission
City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

TO: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Members

FROM: Thanh Dang, Transportation & Environmental Planning Manager

DATE: December 28, 2015

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Agenda for Monday November 16, 2015

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday November 16, 2015 at 6:00pm in at Harrisonburg City Council Chambers, 409 South Main Street, Harrisonburg. Meetings are open to the public.

Welcome

Subcommittee members: Elise Barrella, Alleyn Harned, Eric Saner, Carl Droms, and John McGehee

Guests: Thanh Dang, Tom Hartman, Lee Eshelman, Jefferson Heatwole, plus 11 other members of the public.

1. Public comments.

No public comments.

Business

2. Update on Pedestrian-Cyclist Collision

Ms. Dang provided a brief recap from the last Subcommittee meeting (see September 2015 meeting summary for background). Cpl. Wayne Westfall was going to talk with Harrisonburg Police Command Staff about the incident and to provide an update at this meeting. Cpl. Westfall was not in attendance. Ms. Dang will follow up with Cpl. Westfall and report back to the Subcommittee.

Dr. Barrella discussed this incident with the JMU Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. Mr. Eshelman had also discussed this incident with JMU Police Chief Lee Shifflett.

Subcommittee members felt that regardless of specific details or whether the bicyclist or pedestrian was at fault in this case, it is problematic that a report was not initially written and provided. Subcommittee members felt that if a driver and motor vehicle were involved in an accident, then a citation and/or report would have been created. Additionally, whether JMU PD or Harrisonburg PD responded to the event should not matter. It is important that officers from both organizations know how to appropriately respond on and off campus.

Subcommittee members would like to see police officers educated specifically on bicyclists, pedestrian, and motorist' laws and best practices, and would like to have discussions with JMU and Harrisonburg PD. It was suggested that there could be other collisions occurring on campus and in the City that may not be reported by citizens or documented by police.

The Subcommittee will write a letter to JMU Police Chief Shifflett and Harrisonburg Police Chief Monticelli.

3. Update on Revenue Sharing Grants

Mr. Hartman presented updates on 5 projects the City submitted VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant applications for. Revenue Sharing grants require a 1:1 match. Grant funds can be used for engineering, right-of-way, and construction costs. The City has been successful over the last 5 years with Revenue Sharing grants. Mr. Hartman presented an update to City Council at the October 27, 2015 meeting. Images shared with the subcommittee are provided in Attachment A.

When Revenue Sharing applications are submitted, the City must prioritize the projects submitted. The projects have been prioritized in the following order (highest priority listed first)

1. Reservoir Street Reconstruction Project
2. South Main & MLK Jr. Way Improvements
3. Garbers Church Road Shared Use Paths
4. Grace Street Extension on JMU Campus
5. Supplement to Annual Paving Program

The Commonwealth selects projects for funding based on the following priorities (highest priority listed first): project was funded in the past by Revenue Sharing, project is listed in VTRANS, maintenance.

- a. Reservoir Street Reconstruction Project

The City tried to bid construction for the Reservoir Street project in April 2015, but the single bid received came in 60% over the engineers estimate. The City rejected the bid. Over the last few months, the City has reviewed the plans and completed value engineering. An additional \$2 million is needed to fund the project. The City plans to bid this project again in winter 2015/2016, to start construction in Spring 2016 and complete the project at the end of 2017.

The project will include bike lanes from south city limits to Neff Avenue. Bike lanes could not be included between Neff Avenue to University Boulevard because there was not enough room between existing development. Sidewalks will be constructed between south city limits and University Boulevard.

b. South Main & MLK Jr. Way Improvements

This project is being done in association with James Madison University's new parking deck and the hotel-conference center. The project includes new left turn lanes to be constructed on MLK Jr. Way and a right turn lane on northbound South Main St. A shared use path will be added on the south side of MLK Jr. Way and on Mason St (to be constructed with the parking deck project).

The subcommittee asked if refuge islands planned at MLK Jr. Way and Main St. Mr. Hartman answered no, but that adequate timing will be provided for pedestrians to cross.

c. Grace Street Extension on JMU Campus

Grace Street will be extended from Mason Street, travel behind Taylor Hall and will connect into Bluestone Drive near Mr. Chips. Bluestone Drive from the west will "T" into this new configuration. James Madison University is funding engineering, and the City and JMU are requesting VDOT Revenue Sharing to help fund construction.

Planned is 28-ft wide roadway, with two 10-ft wide shared use paths (one on each side of the new street) with a 5-ft buffer. The subcommittee discussed concerns about this area, and other areas of campus, getting crowded and how pedestrians and bicyclists can share the space safely. It is assumed that experienced bicyclists are likely to prefer biking on the road, whereas novice bicyclists (including families with children) will prefer being on shared use paths. Dr. Barrella mentioned that a similar discussion about crowded areas and etiquette came up at the JMU Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting.

It is anticipated that this new street will be gated. This new street will provide transit buses a direct route between two sides of campus. The earliest construction would start is 2017.

d. Supplement to Annual Paving Program

When the economy downturn occurred, the City's paving program fell behind. The City has been applying for Revenue Sharing funds to help supplement City General Funds for paving, but has not caught up with needed paving/ maintenance. Unfortunately, state Revenue Sharing funds available are decreasing.

The subcommittee asked how remarking of streets for bike lanes are considered with the paving schedule. Mr. Hartman explained that each year, city inspectors inspect city streets and paving conditions. In the winter, the inspector shares the proposed paving schedule with Public Works Transportation Planning Division staff. Staff then considers whether a street can be restriped differently to accommodate bike lanes. Generally, in January or March, Ms. Dang will present a list of planned paving and proposed restriping plans at the subcommittee meeting.

e. Garbers Church Road Shared Use Paths

The numbers shown on the maps does not indicate priority, but are used to identify segments for discussion. The School Board is responsible for constructing the shared use path in front of the school along Garbers Church Road.

4. Request from City Council to review Garbers Church Road Shared Use Paths

At the October 13 meeting, City Council asked the subcommittee to review the proposed shared use path connectors and provided feedback. Ms. Dang suggested the subcommittee have a general discussion now until we know the results of the Revenue Sharing Grant application. If the City is not awarded the needed amounts for constructing all segments shown, then staff will return to the subcommittee to request prioritization of segments. At that time, staff would also provide the subcommittee with cost estimates for each segment.

The following was discussed:

- The subcommittee asked if students can walk or bike through the golf course. Staff responded no because it would not be safe to do so.
- Segment #1 goes nowhere, and there was discussion that this segment would connect to Erickson Avenue which will have bike lanes and sidewalks in the future.
- Segment #2 would serve more people quickly because it creates a route that does not currently exist.
- Segment #3 would improve access where there is documented use, and could strengthen access.

5. Update on Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan: Focus Group Meetings & Schedule

- a. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-plan>

There was a group discussion about the 5 stakeholder focus group meetings. In reviewing the meeting summaries, it was noted by subcommittee members that public transit services were a huge topic of conversation throughout all focus group meetings. It is the preferred alternative to single occupancy vehicles. The subcommittee discussed that the motivation for using public transit was different for each group.

Public education, safety, and enforcement came up in all groups, along with needed infrastructure.

Ms. Dang reviewed the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan update schedule with the subcommittee. See Attachment B.

Ms. Dang introduced Jefferson Heatwole, Planning Commissioner, appointed as the liaison to the subcommittee for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan update. Mr. Heatwole expressed that the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan is important because it is one of many sources that gives Planning Commission and City Council reason to include projects in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He also noted that Comprehensive Plan review meetings are anticipated to begin in 2016.

6. Recap of Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit – November 13, 2015

- a. <http://www.svbcoalition.org/bike-walk-summit>

Over 80 people attended the Bike-Walk Summit. Mr. Eshelman expressed that this was the best summit yet. Ms. Dang encouraged everyone to go to the website to view the 3 videos produced for the submit about the Bluestone Trail, Safe Routes to School, and Turner Ashby HS's Farmers Dream Trail.

7. Updates on projects under design/construction (Attachment C)

See attached.

8. Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Applicants

Ms. Dang presented that there is one position to be filled for the term running January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018. Applications were due November 9 and five applications have been received and were sent to the Subcommittee prior to this meeting. Applicants were encouraged to attend this subcommittee meeting to introduce themselves, and share their background and interests. Applicant Kyle Lawrence introduced himself.

9. Open Discussion

None.

Announcements

Next Meeting: Monday, January 25, 2016 at 6pm – Location: City Council Chambers, 409 South Main St

Adjourn

VDOT Revenue Sharing Grant Applications for FY2016-2017



Revenue Sharing Grant

- Resolution includes:
 - Reservoir Street Reconstruction Project
 - South Main / MLK Jr. Way Improvements
 - Supplement to Annual Paving Program
 - Grace Street Extension on JMU Campus
 - Garbers Church Road Shared Use Paths

Revenue Sharing Grant

- Reservoir Street Reconstruction Project
 - Resolution Requests \$2,000,000
 - \$1,000,000 in Grant Funds
 - \$1,000,000 in Local Match



Revenue Sharing Grant

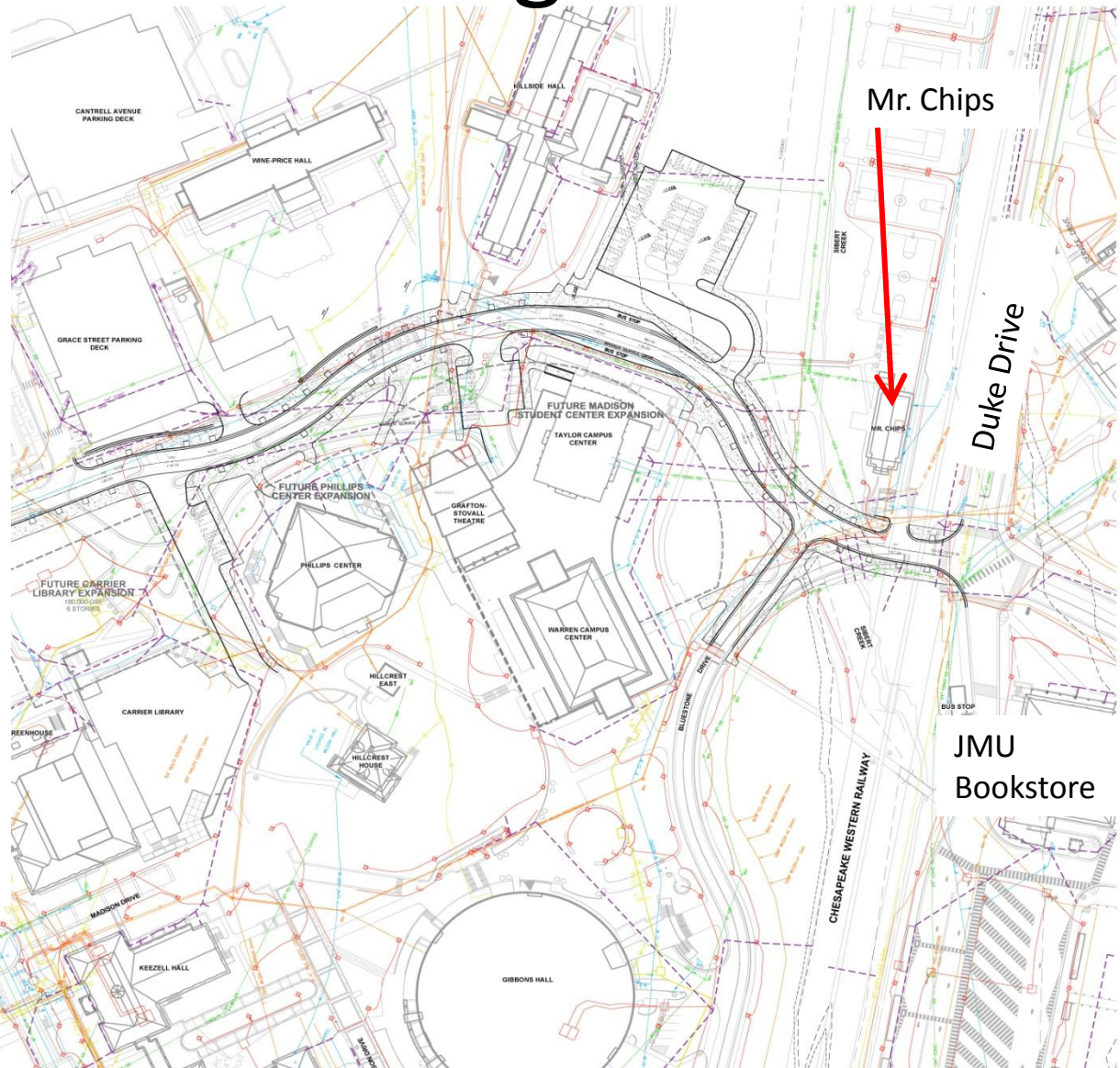
- South Main / MLK Jr. Way Improvements
 - Resolution Request \$2,700,000
 - \$1,350,000 in Grant Funds
 - \$1,350,000 in Local Match



Revenue Sharing Grant

- Grace Street Extension on JMU's Campus

- Engineer's Estimate
\$2,500,000
- Resolution Request
\$2,500,000
 - \$1,250,000 in Grant Funds
 - \$1,250,000 in Local Match from JMU



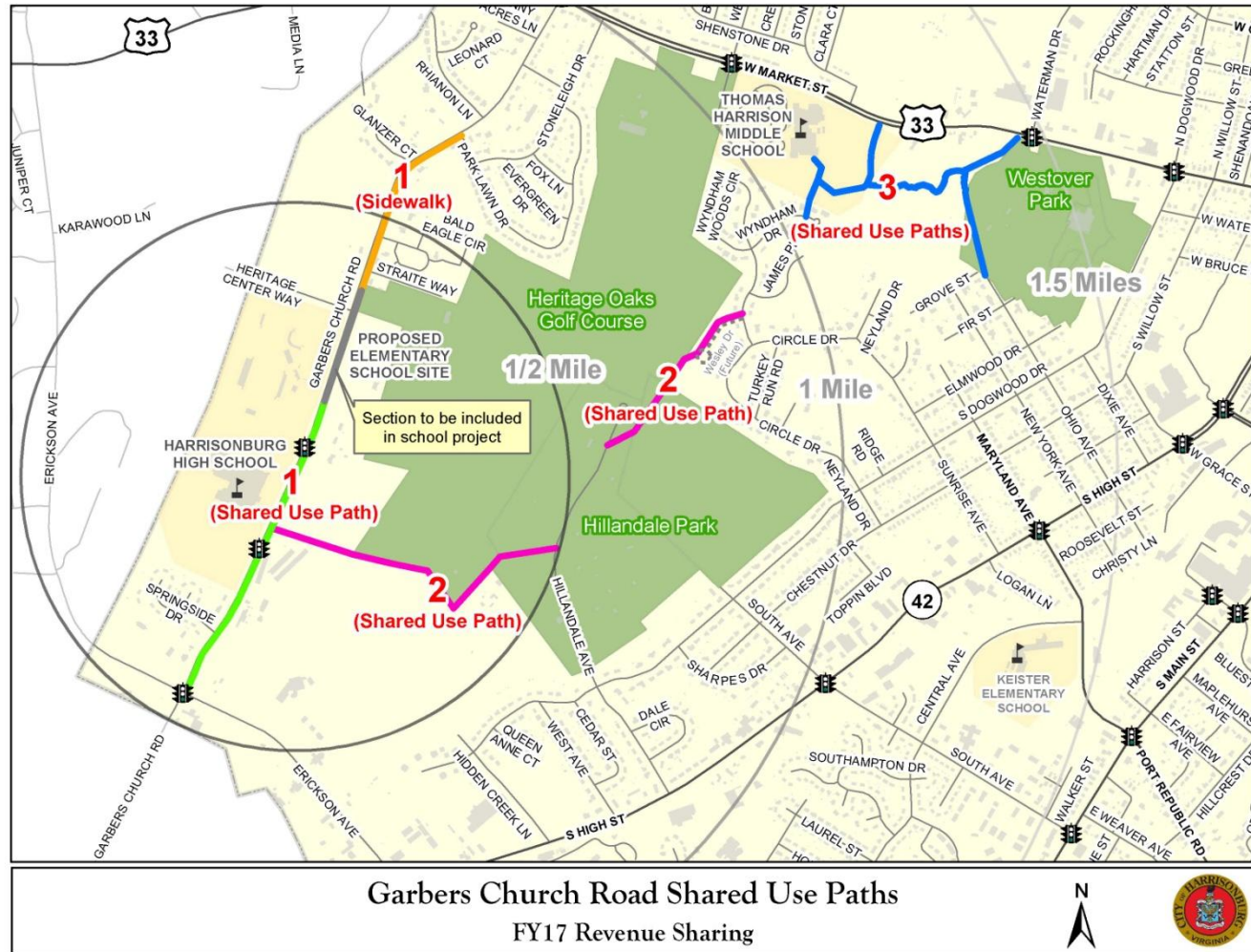
Revenue Sharing Grant

- Supplement to Annual Paving Program
 - Received \$2,178,571 in Grant Funds in FY13, FY14, & FY15
 - Request \$1,900,000
 - \$950,000 in Grant Funds
 - \$950,000 in Local Funds
 - NOTE: This is a supplement to our Maintenance Dollars and is not meant in anyway to Replace those dollars.

Revenue Sharing Grant

- Garbers Church Road Shared Use Paths

- Engineer's Estimate for Design, Right of Way, & Construction \$3,000,000
- Resolution Request \$3,000,000
 - \$1,500,000 in Grant Funds
 - \$1,500,000 in Local Match



Summary

- Total Grant Funding Requested \$64,433,194
 - House Bill 2 Grant Funds - \$58,193,214
 - FY17 Revenue Sharing Grant Funds - \$6,050,000
 - FY17 TAP Grant Funds - \$189,980
- Required Local Match \$6,087,996

Update on Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan



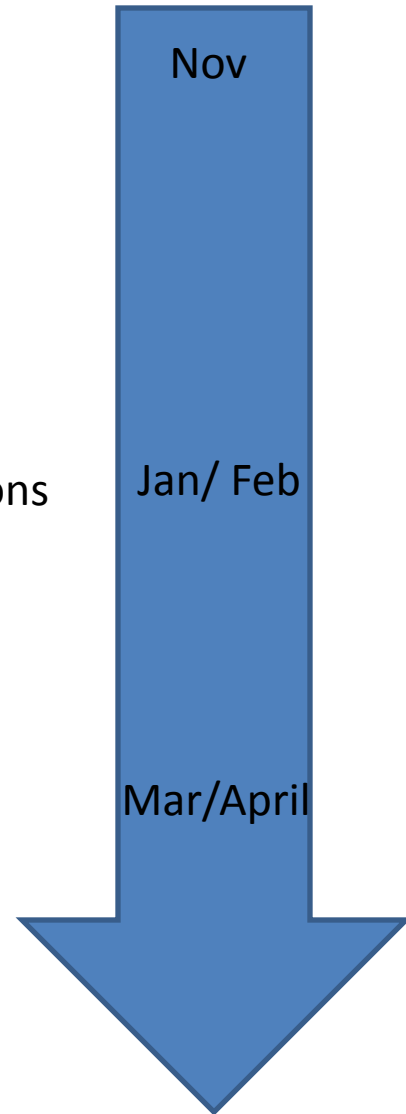
Focus Groups

- Safe Routes to School, Youth & Families – October 6
- Transportation-Disadvantaged, Traditionally-Underrepresented – October 13
- Institutions: Higher Ed & Retirement Communities – October 16
- Business & Economic Vitality –October 20,
- Housing Providers: Real Estate Development & Property Management – October 21

Schedule

*Subcommittee may be asked to meet on “off” months

- Nov 16 – Subcommittee Meeting
- Staff continues
 - Compile project/ program recommendations received
 - Learn ActiveTrans Priority Tool and reviews data availability
 - Refine Plan Outline & begins writing parts of Plan narrative
- Subcommittee Meeting
 - Review projects/ programs recommendations
 - Discusses ActiveTrans Priority Tool & makes initial recommendations
 - Revisit Plan Outline
- Staff
 - Applies ActiveTrans Priority Tool to project recommendations
 - Write parts of Plan Narrative
- Subcommittee Meeting – Reviews
- Staff
 - Refines ActiveTrans Priority Tool/ project recommendations
 - Write parts of Plan Narrative



- Subcommittee Meeting
 - Reviews draft plan prior to Open House/ Public Comment
- Host Open House/ Public Comment Period
- Staff compiles information
- Subcommittee Meeting
 - Reviews comments received
 - Provides recommendations for plan
- Subcommittee Meeting to Recommend Plan for Adoption
- Planning Commission, TSAC, City Council



Summer
2016

TBD

ATTACHMENT C: 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 nearly completed
- **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 complete! Fencing underway.

PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN/ PLANNING

- **Bluestone Trail – Sonner Hall to Carrier Drive** – Shared use path project by City and JMU. Construction anticipated in 2016. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bluestone-trail-project>
 - UPDATE: Design engineering underway.
- **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.
- **Downtown Streetscape Phase III** – Reconstruct sidewalks on both sides of N Main Street between Elizabeth Street to Wolfe Street and install traffic signals and pedestrian signals, and crosswalks at both intersections. Awarded VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funds. Anticipated construction to begin Spring 2016.
 - UPDATE: Environmental review and engineering design underway.
- **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. www.harrisonburgva.gov/martin-luther-king-way-improvements
 - UPDATE: Design is underway. VDOT Revenue Sharing grant submitted in October 2015.

- **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, but is not yet fully funded. Anticipated construction to begin in 2018. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/mount-clinton-pike>
 - UPDATE: Design is currently underway and project is being coordinated with Eastern Mennonite University and adjacent property owners.
- **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: Right of way phase and negotiations with property owners underway. Anticipated construction to begin in late 2016/ 2017.
- **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. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/pleasant-valley-road>
 - UPDATE: Engineering design underway. Public Hearing meeting held on October 15, 2015.
- **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.harrisonburgva.gov/reservoir-street>
 - UPDATE: To be advertised for construction bids in January 2016. VDOT Revenue Sharing grant submitted in October 2015.
- **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 phase is underway. Construction to start in Spring 2016.