



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: May 25, 2016

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting Summary for Monday May 23, 2016

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday May 23, 2016 at 6:00pm in City Council Chambers, 409 South Main St. Meetings are open to the public.

Welcome

Subcommittee members: Alleyn Harned, Eric Saner, Stefanie Warlick

Guests: Thanh Dang, Tom Hartman, Wayne Westfall, Kyle Lawrence, Thomas Jenkins

Business

Ms. Dang announced that she has accepted a position with the City of Harrisonburg Department of Planning & Community Development as City Planner. Her last day at Public Works will be Friday, June 3.

1. Discuss Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Hartman stated that there's a commitment from Public Works to complete the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan update. Consultant assistance will be procured to assist in completing the plan. Mr. Hartman will be in touch with details within the next month. Ms. Dang will also stay involved in an advisory capacity.

Ms. Dang shared that Public Works has hired two summer interns to assist the department and the interns are currently working on collecting data and populating the Active Trans Priority Tool for each bicycle and pedestrian project currently listed for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan.

The project lists excel spreadsheets was shared with Subcommittee members prior to the meeting. Ms. Dang asked if Subcommittee members had any questions or suggestions, particularly on the projects

that have been removed from the list. Ms. Dang provided examples that some segments had citizens recommending for both bike lanes and shared use paths and staff selected either bike lanes or shared use paths as the recommendation to move forward with; bike lanes requested on neighborhood streets were removed since streets are low volume and low speed; etc. Ms. Warlick asked if additional rationale could be documented in the spreadsheet for several projects. Ms. Dang will make these additions.

The following schedule was shared:

- Mid-May through June 30 2016
 - “Summer Interns” enter projects and data into Active Trans Priority Tool
 - Staff/ Consultants writes draft plan
- Send draft plan to Subcommittee early July
- Subcommittee & City Departments reviews draft plan –
 - July Subcommittee meeting
 - Departments meeting, if necessary
- Update PC, TSAC, and City Council – August?
- Open House/ Public Meeting – August/September?
- Public Comment Period – August/ September?
- Staff compiles public comments – October?
- Subcommittee reviews comments received & provides recommendations – October/ November?
- Staff updates draft plan – November/ December?
- Subcommittee makes recommendation for adoption – before mid-January?
- Planning Commission & TSAC – February 2017?
- City Council – March 2017?

The group discussed protected bike lanes and having the concept included into the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. There was also discussion about the potential loss of VDOT maintenance funding if travel lanes were converted to bike lanes. This is due to VDOT maintenance funding being calculated on a lane mile basis, and not including bike lanes.

2. Updates on projects under design/construction (Attachment A)

Mr. Hartman reviewed the City projects listed in Attachment A. In addition to the notes in Attachment A, the following were also discussed:

- South Main St & Grace St Improvements – the pedestrian scramble (pedestrian walk on all red) will remain due to high volume of pedestrians
- Cale Trail – Ms. Dang will stay active on this project. Ideally, city staff recommends that the Cale Trail be hard surfaced. However, whether it will initially be gravel or hard surfaced will depend upon how far grant, city funds, and other contributions can stretch between the Cale Trail project, and the Harrisonburg HS / Garbers Church Road connector projects.
- Garbers Church Road Shared Use Paths – it was asked why the city cannot start engineering or right of way phase now. The grant and local match will cover the cost of engineering; therefore, engineering work cannot begin until the grant is awarded and the agreement is signed. Right of

way cannot begin until surveying and some design is completed, so that the city can ask/negotiate for the appropriate of right of way and easements needed for the project.

Mr. Hartman also provided updates on:

- The Smithland Road bridge, a project by VDOT, was also discussed. Funding for this project has been pushed to 2021 and VDOT is evaluating the scope of the project.
- Exit 245 – A grant application for House Bill 2 funds was submitted for the realignment of the northbound I-81 ramp, to realign the ramp with Forest Hills Road. This is a joint City and VDOT project. Awaiting funding announcement.

3. Open Discussion

Mr. Harned shared that National Bike to Work Day on Friday May 20 was a success. Free breakfast was available on Court Square. 70 people participated and there were 10 volunteers. There was media coverage.

Announcements

Adjourn

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

ATTACHMENT A: 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

- **South Main St & Grace Street Improvements** – JMU led project to improve the intersection of South Main St & Grace Street with a new decorative traffic signal, APS push buttons, and updated street print crosswalks. Project also includes improvements on Grace Street between Main St to Mason St.
 - UPDATE: Project has been awarded to Partners Excavating. Construction starts Summer 2016 and will be completed August 19, 2016.
- **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: Construction underway.
- **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: Project has been awarded to Partners Excavating. Construction starts June 6, 2016 and will be done in August.

PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN/ PLANNING

- **Bluestone Trail – Sonner Hall to Carrier Drive** – Shared use path project by City and JMU, funded by JMU and VDOT Revenue Sharing. Construction in 2016.
<http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bluestone-trail-project>
 - UPDATE: Project was bid, but no bidders. JMU and City will re-bid the project in late 2016. Construction anticipated to begin in early-2017.
- **Bluestone Trail/ Grace Street Extension** – The City and JMU are partnering on this project to construct a 24-ft roadway and shared use path on both sides from the intersection of Mason & Grace Street, behind Carrier Library and Taylor Hall, to the area at Mr. Chips and the intersection of Duke Drive & Bluestone Drive. JMU is funding the design and providing cash match for project.
 - UPDATE: Project was not fully funded by VDOT Revenue Sharing grant. City and JMU will reapply for additional grant funds.
- **Cale Trail – Westover Park, West Market Street, & Thomas Harrison Middle School** – Shared use paths 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: City hired Rich Edwards, trail specialist to develop/ review the alignment for a new trail connecting Westover Park, Thomas Harrison MS, West Market Street, and Neyland Drive. Rich is scheduled to complete his work May 31, 2016. City applied for

VDOT Revenue Sharing funds; this project was included with the Garbers Church Road Shared Use Path request.

- **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: City and property owners are unable to come to an agreement for property necessary for sidewalk construction. No construction schedule available at this time. Project is indefinitely on hold.

- **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: City will re-bid this project in late-2016/early-2017. Construction start anticipated in Spring 2017.

- **Federal Street Improvements** – Construct new shared use path on Federal Street between Elizabeth St to Market Street, and convert Federal Street to one way for vehicular traffic.
 - UPDATE: City is in discussions with local developer to partner on this project.

- **Garbers Church Road Shared Use Paths** – Proposed shared use paths along portions of Garbers Church Road, between Garbers Church Road to Hillandale Park, and for the “Cale Trail” network of paths.
 - UPDATE: Awaiting notification from VDOT for Revenue Sharing grant.

- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Way Road Improvement Project** – VHB, Inc. and Valley Engineering are assisting the City with engineering design for widening along portions of MLK, Jr. Way, and S. Main St. Will include shared use path on the south side of MLK, Jr. Way and new traffic signal upgrades with APS at the intersections of Grace St & S Main St and Mason St & MLK Jr. Way. Right of way and engineering is funded by the City. www.harrisonburgva.gov/martin-luther-king-way-improvements
 - UPDATE: Engineering design continues and is at 60% plans. City applied for House Bill 2 funds, awaiting notification. Utility relocations anticipated to start this July 2016.

- **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: On hold.

- **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. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/northend-greenway>

- UPDATE: Right of way phase and negotiations with property owners underway. The City and property owner are exploring the possibility of incorporating stream restoration with the project. Schedule unknown.

- **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, 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. Funded by city and VDOT Revenue Sharing. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/pleasant-valley-road>
 - UPDATE: Engineering and right of way underway. Utility relocations anticipated to start in Summer 2016, and construction to start in early 2017.