



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: October 18, 2017

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Summary for Monday, September 25, 2017

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6:00pm in City Hall, Room 011 (lower level); 409 South Main St. Meetings are open to the public.

Subcommittee members: Carl Droms, Alleyn Harned, Matt Hassman, Stefanie Warlick

Staff: Tom Hartman, Ian Pike, Erin Yancey

Guests: Mary Ann Duda, Marci Frederick, Kyle Lawrence

Welcome

Business

1. Bicycle parking downtown

Over the summer, an intern at Public Works documented all the available bicycle parking in downtown. The intern presented his findings (see attached) to the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee was asked to review the findings and determine whether bike parking seemed to be adequate, or to identify the gaps. The northeast area of downtown was noted by the Subcommittee as lacking enough parking. The Subcommittee suggested that the Elizabeth St parking deck and the transit transfer center at Roses would be appropriate places to install bike racks. Public Works has since decided to install a bike rack on the southwest corner of the Elizabeth St parking deck. This rack will be monitored for usage to determine future need. The Public Transportation department has also been contacted to monitor the need for dedicated bike parking at the transfer station.

The subcommittee encouraged city staff to explore other opportunities to provide bike parking in that area as it is a noted gap in the community.

Ms. Yancey explained that to build off of the summer parking study, it was suggested to study the actual usage of the available bike parking to determine where more might be needed. The study itself will likely be in partnership with a class at JMU. After the study is completed, the city could work with Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance to establish partnerships with businesses located downtown to help provide any identified additional bike parking.

2. Signage research

In-road “Yield To Pedestrian” Signs

The idea to use these signs came out of the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program for Old Town. Before placing any in the streets, city staff wanted to develop some criteria for their usage. There are also still concerns about snow and ice removal with these signs in the road. Students from JMU collected data for developing said criteria in early October. It is still being reviewed by city staff.

“Bicycles May Use Full Lane” Signs

Public Works was contacted by a member of the public that suggested the use of this sign around the City in appropriate places. Ms. Yancey explained that this is a sign that is starting to appear in more localities around the country in place of “sharrows” or “Share the Road” signs. Some research has shown that it is a clearer message for both cyclists and drivers. Mr. Lawrence further explained that the language and design of the sign appear more regulatory than advisory to drivers.

The group seemed to agree that this could be another useful tool to have in the city’s bicycle infrastructure toolbox. The city would like to further evaluate their usage in other localities to determine where and when they would be appropriate.

3. Follow up items

Mr. Pike explained a recent study to determine the usage of “Turning Vehicle Yield to Pedestrian” signs at two requested locations – E Market St and Mason St and N Mason St and E Wolfe St. Based on established criteria, it was determined that the signs should go up on all approaches at E Market St and Mason St, but not at N Mason St and E Wolfe St. Another requested location, S Main St at Bluestone Dr/Warsaw Ave, is still under review.

4. Project Updates (see updates attached to agenda)

Garbers Church Shared Use Path

City staff explained that they were working on the design to make sure it meets the intent of the project. Another public meeting is being planned that will exhibit the plans and allow for final public comments. The next steps are to ask city council to approve the plans then to start acquiring the rights-of-way. City staff are currently working with the more impacted property owners, though no offers can be made yet.

The group asked about more specifics of the project, including the sidewalk connection along Garbers Church Rd to Parklawn Dr, funding to connect from Wyndham Woods Cir/Wyndham Drive to Thomas Harrison Middle School, and the Cale Trail. The sidewalk along Garbers Church Rd is planned to be completed in the spring. In the meantime, flashing beacons and a reduced speed limit during student arrival and departure have been installed. The connection to the middle school will not be possible with current funding as the focus now is getting to Wyndham Drive. There is a determined route for the Cale Trail, but the focus now is on the Garbers Church Rd path.

Park Road Improvements

In partnership with Eastern Mennonite University, flashing beacons have been added to the school signs on Park Rd and Parkwood Dr and digital speed feedback signs have been installed on either end of campus on Park Rd. A speed study was conducted before installation to determine a baseline average speed. Public Works will repeat the speed study after one year, to determine the effectiveness of the digital speed feedback signs.

*Announcements / Other Business***Subcommittee Chair**

Stefanie Warlick was appointed as chair of the subcommittee for the remainder of the year.

Open Positions for 2018

Applications will be open during October for two positions on the subcommittee.

Harrisonburg/Rockingham BikeWalk Summit

This year's summit is on November 3, 2017.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: November 27th, 2017 6pm – City Hall, Room 011 (lower level), 409 South Main St