



TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION

CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA

TO: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members, Council members, City Manager Kurt Hodgen

FROM: Brad Reed, Transportation Planner

DATE: Wednesday, November 28, 2012

RE: Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary from November 14, 2012 Meeting

The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on Wednesday, November 14, 2012 at 8:30 AM in Room 205 at the City Municipal Building, 345 S. Main St.

Members and Advisory Members present included: Bill Blessing (Citizen Member, Chair), Len Van Wyk (Citizen Member), Calvin Ferrell (Citizen Member), Russell Presnell (Citizen Member), MPO Greg Deeds (Police Member), Sgt. Roger Knott (Police), Brad Reed (Public Works Member), Thanh Dang (Public Works), Lee Eshelman (JMU), Doug Stader (DMV), Paul Helmuth (Fire), Reggie Smith (Public Transportation), Andy Muncy (Rockingham County Sherriff)

Guests Present: Ted Byrd (City Council)

Commission meetings are open to the public and citizens are provided the opportunity to voice their views/concerns about any item before the Commission. It is the policy of the Commission to move relevant agenda items to the beginning of the meeting when citizens are in attendance to avoid detaining them for the entire meeting.

Welcome

New Business

1. Request for support of school zone lights at Thomas Harrison Middle School

Mr. Reed explained that safety concerns have come to light recently regarding students crossing mid-block and vehicles traveling at high speeds on W Market St. A traffic study by the Public Works Department showed that 85th percentile speeds are about 45 mph in both the eastbound and westbound directions of W Market St in the vicinity of its intersection with the school

entrance at Westfield Ct. To assist with safer crossings and to reduce travel speeds at the beginning and end of the school day, it was recommended that 25 mph school zone lights be installed on W Market St.

Mr. Van Wyk noted that students crossing mid-block are likely those living in the housing development on the north side of W Market St to the east of the school entrance, for whom it is easier to exit the school building and take a straight line home as opposed to walking down to the traffic signal to cross, then heading back up the street. These crossings are not consolidated to a single location or time.

It was also noted that there have been complaints in the past of right turning vehicles exiting the school conflicting with pedestrians crossing W Market St. Mr. Reed said this issue would be mitigated when the traffic signal controller is upgraded in late November, the timing for which will include a leading pedestrian interval, providing pedestrians a walk light for several seconds prior to the concurrent vehicle movement's green light.

The Commission agreed with the recommendation for school zone lights. A funding request for the equipment will be made with the upcoming budget cycle, with an estimated cost of \$15,000-\$20,000.

2. Resignation of Paul Johnston from Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee

Ms. Dang announced that Paul Johnston will be resigning from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee and that the position will be solicited to the public. The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission will review the applications.

3. Request for approval of new Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee duties, terms, and new member application

The Commission approved the new duties, terms, and member application for the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee. These documents can be found attached to this summary.

4. Maryland Avenue neighborhood complaint

Mr. Van Wyk shared a complaint from a citizen in the Maryland Ave neighborhood regarding vehicles speeding on Sunrise Ave and Elmwood Dr and taking fast, sharp left turns. Ms. Dang noted that this citizen should be encouraged to follow the steps presented in the updated Neighborhood Traffic Calming Manual. The Police Department should monitor this issue and the citizen can consider participation in the Team Up to Slow Down program. Mr. Van Wyk will speak with the complainant and pass along the appropriate information.

5. Request for convex mirror on West Water Street at Bank of America alley

Mr. Reed shared a request from James McHone for the installation of a convex mirror on W Water St to assist with sight for those vehicles exiting the Bank of America alley (alley is owned

by Mr. McHone). At present, the close proximity of the Bank of America building blocks the line of sight for vehicles exiting the alley, preventing them from seeing oncoming vehicles on W Water St and pedestrians in the sidewalk. Mr. McHone has offered to pay for the proposed equipment and has suggested it be installed on the one-way sign across from the alley on the south side of W Water St. He was unable to obtain approval to mount the mirror on the building opposing the alley.

The City has no established protocol for managing requests for convex mirrors and Public Works has no record of ever having installed one. For this reason, Public Works requested input for the Commission as to how to handle this request and those that may be presented in the future.

Mr. Blessing suggested that requests for mirrors to improve sight be considered on a case by case basis, as conditions will likely vary too much to warrant a policy-based approach. Mr. Blessing and Mr. Van Wyk questioned whether a convex mirror would resolve this particular issue and, if a mirror would help, where would it be installed and how would it be positioned.

It was recommended that Public Works research details on convex mirrors and their positioning, make a proposal to Mr. McHone, and report back to the Commission at a future meeting.

Other Business/Announcements

6. DR100 Donation

Ms. Dang announced that the DR100 bike ride organization has donated \$10,000 to the Bike Smart program in Rockingham County, which educates youth on safe cycling practices and comes to schools to provide information. Efforts are underway to bring this program to City schools.

7. MPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Ms. Dang announced that the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization is has begun work on a regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan. Surveys will be sent out to the public in 2013 and will be followed by a Public Input meeting. Carl Droms and Thomas Jenkins from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee will be recommended to assist with the Plan. More details on the project will be shared at a later date.

8. Bicycle Lane Requests

Mr. Byrd shared requests sent to him from the public in regards to future locations for bicycle lanes. Specifically, there are questions as to whether bicycle lanes can be marked on Route 42, Route 11, Acorn Dr, and Mt. Clinton Pk.

Ms. Dang remarked that bicycle lanes will be marked on S Main St between Pleasant Hill Rd and Mosby Rd when repaving occurs as part of the Stone Spring Rd - Erickson Ave project. Route 42 is not wide enough to accommodate the addition of bicycle lanes through the majority of the

City. Mr. Byrd asked whether the lanes could be marked on Virginia Ave north of Mt. Clinton Pk. Ms. Dang and Mr. Reed explained that this area has limited width and that, if lanes could be squeezed in, they would be 3' wide which is the minimum possible width as per AASHTO standard. A 3' bicycle lane is unfavorable unless there is no alternative and if speeds are low. With a 45 mph speed on Virginia Ave, cyclists may be in more danger with the bicycle lanes than without, as vehicles have the potential to react in a less precautionary manner when they see the separate bicycle lane marking. This becomes an issue when the motorist assumes that there is enough space to pass the cyclists at full speed and without shifting to the left to create more buffer space, as may be needed with narrow bicycle lanes.

Mr. Van Wyk asked whether there are areas where the number of travel lanes could be reduced and bicycle lanes added, which is also known as a "road diet". Ms. Dang explained that road diets are possible in some locations, but that state maintenance dollars may be reduced if lane miles are removed. City staff will consider such requests on a case-by-case basis and may request input from the Commission and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee.

9. DMV and HPD Updates

Mr. Stader announced that there will be a mini Click-it-or-Ticket campaign for the holidays.

Sgt. Knott announced that additional patrols will be in place for the holidays and that nighttime occupant protection will be emphasized, including seat belt and child seat safety.

Adjourn

**Harrisonburg Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission's
Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee**

- Duties of Bicycle & Pedestrian SubcommitteeThe Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee is an advisory group with the following duties:
 - To advise city staff and Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission on bicycle and pedestrian related matters,
 - To assist in implementation and achieving the goals of the City Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan,
 - ~~To~~ Work with the City to achieve safe bicycle and pedestrian connectivity for all citizens,
 - To solicit input and feedback from community members and local advocates on bicycling and pedestrian matters*, and
 - To serve as the body through which the update of the City Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan takes place (approximately every five years as the Comprehensive Plan is updated).

*Note: The Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee is advisory and not an advocacy group.

- Membership:
 - ~~5~~ 5 citizen members, at-large. Additional membership may be considered by the Subcommittee and TSAC.
 - ~~1~~ 1 member from TSAC.
 - *○ ~~4~~ 4 citizen members, at large.
 - Members selected by TSAC by application and will be invited by the TSAC Chairman.
 - Members to represent a diverse cross section of the bicycling, pedestrian, and non-motorized transportation community.
 - The Chairperson will be selected by the Subcommittee members at the beginning of each term.
 - ~~Chairman of the Subcommittee will attend monthly TSAC meetings.~~
 - ~~Term Limits to be determined by the Subcommittee if desired.~~

- Terms
 - Members shall have three-year terms. These terms will be staggered in a 2-2-1 format, so that two positions will expire one year, another two positions the next year, and the fifth position on the year after that.
 - Terms shall be from January 1st to December 31st. Persons appointed to fill unexpired terms or partial terms shall serve from the date of appointment until December 31st of that term. Members shall serve until their replacement is appointed.
 - Members whose term is expiring may reapply.
 - Applications for expiring terms shall be available on/around October 1, applications due on/around November 1, TSAC to review applications at December meeting and may vote at their December or January meeting.

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- Meetings

- Meeting ~~every two months, starting with January. frequency to be established by the Subcommittee, but suggested to start at every two months.~~
- Meetings will be open to the public and public attendance will be encouraged. Encourage Parks & Recreation, Planning & Community Development, Harrisonburg Police, James Madison University, ~~and~~ Eastern Mennonite University, and Rockingham Co. representatives to attend meetings.
- A quorum shall be the majority of the voting members. A quorum must be present before any vote is taken.
- Meeting agendas and summaries will be submitted to TSAC and emailed to the City Bike-Ped email group.
- ~~Meeting summaries will be submitted to TSAC.~~
- Meeting summaries will be posted also online at www.harrisonburgva.gov/bikeped <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-summaries>

Last Updated: DRAFT October 17, 2012

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Last Updated: August 6, 2010

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**Application for
Harrisonburg Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission's
Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Work: _____

Employment/Volunteer Work Information

Current (or most recent employer/Volunteer Organization) Company:

Your Position: _____

Duties: _____

Education Information

High School: _____

College: _____

Major/Minor/Specialty Study: _____

Are you subscribed to the City's Bike-Ped Email List? (circle) Y/ N If no, would you like to be? Y/ N

How many Bike-Ped Subcommittee meetings have you attended in the last 12 months?

Please indicate below why you wish to serve on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee, or list any other information that may indicate your interest in an appointment by the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission. Attach additional pages or write on back, if needed.
