

HISTORIC TRIANGLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JAMES CITY COUNTY 🚲 CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG 🚲 YORK COUNTY
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 18, 2022

Members Present: Brenda Barrera, Reed Nester, Rich Thompson, Nancy Carter, Mark Suiter

Members Absent: Daniel Brownlee, Don Fowler, Lauren Gurniewicz, John Hinton, Francis Lenahan, Ted Hanson,

Staff: Amy Parker, Tom Leininger

New Members

Mr. Nester introduced a new member – Mark Suiter, York County representative.

Public Comments

No comments were received.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the April 18, 2022 minutes was postponed due to lack of a quorum.

Membership Vacancies

Agenda item postponed until the October meeting.

VDOT Issues

No issues were discussed.

Bicycle Friendly Community Application Update

Mr. Nester noted that the application form had been amended, and now requires more detailed information. The City of Williamsburg may not submit an application to upgrade their Bronze status this year. If potential amendments to the Zoning Ordinance for enhanced bike trail requirements are adopted, they may apply next year. Mr. Leininger reported that James City County received an Honorable Mention for their application. Mr. Thompson reported that the College of William and Mary has Silver status, and will be applying to upgrade to Gold status this year. Mr. Nester noted that recipients must reapply every three years to maintain their status, and can apply to upgrade status any year. Mr. Suiter inquired about the purpose of the certification, and the group responded that it provided enhancements to tourism and community health and wellness.

Bicycle Co-op of Williamsburg Update

Mr. Hanson provided an overview of the facility, which provides refurbished bikes for retail sale to the general public and provides free bikes to persons in need. The organization coordinates with local

social service agencies to distribute the free bikes, which also includes helmets, lights, and locks. The facility opened in November 2021 and has sold or distributed 200 bikes, 40 of those to persons in need. The facility is open 10 hours per week, and will be able to extend hours if additional volunteers can be procured.

The agency is in discussion about a partnership with the Girls in Gear program, a nonprofit that focuses on teaching safe bicycling to elementary school children. The partnership would include the James City County Parks and Recreation Department.

They continue to work with the College of William and Mary to provide bikes to students.

Ms. Carter provided a brief description about the BikeWalk Williamsburg organization. They are active in local bicycle programs and events such as Pedal the Parkway, Cycling Without Age program with local retirement communities, fixit stations, and helmet give-aways.

Bikeway Projects Status Report

York County

Work continues on the Penniman Road improvements (shoulder bike lanes) between Fillmore Drive and the Alexander Lee Parkway/Government Road intersection.

Funding for the 10-foot multi-use path on the north side of Victory Blvd. has been secured for all sections except between Route 17 and North Bowman Street.

A road diet is proposed for Waller Mill Road between Mooretown Road and the Waller Mill Elementary School, to include 5-foot shoulder bike lanes.

5-foot shoulder bike lanes are planned along Goodwin Neck Road between Wolftrap Road and Back Creek Park.

BoAT Trail: applications for funding have been submitted for multi-use paths along Hampton Hwy. between Darby Road and Tabb Lakes Drive. Newport News has submitted grant applications for multi-use trails along Richneck Road between Newport News Park by Ft. Eustis Blvd. and the James McReynolds Sports Complex.

James City County

Mr. Leininger noted that the County was focusing on ongoing projects. Work continues on funding for the multi-modal path along Pocahontas Trail between Fire Station #2 and James River Elementary School. \$19 million (of a total of \$49 million) is still needed to fund the project, and the County is coordinating with VDOT to secure the remaining funds.

The County needs \$900,000 to complete funding for the Longhill Road multi-use path project (between Regency Apartments and the Rt. 199 crossover). They have reached out to VDOT to help with acquiring the funds.

Mr. Nester inquired about the VDOT study for the Route 199 intersections at Jamestown Road and Route 5. Mr. Leininger noted that the JCC Board of Supervisors and the Williamsburg City Council have requested that VDOT expand their public outreach to include area HOAs. VDOT should be

meeting with the Board and Council in August, and with HOAs in August or September. Regular advertised public meetings should be done by September. Mr. Nester asked if VDOT would be willing to attend a HTBAC meeting to discuss the project, and Mr. Leininger indicated he would make an inquiry with them. Mr. Nester noted that there were several issues, including restricted left turns and lack of access to the Colonial Parkway, with the current design options. Mr. Leininger noted that VDOT wanted public comments done by Thanksgiving. Mr. Thompson indicated that he could ask students to attend a HTBAC meeting or public meetings to provide input. Mr. Leininger will inform the group about future meeting dates.

City of Williamsburg

Mr. Nester informed the group that a 2-way bikeway is planned along Capital Landing Road between Bypass Road and Merrimac Trail. The bikeway would be on the Copper Fox Distillery side of the road and eventually connect to the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center area where a future sports complex is under consideration.

A bikeway is also proposed for Strawberry Plains Trail from Berkley Lane to the Berkley School. Project design has been approved by the HRTPO Transportation Technical Advisory Committee and will be scheduled for approval by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The project would be a part of the BoAT bikeway.

Old Business

Mr. Thompson inquired about the status of the proposed bikeway along Old Country Road. Mr. Leininger responded that JCC staff person Jason Purse was working with the VDOT consultant, Michael Baker, on the project. Support is still needed from the Kingsmill development, and other alternatives may have to be considered if Old Country Road will not be an available route. A road diet design for the portion of Route 60 off the west side of Route 199 may be an alternative.

Chair's Report

Mr. Nester informed the group that he would be the new Director of the Tidewater Trails Alliance effective September 1, 2022. The organization is working on promoting construction of the BoAT trail from the Capital to Capital Trail terminus in Jamestown through Williamsburg. Links between Jamestown High School, Greensprings Road, Monticello Avenue, Ironbound Road, and Route 199 are under consideration. The HRTPO is working with Michael Baker consultants on Trail alternatives.

Mr. Nester provided a description of the Alliance organization. It was formed with a goal to promote development of the BoAT trail. Their work would be similar to that of the Capital Trail Foundation. Mr. Thompson noted that the organization would eventually need professional staffing. Leveraging of financial and political capital for Trail development is important. The organization serves as an advocacy group to promote funding and development of the Trail. Mr. Suiter noted that support by localities' Boards and Councils are needed. Mr. Thompson indicated that successful trails in other locations should be touted as examples where trails have improved the health and economy of local communities.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 PM.

Minutes adopted 10-17-22