



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: June 5, 2017

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Summary for Monday May 22, 2017

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday May 22nd, 2017 at 6:00pm in City Hall, Room 011 (lower level); 409 South Main St. Meetings are open to the public.

Subcommittee members: Elise Barrella, Alleyn Harned, Dastan Khaleel, Stefanie Warlick
Staff: Ian Pike, Erin Yancey
Guests: Eric Saner

Welcome

Business

1. School Zones Study

Ms. Yancey explained that Public Works is beginning an inventory of all signs and pavement markings that are used to mark school zones in the city. This is a result of a recent meeting with other Safe Routes To School stakeholders focused on increasing students that walk and bike to school. Harrisonburg Police Department suggested signing schools according to the Virginia State Code to allow for higher fines related to speeding in a school zone. Public Works will be working with SRTS and HPD to develop more intentional policy related to school zones.

The state code, [Virginia Code 873](#), says that an extra fine can be imposed upon drivers exceeding the speed limit in school zones if there are certain signs placed – either a permanent sign with flashing beacons that come on in the morning when students arrive and in the afternoon when students are leaving, or a portable or tilt-over sign that is placed by a school administrator during the morning and afternoon.

Mr. Harned suggested that the flashing lights would bring more attention to walking students since a lot of streets around various schools do not have sidewalks.

Ms. Yancey noted that effective school zone markings alone would not necessarily lead to increased walking and biking to school, but it's one strategy that would help. For example, Stone Spring Elementary School has the correct signage and lighting to allow for increased fining in the school zone for speeders, but this school is one of the City's least active for walking and biking. Mrs. Yancey noted that there are currently only three crossing guards at schools, city-wide. A Public Works intern is currently creating a map for each school, marking all the different signs and pavement markings.

2. Previous item updates

a. Bike lane vs. on-street parking – N. Main (E. Wolfe St to E. Rock St.)

Public Works will be paving N Main St from Elizabeth St to Noll Dr this summer so it was suggested to remove the three parking stalls just north of Wolfe St and paving a bike lane from Wolfe St to Gay St to connect to the bike lane that starts just north of Gay St. Video of the parking stalls in question is being reviewed to determine the frequency of their use and whether or not it would be a detriment to surrounding businesses to remove them.

Ms. Warlick asked if cyclists were being counted during the video review. Mr. Pike replied that they were not during the first review, but it would not be difficult to review the video again to focus on cyclists.

Dr. Barrella noted that it would be worth looking for similar parking studies for before/after rates of parking and cycling and it would be interested to compare to having nothing marked there as well. Ms. Yancey replied that Public Works will gather more video data after repaving but without repainting the parking stalls.

b. Bicycle parking (ordinance and inventory)

Ms. Yancey shared a note from Thanh Dang, City Planner, about the proposed bike parking ordinance. The schedule to being formally adopted is being delayed slightly in order to work out some zoning issues. It will be taken to Planning Commission in June for feedback, then again in July for a formal vote. If approved by Planning Commission, it will be taken to City Council in August for approval.

Ms. Yancey then updated the group on creating an inventory of bike parking in downtown. It is another task for one of the Public Works intern this summer to gather bike parking data, public and private. This will be the latest inventory done since 2008, though it will only focus on downtown. It is being based on JMU's recent bike parking inventory criteria, but with some changes for city interests.

Ms. Warlick asked if this inventory will be used to correct those that may not meet city standard once the ordinance is adopted. Ms. Yancey replied that it is doubtful that those on private property will be corrected, but that those on public property could be. The main point of the inventory is to determine if there is adequate bike parking downtown. Ms. Yancey also noted that the inventory could be incorporated into the city's bike comfort map since the intern will be gathering GPS data and taking pictures.

c. Bicycle detection at intersections

Carl Droms, a member of the subcommittee, brought up detection issues at two intersections at the last meeting – eastbound Grace St at S High St and southbound Dogwood Dr at W Market St. Mr. Pike said that some minor adjustments have been made and to let Public Works know if there are still continuing issues.

d. Leading ped phases for ped signals on Mason St.

Mr. Pike said that he is looking into further research related to leading pedestrian phases. It would be more likely to implement it at N Mason St and E Elizabeth St due to the signal timing. It would be more difficult to implement it at Mason St and E Market St because it is coordinated with the other downtown signals on Main St and Liberty St.

3. Project Updates

a. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Yancey noted that the plan was formally adopted by City Council in April and thanked the subcommittee for all of their hard work on it. The city is already working to complete several small projects.

b. Safe Routes To School Spotswood ES

Ms. Yancey explained that improvements are planned along Reservoir St including adding rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB), crosswalks, and sidewalk to several neighborhood streets.

Dr. Barrella asked if this would provide an opportunity to add a crosswalk across E Market St from Reservoir St to Sterling St to connect to the new sidewalk on the west side. Ms. Yancey replied that while that is not part of the SRTS project, she would look into that possibility.

c. Garbers Church Road Shared Use Path

Ms. Yancey explained that the city has a consultant under contract to fully design the full path except for the Cale Trail, but there are only enough funds to construct the first phase from Bluestone Elementary to Harrisonburg High School then from Garbers Church Rd into Hillandale Park. After construction of the first phase, the city will reassess how much of the second phase, from Hillandale Park through Wyndham Woods up to Thomas Harrison Middle School, can be constructed with the remaining funds.

Mr. Saner asked if there will need to be another Connect Our Schools campaign to raise money through City Council for the remaining phases to be constructed. Ms. Yancey replied that that is not necessary, at this time, and it will be quite a while until we know how much extra funding will be needed, if any at all. Mr. Saner then asked how the cost estimate was determined as it seems to be much lower than the actual cost. Ms. Yancey is not sure of all the work that went into

determining the cost estimate, but that the city used a rule-of-thumb \$1 million/mile of shared use path, which is what the Bluestone Trail costed.

Ms. Warlick asked if there are any lighting considerations for use of the trail after dark. Ms. Yancey replied that she knows this has come up often in the public discourse about the shared use paths being built in the community, but that Public Works still has no standard policy on it.

d. North End Greenway

The city is working on an interim agreement with Momentum Earthworks to make their proposal a formal contract.

Mr. Harned noted that the North End Greenway Committee remains fired up and committed to seeing this project completed.

Announcements

Grants Obtained

Mr. Pike explained that the city received over \$900,000 in HSIP grants for three different projects - audible pedestrian system signals, signal coordination, and flashing yellow arrow. This money is not available until FY 2020, but the city is pleased to have all three projects selected to be fully funded.

Ms. Yancey also explained that it is still possible for the city to be awarded some SmartScale funding. More information will come after the next Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting.

Dr. Barrella's Last Meeting

Dr. Barrella announced that the July 24th meeting will be her last meeting as she has accepted a new position at Wake Forest University.

The city will advertise to fill this vacancy in July.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: July 24, 2017 6pm – City Hall, Room 011 (lower level), 409 South Main St