



**Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee
of the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission
City of Harrisonburg, Virginia**

TO: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Members

FROM: Jakob zumFelde, Public Works Planner

DATE: September 30, 2019

RE: Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee Meeting Summary for Monday, September 23, 2019

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee met on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 6:00pm in City Hall, Room 011 (lower level); 409 South Main Street.

Attendees:

Subcommittee members: Dudley Bonsal, Marci Frederick, John Marr

Other attendees: Tom Benevento, Eric King

Staff: Erin Yancey (Public Works), Tom Hartman (Public Works), Jakob zumFelde (Public Works), Scott Drugo (Harrisonburg Police Department), Jonathan Howard (Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission)

Welcome

Business

1. Follow up items

- Bicycle Friendly Community renewal

Mr. zumFelde said that the City's Bicycle Friendly Community application was submitted in early August and that results of the certification scoring and evaluation will be released in November. He also reminded the committee that the League of American Bicyclists, which does the Bicycle Friendly Community certification, had released a survey requesting input from those who bicycle in Harrisonburg. The City will receive the results of that survey.

- Update on grant applications

Ms. Yancey provided an update on applications that will be submitted for state and federal funding. One application will be submitted for funding through Virginia's Revenue Sharing program. This is the University Blvd project, which will realign University Blvd and include a shared use path connection between Port Republic Road and Carrier Drive. An application

will not be submitted to extend the Bluestone Trail to the new High School, although it is possible that this project may be a Revenue Sharing application in the future.

Ms. Yancey reminded the subcommittee that due to a change in state funding decisions regarding federal HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) grants, the Federal Street shared use path project between E. Market Street and E. Water Street was not funded. Given that the City was notified of this change at the last-minute, the City was recently allowed to submit this project as a TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) project. Ms. Yancey noted that this means the City will submit two TAP applications – one for Federal Street and one for a section of sidewalk on North Main Street.

- Chicago Ave and Waterman Dr potential pedestrian improvements

Mr. zumFelde said that data has been collected at this intersection, and that the analysis of the intersection will be presented and discussed at a future meeting.

2. HRMPO Non-motorized transportation project needs assessment – Jonathan Howard, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

Mr. Howard presented on an effort to identify bicycle and pedestrian needs in Harrisonburg. This was done by the Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) for the MPO area, which includes Harrisonburg and the nearby towns and development areas in Rockingham County. The goals of the effort were to develop regional non-motorized safety needs resulting in a list of strong candidate locations for current and future grant applications. Using crash data, locations were identified that had a relatively high number of crashes involving bicycles and pedestrians and where the crashes had similar causes or otherwise indicate a trend. The following locations in Harrisonburg were identified:

Port Republic Road between S. Main St and Neff Ave

Rock Street between Liberty Street and Mason Street

Locations on the JMU campus

S. High Street (VA 42) in the vicinity of South Ave

University Blvd at the transit stop across from Valley Mall

N. Main Street between Mason Street and Monroe Street

Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Reservoir Street intersection

W. Grace Street between S. High St and S. Main St

The group discussed the analysis at the various locations. Potential future projects were discussed along with possible funding sources, although it was noted that funding is limited, particularly with the state changing Highway Safety Improvement Fund processes. One location where improvements have already been made was Grace Street, where a section of bike lanes was added in 2015 and there have been no crashes along that street since.

3. Shared use path etiquette sign design

Mr. zumFelde reminded the group of the discussion at the previous meeting, where there was general agreement on the majority of the text for the shared use path etiquette signs. He then showed a draft of the sign (see below), with some new text at the top and a placeholder logo and design at the bottom of the sign.



There was some discussion about the language at the top of the sign, particularly given the amount of space that it takes on the sign. Mr. zumFelde and Ms. Yancey indicated that it is important to remind users to think about others and to encourage safety for all users. Mr. Benevento suggested that “Enjoy and be safe” may be adequate at the top of the sign. Others indicated that this would be appropriate, and desirable as it is shorter than the current phrase.

Mr. zumFelde said that the language would be updated as suggested and some additional adjustments will be made when the new City of Harrisonburg logo/branding is completed. He indicated this will hopefully occur prior to the next subcommittee meeting so that a final design can be presented at the next meeting.

4. Northend Greenway signs

Mr. zumFelde noted that at the last meeting there were questions about signs on the Northend Greenway, including the fact that there are no signs at Liberty Street telling path users what street it is. He said that staff had come up with a plan for signs to install along the path, and he showed the signs and general proposed locations. The proposed signs include ‘wayfinding’ signs that have the bicycle and pedestrian symbols and say “Northend Greenway” with associated information about destination and distance. The sign at the Mt. Clinton entrance to the path will have “Suter Street 0.6 MI” and the sign at the Suter Street entrance to the path will have “Mt. Clinton Pike 0.6 MI”. Mr. zumFelde said that staff had found guidance indicating that it would not be appropriate to put information about travel times on these signs, as had been discussed at the last meeting. He noted that travel time information could potentially be incorporated in maps created in the future. Other proposed signs include shared use path etiquette signs to be installed near the Mt. Clinton Pike entrance and on the path to the west of the Liberty Street crossing. A Liberty Street street sign will be installed facing the path at the Liberty Street intersection, and additional “Trail X-ing ahead” signs will be installed to warn vehicles on Liberty Street about the crossing.

Mr. zumFelde also showed a diagram of proposed short-term improvements on Mt. Clinton Pike at the Mt. Clinton Pike entrance to the Northend Greenway. The improvements include painting an

edge line to create a walking space on the pavement across the railroad tracks. Plastic delineator posts will be installed to direct vehicles away from the walking space. A crosswalk and ramp will be constructed to connect to the existing sidewalk on the north side of Mt. Clinton Pike. Mr. Hartman said that there are plans and funding is being sought to extend the path over the railroad to Virginia Avenue, but that the short-term improvements can be completed sooner to better connect the path to existing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure for now.

5. Project Updates

A few updates were made regarding ongoing projects, including that the final pieces of the Spotswood Elementary Safe Routes to School project would soon be completed along with repaving on Reservoir Street.

Announcements / Other Business

- Accepting applications for subcommittee members
Mr. zumFelde noted that applications are available on the subcommittee webpage and are due on November 11. Mr. Marr noted that while his term is not expiring, he has decided to resign due to other commitments.
- Mr. zumFelde asked the committee about the next meeting date. It was determined that meeting on November 18 would be preferable to meeting on November 25 to avoid meeting the week of Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned

Next Meeting: November 18, 2019* @ 6pm – City Hall, Room 011 (lower level), 409 South Main St

*Note the change from November 25 to avoid meeting the week of Thanksgiving