

# HISTORIC TRIANGLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*JAMES CITY COUNTY* 🚲 *CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG* 🚲 *YORK COUNTY*

## MEETING NOTES January 26, 2015

Members Present: Scott Bartram, Rick Bartels, Nancy Carter, Ted Moreland, Rich Thompson, Katherine Preston, Don Cherry, Kurt Schueler, Patrick Johnson, Ken Doak, Stephanie Weber

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Rodney Rhodes, Amy Parker, Jose Riberio

Guests: Sharon Bochman, Peninsula Bicycling Association

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the October 2014 meeting were approved as amended.

### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Ms. Sharon Bochman informed the group about the Peninsula Bicycling Association. They are a long-standing group that has had a 30% growth in membership in the last year. One local issue they have been addressing is the vehicle speed/bicyclist safety concerns on Dandy Loop Road in York County.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Weber was elected as Chairman and Mr. Bartram was elected as Vice Chairman for 2015.

### VDOT ISSUES

Ms. Weber requested comments on the Bypass Road/Monticello Avenue safety studies being undertaken by VDOT. Mr. Doak inquired if the recent vacancy of the Pizza Uno business would change study recommendations. Ms. Carter noted that traffic at the light at Waller Mill Road currently backs up, and the intersection should be cleaned up. Ms. Weber felt the traffic counts and data is accurate for the Bypass Road corridor. She noted that bike and pedestrian use will increase if improvements are done. Comments from the group for the Monticello Avenue study were: 1) Timing of pedestrian signals needs to be lengthened, 2) striping of crosswalks needs to be consistent, and a ladder type of design should be used, and 3) the diagonal handicap ramps need to be redesigned to cross intersections parallel with sidewalks rather than lead into the center of the intersection. Mr. Bartels recommended that Waller Mill Road be striped to accommodate a walking connection for Waller Mill Elementary School. Ms. Parker will forward comments to VDOT staff and study consultants.

### REGIONAL UPDATES

Ms. Parker noted that there would be a Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee on January 30, 2015. Members will receive a copy of the meeting email notice.

Ms. Weber noted that Virginia Beach has established a Complete Streets policy, which is recommended for the rest of the region. VDOT has a statewide bicycle policy that recommends bicycle facilities be included with any new road projects. VDOT has bike/ped counters that can be requested for use by localities. Mr. Johnston requested contact information for the Virginia Beach program; Ms. Weber will forward the information.

## **BIKEWAY PROJECTS STATUS REPORT**

### York County

Ms. Parker noted that the Cook Road shoulder widening project was still under review by the Cultural Resources staff at the National Park Service.

The Planning Commission held a work session to discuss and provide feedback on the Envision Hampton Roads regional strategic plan being developed by Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC). Ms. Parker noted that multi-modal transportation facilities had been recommended for inclusion in the plan. All member communities have been contacted for input for the long range regional strategic plan project.

### James City County

Mr. Ribeiro noted that County staff was involved in the review of the draft VDOT/URS study for Monticello Road corridor.

### City of Williamsburg

Mr. Rhodes noted that the City had ordered 50 bike racks for installation at various public sites, including parks, the library, community buildings, Duke of Gloucester Street, and the public parking garage.

The City is considering a grant program to encourage businesses to install bike racks. The City would pay \$160 toward each rack, and the business would provide a \$40 match.

The City has submitted a Transportation Alternatives Program grant application for a multi-use path parallel to Monticello Road and connecting Ironbound Road to the William and Mary campus.

Regarding the request to repair tree root damage along Lafayette Street, Mr. Rhodes indicated that the Public Works Department will be doing the repairs. A specific timeline for the work has not been set.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Weber inquired about the James City County Comprehensive Plan update process. Mr. Ribeiro answered that review of the draft plan had been completed by the Planning

Commission. Public hearings would be scheduled before the Board of Supervisors in March, April and May, with adoption scheduled for May.

Mr. Moreland noted the previous discussions about recommendations for Route 60 improvements, which should be included in the updated Plan. Improvements should be a combination of a two-lane road diet design with bikeways. Ms. Weber recommended that written comments from HTBAC to the County should be provided for the Plan update.

It was noted that HTBAC members had addressed the Boards of Supervisors in James City and York County and the City Council in January to promote bicycling awareness.

Ms. Weber noted that the prioritized list of bikeway projects needed to be updated, and would be included on the agenda for the April meeting.

Mr. Moreland informed the group that needed improvements to the Waller Mill Trail entrances off of East Rochambeau and Waller Mill Roads had been discussed with Reed Nester and Rossie Carroll. The Waller Mill Road end has been fixed, but the E. Rochambeau Road end still needs repair.

Ms. Preston inquired about the status of the Longhill Road corridor. The issue has been brought up to VDOT staff, but there has been no response. There are holes in the shoulders in several areas that are dangerous for cyclists, especially in the Lafayette High School area. There is a long range plan to reconstruct the corridor, but the deteriorated shoulder areas need to be fixed now.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Doak noted that Mr. Don Fowler will be joining the Committee as the new Colonial Williamsburg representative.

Mr. Thompson updated the group on the College of William and Mary Bike Initiative. A showing of the movie "Half the Road" will be presented on February 15<sup>th</sup> at the Sadler Center and will include a reception and question and answer period. Installation of bike rental units on campus has been researched, and a proposal to initiate a rental program will be submitted to the College for approval. The new bike basics course had 14 enrollees, and a more advanced class is under consideration. An application for silver designation as a Bike Friendly Campus is being developed. Bike Initiative members have been invited to speak at the Greater Williamsburg Chamber and Tourism Alliance to discuss promotion of local tourism and recreation opportunities during the 2015 World Road Bicycling Championships in Richmond.

It was noted that utility work is being done along E. Rochambeau Drive. Ms. Parker indicated that per VDOT staff, the construction area would be finished with wider shoulders to accommodate bicycles.

Mr. Thompson noted that he has been working with College of William and Mary students to be more proactive about safe routes to specific destinations.

The Committee should encourage the Chamber to market the local area to attendees of the Bicycling Championships in Richmond.

Ms. Parker noted that a presentation about HTBAC and bicycling issues was scheduled for the February 11<sup>th</sup> York County Planning Commission meeting.

The League of American Bicyclists is partnering with the City of Norfolk Parks and Recreation Department to offer the Traffic Skills 101 course on March 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. The League also offers League Cycling Instructor certification courses.

Ms. Weber noted that there needs to be a HTBAC presence at local budget hearings. Hearing dates should be provided to Committee members by staff liaisons.

Mr. Bartram identified several bikeways issues in need of consideration. A bike lane is needed for access between Ella Taylor Road and the County Sports Complex with connections to Orianna Road. Cary's Chapel Road in Poquoson is deteriorating, and a connection along Wythe Creek Road between York County and Poquoson is needed. A connection is needed between Kiln Creek and Old Oyster Point Road.

Mr. Johnston inquired about a multi-use path on Route 17 in the Ella Taylor Road area. Ms. Parker responded that a new multi-use path was being installed parallel to the north side of Route 17 across from Harwood Mills Reservoir as part of the Route 17 widening project.

Mr. Bartram suggested that easements for bike/pedestrian trails be considered to the rear of businesses along Route 17.

Ms. Weber asked members to be prepared to discuss the bikeway project priority list at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM

Minutes adopted 4/20/15