

HISTORIC TRIANGLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JAMES CITY COUNTY 🚲 CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG 🚲 YORK COUNTY
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 24, 2022

Members Present: John Hinton, Brenda Barrera, Reed Nester, Helene Drees, Rich Thompson, Francis Lenahan, Ted Hanson

Members Absent: Nancy Carter, Don Fowler

Staff: Erin Burke, Amy Parker, Tom Leininger

Guest: Raul Zevallos, Williamsburg Area Bicyclists

Election of Officers

Following nominations and voting, Mr. Nester was elected as Chairman and Ms. Barrera was elected as Vice Chairman for 2022.

Public Comments

No comments were received.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the October 18, 2021 meeting were approved.

Membership Vacancies

Mr. Nester noted that the Committee had vacancies for one at large member, York County citizen member, and National Park Service institutional member. He also noted that Colonial Williamsburg had not been represented at meetings for an extensive amount of time. Colonial Williamsburg, Colonial National Historical Park, local bike clubs, College of William and Mary students, and known HTBAC applicants from the three local governments should be contacted to solicit new members. Ms. Burke noted that the City of Williamsburg had no active applications at present. The consensus of the group was to contact those applicants from James City County and York County to verify interest in serving on the Committee and review available applications at the April Committee meeting.

VDOT Issues

The group noted that the need for sweeping of shoulder bike lanes continues to be a concern. Ms. Parker informed the group that York County would be scraping road shoulders along bike routes in the coming months. Input was sought from Committee members for prioritization of roads most in need of the service.

Bicycle Cooperative of Williamsburg Update

Mr. Hanson informed the group that the Cooperative had sold 20 bicycles during the Christmas season. They have 20 bicycles available for sale, and have more in storage waiting for

refurbishment. Mr. Zevallos noted that they had received many bicycle donations, and recycling centers were also a good source of bicycles to acquire for refurbishing. They currently have 35 volunteer workers serving the organization, and are open on Saturdays. Additional days will be added in the future. A public grand opening of the Cooperative is scheduled for the first week of April. Mr. Nester noted that requests for funding for the nonprofit organization had been submitted to York County, James City County, and City of Williamsburg.

Bicycle Friendly Community Update

The City of Williamsburg retained their Bronze level certification, and James City County received an honorable mention for their application this year. Both jurisdictions will be reapplying for 2022 and are hoping to achieve a higher certification level.

Ms. Burke noted that the League of American Bicyclists were in the process of changing their Bicycle Friendly Community certification program application process, and applications will not be accepted until next fall. It is hoped that the process will take into account differences between large jurisdictions and smaller communities.

Mr. Thompson informed the group that the College of William and Mary held the silver certification level, and would be seeking to attain gold level with the next application opening.

Bikeway Projects Status Report

James City County

Mr. Leininger indicated that James City County staff had met with the HRTPO consultant from Michael Baker regarding potential improvements to Carters Grove Road for the BoAT Trail. The consultant has been retained to evaluate various sections of the proposed Trail for assistance in preparing grant funding applications. The current owner of the Carters Grove Plantation property has indicated they are not amenable to having the Trail constructed on their private property. An alternative route over Busch properties is under consideration.

The next Longhill Road segment scheduled for upgrade (ending at DePue Drive) is under PE review. Construction is expected to start in a couple of years.

Mr. Nester noted that the approval for the first phase of the Hazelwood Farms development included proffered multiuse paths along Old Stage Road.

City of Williamsburg

Ms. Burke noted that grant funding applications had been submitted for improvements to Strawberry Plains Road. Funding is also being sought for improvements to sections of Capital Landing Road, Bypass Road, and Merrimac Trail.

York County

Ms. Parker informed the group that York County staff had met with consultants from Michael Baker regarding York County BoAT priorities. The RAISE funding application submitted by James City County for Pocahontas Trail was not successful, and alternative funding will be sought for that segment of the Trail. Proposed improvements within the Colonial Historical

National Park were not considered high priority due to the additional time needed in coordinating the review and approval processes with the National Park Service. High priority segments include the segments linking Richneck Road to the MAC sports center. A RAISE funding application was not successful for this Trail section, and alternative funding, such as SMART Scale funding, will be sought.

Construction of improvements to Penniman Road between Fillmore Drive and Alexander Lee Parkway, including realignment of the Penniman Road/Government Road intersection, should start by the fall. Improvements will include extension of the Penniman Road shoulder bike lane that currently ends at Fillmore Drive.

Old Business

Bylaws Amendments

Mr. Nester reviewed draft Bylaws which included changes to voting requirements and quorums. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barrera and seconded by Mr. Lenahan to adopt amendments as presented. The motion carried unanimously. A copy of the adopted Bylaws is attached.

New Business/Roundtable

Mr. Nester noted that Senate Bill 116 was withdrawn by Senator Tommy Norment. A new bill was under consideration in the Committee on Transportation that would require bicyclists to travel single file. The Virginia Bicycle Federation was not in favor of the bill. Ms. Drees made a motion to submit written comments opposing the bill to local legislators. Second by Mr. Hanson. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Nester will prepare an opposition letter on behalf of the Committee.

Chair's Report

Mr. Nester noted that there was a petition drive in progress in support of Virginia Trails to be submitted to the General Assembly. Ms. Barrera made a motion to submit online comments in support of the petition. Second by Mr. Thompson. The motion carried unanimously.

Pedal the Parkway Update

The NPS allowed three weekend closures for the bicycling event last year. NPS has approved the next event on April 22nd through the 24th, when the Parkway between Route 199 and Jamestown Settlement will be closed to motorized vehicles. Mr. Thompson noted that The College of William and Mary will be scheduling a special ride during that time period. The group noted that Earth Day was that Friday, and could be promoted in conjunction with the event. Local tourism agencies should be contacted to promote the event as a health and wellness event. BikeWalk Virginia and Williamsburg Area Bicyclists will be giving out free helmets at the event.

NPS will still have three selected Saturdays where the Parkway will be closed again this year.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM.

Minutes adopted 4-18-22