



**TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & ADVISORY COMMISSION**

**CITY OF HARRISONBURG, VIRGINIA**

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**TO:** Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Members, Council members, City Manager Kurt Hodgen, Assistant City Manager Anne Lewis

**FROM:** Brad Reed, Transportation Planner

**DATE:** Tuesday, December 1, 2015

**RE:** Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission Summary from November 18, 2015 Meeting

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The Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission met on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 8:30 AM in Room 011 of City Hall, 409 S. Main St.

Members and Advisory Members present included: Bill Blessing (NE Citizen Member, Chairman), Len Van Wyk (SW Citizen Member), Calvin Ferrell (SE citizen member), Joshua Humphries (At-Large Citizen Member), Brad Reed (Public Works member designee), MPO Greg Deeds (Police member Designee), Sgt. Pete Ritchie (Police), Thanh Dang (Public Works), Lee Eshelman (JMU)

Guests Present: Gloria H. Carter, Newtown Cemetery Trustee Board; Rowen Perry, JMU student

*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.*

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*Welcome*

*New Business*

**1. Request from Newtown Cemetery for parking restriction on Kelley St**

Ms. Carter of the Newtown Cemetery Trustee Board shared a request for “cemetery parking only” signs on the south side of Kelley St between Sterling St and Ott St. She said that her request was being made out of respect for families attending burial services at the cemetery, as it can be inconvenient for them to find parking. There is typically one service per week lasting

one to two hours. Having designated parking for the cemetery would also provide spaces for daily cemetery visitors.

Mr. Blessing asked whether such signs would be desired around the entire perimeter of the cemetery. Ms. Carter said that would be better, but she didn't want to ask for too much. Mr. Blessing noted that he has attended a service at the cemetery and noticed that people parking along Hill St on the eastern perimeter of the grounds even though it is signed as No Parking.

Mr. Humphries asked how many residents' cars would be displaced by the change. Ms. Carter said that there are typically only a few cars parked in the block along the cemetery perimeter, but their spacing makes it so that few visitors can park in the spaces between them. Mr. Van Wyk asked whether the roads within the cemetery can be used for guest parking. Ms. Carter said that these areas are used for parking during ceremonies, but can't fit all visitors.

Ms. Carter asked why Kelley St is signed No Parking towards Broad St. Mr. Reed said that the street is narrower in that section and there is not enough space for parking on both sides of the street with two-way traffic.

Ms. Dang asked whether cones and/or temporary signs could be put out the night before to discourage parking during events. Mr. Reed added that the city has not reserved parking on public streets for other private entities. Restricting parking may create an issue for homeowner's across the street and they should be consulted if parking removal is the chosen route to resolve this issue. Mr. Van Wyk said that there is an issue with turning a public street into a private parking lot.

Mr. Humphries said that, when JMU has football games, they put up signs a week before showing the time and day for restricted parking. Mr. Reed asked whether the city would allow a private entity to install such signs to reserve parking and whether the Police Department would be able to enforce them. MPO Deeds responded that the Police Department would not be able to enforce such signs and that a private tow-away zone would not be allowed on public property.

Mr. Eshelman commented that the cemetery isn't a business and is more like a park in nature, asking whether that would make any difference in the city's stance on not wanting to designate parking for a private organization. Mr. Reed said that, if Massanutten Regional Library or Woodbine Cemetery made a similar request to reserve parking on adjacent streets downtown or in the Old Town neighborhood, then city staff would need to pose the same questions and be ready to entertain such requests elsewhere if parking were to be restricted on Kelley St. Ms. Dang added that churches could make similar requests as well. Would we consider granting requests for parking restrictions to others? Mr. Blessing said that, for a very special, one-time event, the Commission might consider granting no parking for one of these groups, but probably not permanently.

Mr. Reed noted that on-street parking does have peripheral benefits to the community, as it adds convenience as well as a traffic calming effect.

The Commission unanimously recommended against permanent No Parking signs and suggested the following actions be taken by cemetery officials: talk to the residents on Kelley St and request that they park on the other side of the street on funeral service days; place temporary signs displaying the event date and time on the cemetery side of Kelley St 1-2 days in advance of a funeral service to encourage residents to move their vehicles; and lead incoming processions through the cemetery so that all interior parking can be utilized, limiting spillover onto adjacent streets. If the signs do not resolve the issue, then Ms. Carter can return to the Commission to discuss other ideas.

Public Works staff will be in touch with Ms. Carter to provide recommendations as to the materials for the temporary signs, but the cemetery will be responsible for constructing and installing them.

## **2. Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee applicant selection**

Ms. Dang shared the news that the Subcommittee recommended Stefanie Warlick for appointment to their open member position. The Commission unanimously confirmed this selection and made official Ms. Warlick's appointment.

## **3. Updates on transportation projects**

Mr. Reed provided updates on select ongoing projects in the city, the details of which are attached to this summary.

### *Other Business / Announcements*

## **4. Upcoming Commission member openings**

Mr. Reed announced that Mr. Ferrell and Mr. Presnell's terms will expire on December 31st. The openings have been posted through various avenues to solicit applications. City Council will select from the applications at either their November 24 or their December 8 meeting.

## **5. Click-It-Or-Ticket announcement**

MPO Deeds announced that a 95% seat belt usage rate was observed in the latest Click-It-Or-Ticket campaign, which is high compared to previous years. Unfortunately, 22% of drivers observed were using their cell phone.

## **6. Harrisonburg & Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit**

Ms. Dang announced that this year's annual Bike-Walk Summit was held at JMU on November 13th and that many good ideas were shared. Several great videos of projects in our area were shared and can be viewed at <http://svbcoalition.org/bike-walk-summit/>.

### *Adjourn*

## ATTACHMENT A: Updates on projects under design

General information is also available at: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/transportation-projects>.

### PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, OR SOON TO START CONSTRUCTION

- **Carlton Street and Reservoir Street Roundabout** – This project is being funded by a combination of VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds and local funds. A roundabout at this location will improve intersection safety for motorists and pedestrians. More information: <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/carlton-street>
  - UPDATE: Construction nearly completed

### PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN/ PLANNING

- **Bluestone Trail – Sonner Hall to Carrier Drive** – Shared use path project by City and JMU. Construction anticipated in 2016. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bluestone-trail-project>
  - UPDATE: Design engineering underway.
- **Downtown Streetscape Phase III** – Reconstruct sidewalks on both sides of N Main Street between Elizabeth Street to Wolfe Street and install traffic signals and pedestrian signals, and crosswalks at both intersections. Awarded VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant funds. Anticipated construction to begin Spring 2016.
  - UPDATE: Environmental review and engineering design underway.
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Way Road Improvement Project** – VHB, Inc. and Valley Engineering will be assisting the City with engineering design for widening along portions of MLK, Jr. Way, S. Main St, and E. Grace Street. Construction anticipated to begin late-Summer 2016. [www.harrisonburgva.gov/martin-luther-king-way-improvements](http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/martin-luther-king-way-improvements)
  - UPDATE: Design is underway. VDOT Revenue Sharing grant submitted in October 2015.
- **Reservoir Street Project** – Widen Reservoir Street to sections of 5-lane facility and 4-lane facility with median. Project will include sidewalks on both sides and bike lanes. <http://www.harrisonburgva.gov/reservoir-street>
  - UPDATE: To be advertised for construction bids in January 2016. VDOT Revenue Sharing grant submitted in October 2015.