



**BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION
CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

TO: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Members

FROM: Erin Yancey, Public Works Planning Manager

DATE: December 5, 2016

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting Summary for Monday November 28, 2016

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday, November 28, 2016 at 6:00pm in City Council Chambers; 409 South Main St. Meetings are open to the public.

Welcome

Subcommittee members: Elise Barrella, Carl Droms, Alleyn Harned, Eric Saner, Stefanie Warlick

Guests: Officer Seth Conley, Tom Hartman, Matt Hassman, Dastan Khaleel, Kyle Lawrence, Ian Pike, Erin Yancey

Business

1. Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan – Public Meeting Debrief; Next Steps

The public meeting was on November 16th at Keister Elementary and approximately 35 people showed up during the two hour period. The public comment period will be open until December 16th. All of the boards, copies of the plan, and feedback cards will be available in the lobby of City Hall.

Dr. Barrella suggested placing advertising in restaurants and bike shops on how people can continue to be involved.

Mrs. Yancey said the next steps will be to review and respond to comments at the end of the public comment period. Mr. Hartman said the plan will then go back to the committees for approval then move to City Council by April 2017.

2. Bike Walk Summit Debrief

The Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit was on November 4 on JMU's campus. Many attendees commented on its success and the terrific guest speaker. Mr. Lawrence noted that this year's summit had the highest overall attendance and the most people to stay after lunch.

Mrs. Yancey expressed some personal takeaways from the summit, including increased outreach and presentations to reach more communities in the city. Mrs. Warlick noted the call to think differently about how civic organizations interact with the public.

Several people asked about whether specific neighborhood organizations exist in order to tailor public interactions moving forward. Mrs. Yancey said that Thanh Dang in Community Development is developing a list to be a part of the comprehensive plan update for the next few years.

3. Upcoming Citizen Information Meeting – Garbers Church Road Shared Use Path (Connect Our Schools)

This meeting will be held on January 11th at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center from 5pm-7pm. The project is multi-faceted:

- Install a shared-use path and sidewalk along Garbers Church Rd from Erickson on the east side up to the new elementary school and then further up to the middle school
- Construct a shared-use path from the high school through land around Heritage Oaks Golf Course over to Hillandale Park
- Connect with the proposed Cale Trail that will connect to the middle school and Westover Park

There is currently \$3 million dollars set aside for this project, the largest investment in biking and pedestrian infrastructure to date in the city. The city is partnering with consulting firm VHB, which helped with planning the Bluestone Trail and the MLK Jr Way/Mason St reconstruction project. Currently, there is no set path yet for all the connections. Mr. Hartman explained that coming to the information meeting will be the best way to help play a role in deciding where the path will be built.

4. New Subcommittee Member Applications/Recommendations

Two positions were open for the committee and there were two applicants. Dr. Barrella reapplied for her seat.

As a new applicant, Mr. Khaleel explained his background and interest in joining the committee. He arrived in the US two years ago from Iraq where he worked as a civil engineer. He has a masters in transportation from Malaysia where he noted the effective public transit system but difficulties in biking and walking. He currently works for Valley Engineering.

The two applicants stepped out while the other committee members discussed the applicants. Their recommendations were recorded to be shared with the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission, who is responsible for appointing members.

5. 2017 Meeting Schedule

Meetings will continue to occur at the same time and same place – the fourth Monday of odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, November) at 6pm in City Council Chambers.

6. Bike Parking Discussion

Mrs. Yancey mentioned that Mr. Saner had brought up bike parking during the planning process for the Bike/Ped Plan update. The current city policy is that any new development is required to provide bike parking as prescribed in the city's Design and Construction Standards Manual. Community Development is working on new specifications and standards to add to the DCSM.

Mr. Saner said the biggest point of contention is that bike parking requirements are tied to vehicle parking requirements, so if a new development doesn't require any new parking, they're not required to add any bike parking. Mrs. Yancey suggested determining the current level of bike parking in the city, possibly partnering with JMU, to determine where the gaps are.

Mrs. Yancey noted that another issue is when developers and businesses put in bike parking when not required to be reviewed by the city, leading to non-standard and sometimes ineffective bike parking. The DCSM could include language similar to vehicle parking, that it still must meet city standards even when not required.

Mr. Saner asked if it would be possible to provide incentives or benefits to businesses dedicated to being bike-friendly by giving discounts on bike parking that would meet the city's standards. Mr. Hartman said the city would have to look into how to facilitate such an incentive. There are also right-of-way limitations, especially in the downtown area, for businesses to easily add bike parking.

Other Business

Comprehensive Plan Update

Dr. Barrella asked about the update to the city's comprehensive plan, specifically the transportation piece. Mr. Hartman replied that Public Works will be starting in early December and that public transit will be included in the transportation piece. The Public Transportation department is updating their internal long range plan, which will be incorporated in the comprehensive plan update. Dr. Barrella suggested this would be a good time to introduce "complete streets" language.

North End Greenway Update

Dr. Barrella asked for an update on the North End Greenway. Mr. Hartman replied that Public Works was waiting on a response from the property owner.

Cale Trail Update

Mr. Droms asked for an update on the Cale Trail. Mr. Hartman replied that Public Works is waiting on a preliminary plan. It is being packaged with the plan for the Garber's Church shared-use path project.

Ice and Snow on Sidewalks

Mrs. Warlick asked what the policy for removing snow and ice on sidewalks and how that information is disseminated throughout the city. Mr. Hartman replied that information is released as a storm approaches, typically through press releases. Mr. Harned expressed concern about intersections where

vehicles and snow plows push snow onto the sidewalks. Mr. Hartman said that those are cleared overnight. Dr. Barrella asked if JMU's off-campus housing network could help in spreading information. Mr. Hartman replied that Harsit Patel at Public Works makes sure all the apartment complexes are notified.

JMU Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Dr. Barrella noted that JMU's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee are looking into amenities to connect trails and paths throughout the city, such as wayfinding signs. This could be a good opportunity for JMU and the city to collaborate on.

Mason St at Market St Sidewalk Ramp

Mr. Saner asked who is responsible for repairing the sidewalk ramp at the southeast corner of Mason St and Market St and when that might be completed. Mr. Hartman replied that it will be the responsibility of the property owner at 20 S Mason St who is currently renovating the space. There is no timeline currently.

HRMPO Long Range Transportation Plan

Mrs. Yancey noted that the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Long Range Transportation Plan public information session will be on December 7 from 4-6pm in the County Administration building.

Last Meeting of 2016

Mrs. Yancey recognized Eric Saner and Elise Barrella whose terms are ending at the end of 2016. The committee thanked them for their service during.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: January 23, 2017 6pm – Location: City Council Chambers, 409 South Main St