



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: January 23, 2019

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Summary for Monday, November 26, 2018

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday, November 26, 2018 at 6:00pm in City Hall, Room 011 (lower level); 409 South Main St. Meetings are open to the public.

Attendees:

John Marr, Marci Frederick, Stefanie Warlick, Matt Hassman, Jenny Toth, Dudley Bonsal, Erin Yancey, Dastan Khaleel, Tom Hartman, two JMU students

Welcome

Business

1. Follow up items

- Wolfe Street sidewalk
Following up from a previous meeting where the drop off of the sidewalk into a parkinglot was a concern, Ms. Yancey informed the group that she had looked into the location and agreed that Public Works could try to work with the property owner to implement an improvement. It is a constrained location with narrow sidewalk and right-of-way would need to be obtained from the property owner and a retaining wall constructed, in order to address the problem. Public Works will continue to work on this and will report back to the Subcommittee on progress.
- Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program
Public Works reported that the Portland East Traffic Calming Plan is posted online and that a neighborhood open house meeting was held earlier in November. The plan was to be presented to City Council on November 27th.
- Highway Safety Improvement Program applications

Public Works thanked the Subcommittee for their help writing support letters for the two projects for which applications were submitted, and informed the committee that they would hear about how the applications scored in the Spring.

2. Student data collection

Public Works partnered with a JMU class to do bicycle and pedestrian counts downtown in October. Along with volume counts, there was a survey done on how people rate the facilities along their route. Public Works wants to use this data to rank the corridors for improvement based on volume and rating from survey.

3. Grace Street pedestrian items

There has been an ongoing issue at the intersection of Grace Street and S. High Street with pedestrians treating the intersection as if it had a full pedestrian phase, when it does not. Drivers are also confused. This is likely because Grace Street at Main Street is has a full pedestrian phase, and pedestrians and drivers are likely going through both intersections regularly. Public Works will do pedestrian counts to see if a full pedestrian phase is warranted. The group agreed that regardless of the ped signal phases, geometric changes to the intersection seemed warranted to make it more pedestrian friendly.

4. South Avenue pedestrian items

It came to Public Works' attention that South Avenue has had a greater number of vehicular and pedestrian crashes, as compared to similar streets around the city. The police department share various reasons why this may be, some of which included many school age children at bus stops not looking both ways when crossing and poor understanding of traffic laws among residents, many of which are new to the United States. Public Works will do pedestrian counts to determine if a crosswalk may be needed, and at what location. The police will do education/enforcement in the area.

5. Northend Greenway Phase II

Public Works informed the Subcommittee that it is working with the New Community Project to construct a short section of the Northend Greenway between Jefferson Street and Monroe Street. The section of trail will be constructed to standards, with the exception that it will remain a stone surface until the City has funds to pave it at some point in the future.

6. Environmental Protection Standards Advisory Committee tasks

Public Works informed the Subcommittee about the Environmental Action Plan that the City has been tasked with developing, and that goals and objectives from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan will be part of the chapter on sustainable transportation.

7. Project Updates

See addendum to agenda.

8. Subcommittee member selection

The Subcommittee had a closed session to discuss the applicants that applied to fill the expiring term.

Announcements / Other Business

Adjourn