

# HISTORIC TRIANGLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

*James City County    ☞    City of Williamsburg    ☞    York County*

Regular Meeting  
Monday, October 26, 2009  
York Hall, Yorktown

## MEETING NOTES

**Members Present:** William Beatovich, Scott Bartram, Rich Thompson, Nancy Carter, Allen Turnbull, Don Cherry, David Wilson,

**Members Absent:** Dorothy Geyer, John Laben, Kitty Preston, Tim Sutphin, James Wirkner,  
**Staff Present:** Earl W. Anderson (York County) and Luke Vinciguerra (James City County)

**Others Present:** Todd Halacy (VDOT Williamsburg Residency office)

## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Wilson introduced a new member of his staff at Bike Beat that would be working on community outreach, Ms. Sharon Oakley

No other comments.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Cherry motioned approval of the minutes from July 20, 2009 meeting with a second from Mr. Wilson. The minutes were approved unanimously.

## VDOT MATTERS

Mr. Halacy stated that currently VDOT is looking at the Secondary Street Plan and a mid-year budget, which could mean possible reductions around December. He then offered to answer questions.

### Virginia Capital Trail

Mr. Wilson stated that the bridge is almost open and asked about the continuation of the trail past its current construction.

Mr. Halacy, with notes from Ms. Carter, stated that the ribbon cutting is next week for the new section and that the project is on track to be completed. Funding is from protected federal sources and construction should start soon. Ms. Carter added that one organization in the new section has held up the construction phase due to issues related to access through a parking

area. Mr. Halacy stated that he would ask for a report from the VDOT representative from that residency overseeing the new section. Mr. Turnbull requested that Beth Weisbrod provide some feedback on the Trail to HTBAC.

#### Governor's Landing Trail Section

Mr. Cherry brought up concerns about shrink/swell problems on the trail toward Jamestown and asked about the utility access. Mr. Halacy stated that a letter had been sent to the utility to find a new access or use measures to protect the trail. The trail construction has no warranty and there is no funding available other than patchwork, however, he would send a crew out to look.

Mr. Cherry suggested that VDOT look at changing the dangerous crossing in that area, as there appears to be room for the path on the other side, but is dependent on how much right-of-way is available. Mr. Halacy stated that the property owner there is not interested in granting any right-of-way to put in the path. Mr. Cherry inquired about whether the land was for sale. Ms. Carter stated that the property owner has been piecemeal selling his property.

#### Ironbound Road bike trail

Mr. Cherry asked for an update on the bike trail. Mr. Halacy stated that Ironbound Road would have four-foot paths with bike symbols along with a multi-use path and sidewalks from Longhill Connector through the Monticello intersection to Strawberry Plains Road. There will be signalized stops. Advertisement will be May 2010 with completion slated two and one half years out. Mr. Turnbull asked if HTBAC could review the plans. Mr. Halacy stated that the plans are always available at the Residency office. Mr. Wilson stated HTBAC reviewed the plans about two years ago.

#### New Town

Mr. Thompson inquired about the road in New Town and whether it will be fixed by VDOT. Mr. Halacy stated that VDOT has not accepted that road in its current condition as it does not meet standards. Mr. Vinciguerra stated that bonds may have been released on the road and the developer is going to possibly consider it a private road.

#### Victory Boulevard

Mr. Bartram requested information bike lanes on Victory Boulevard. Mr. Halacy pointed out that the road is limited access, which means it is high traffic and VDOT limits the driveway access points. However, VDOT will try and place them where space is available. Mr. Wilson stated this would be a good way to address concerns from the Langley employees, who wanted more bike facilities.

#### Riverside Development on Route 60

Ms. Carter asked about accessing across the tracks between Route 60 and Route 143. Mr. Anderson stated that the biggest deterrent to crossing the tracks is that the railroad will not allow any access points, other than those that already exist or you have to build over or under the rail lines, which is cost prohibitive. Mr. Cherry and Mr. Turnbull asked about placing a "road diet" from the site toward Williamsburg. Mr. Halacy stated that around the site they will have controlled access medians; however, a study would need to be conducted to show the warrants for a "road diet" would be met. Mr. Vinciguerra stated that the TPO could sponsor a study. Mr. Turnbull asked if HTBAC reviewed the plans. Mr. Halacy said that HTBAC had, but plans are always available.

### William and Mary Audit

Mr. Thompson stated that the University through the Sustainability Committee with support from the President and in response to greening the campus was performing an audit to look at student's use of bikes on campus, public transportation, and growth of these over time. W&M was planning on having events, demonstrations, and promoting green initiatives to the students. The students decided that they should tax themselves \$30 for green initiatives. Currently, the audit is gathering data from bike shops on sales, which will be compared to other communities to see how W&M compares. Additionally, the campus will promote use of the public bus with demonstrations and working with the system to improve timing on routes.

### Other

Mr. Thompson also elaborated on the two possible paths for students to access the School of Education, due to the wetland and safety concerns on the most direct path. One would be down Brooks Street, while the other would go up Monticello Avenue and down Richmond Road.

Mr. Wilson stated that as a way of saying that HTBAC's efforts are bearing fruit, he believes that Williamsburg, James City County, and York County are providing more facilities than what he sees in Newport News, Virginia Beach, and Norfolk.

## **BIKEWAY PROJECTS STATUS REPORT**

### York County

Mr. Bartram asked for information on a trail project he heard about using the power lines in the lower part of the County. Mr. Anderson stated that the only trail he knew about was the Greenway Trail that Ms. Parker has been working on and he would ask her to bring information to the next meeting.

Mr. Wilson asked about the Cook Road project. Mr. Halacy stated that he received the report this afternoon and the speed study did not meet the warrants to lower the speed limit, which was the hinge for the National Park Service (NPS). He stated that the engineers have certain geometrics they have to figure to meet the warrants. He will have to clarify some of the dates and will distribute the report. The next step will be to approach the NPS again about allowing the bike lane.

### City of Williamsburg

No report.

### James City County

No report.

## **PABAC MEETING REPORT**

Meeting was not held.

## **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Mr. Beatovich stated that HTBAC tasked him with writing a letter to Rob Wittman, 1<sup>st</sup> District Representative concerning the NPS parking lot. However, after research it appeared that Wittman had been in contact with the NPS several times already about the issue and that NPS had vetted the plans and process thoroughly. He felt that to write another letter would be too repetitive and would leave it to HTBAC to decide if a letter more towards advocacy should be written.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Halacy asked the members about putting together a priority listing of bike areas for him to use when and if money becomes available from either federal or state funds. Mr. Wilson stated that they did a similar exercise previously, but it would be good to refresh that list. The members agreed to work on this during the next meeting in Williamsburg.

### Route 5/199 Intersection pedestrian Crossing

Mr. stated that VDOT has begun working on this intersection with some federal stimulus funds. Currently on the Strawberry Plains Road side they are planning bike lanes along with two left lanes and a free flow right turn that will go behind the existing street light pole. Additionally on the Hwy 199 a free flow right turn behind that existing street light pole will be installed onto Route 5. Bike lanes will be harder to install on this side as there is not as much room; however, the engineers are looking to see if lanes will fit.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Safe Routes to School Program, WJCC Schools

Mr. Beatovich stated that Stephanie Smith could not make our meeting tonight because she was presenting to Greensprings West about this subject tonight. He would ask her to provide an update at the next meeting. Mr. Vinciguerra stated that they were working on grant applications for the program and agreed to send the information to HTBAC, if he could.

### Parkway Drive

Mr. Cherry stated that an engineer friend pointed out to him that the bricks of the bridge that crosses the Parkway were leaching (turning white), which is supposed to be a sign of weakness in the bricks and was unsure if NPS was aware of the situation. He asked that HTBAC put this on their next meeting agenda to find out if there is a problem.

### Bike Friendly Community

Mr. Turnbull stated that he felt HTBAC should pursue nominating Williamsburg for this designation. He also stated that you could get some great information from the Virginia Bicycling Federation ([www.vabike.org](http://www.vabike.org)). They also have a wonderful e-newsletter.

Mr. Bartram asked about why he only sees bike lanes appearing at intersections, while whole segments between these intersections do not have assigned lanes. He stated it seems very piecemeal. Mr. Anderson stated that what is happening is that when projects are completed, in this case, intersection improvement, these bike improvements are put in and when money is available to repave or expand the roads in-between these intersections the bike lanes will be installed or striped. It is piecemeal, but in the future big picture, lanes will be connected together.

Mr. Beatovich reminded everyone that the 2010 meetings would be held by the City of Williamsburg starting in January. He also stated that officers would be elected at that first meeting.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM