

## BIKE/WALK/DISABILITY AUDIT: Pollard St

Date: 03 April 2019

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 pm

Lighting: Sunny

Weather: Dry, mild, windy

<b>Auditor</b>	<b>Mode</b>	<b>Audit form</b>
Lisa Cooper	Walk	Walk
Vickie Browning	Walk	Disability
Kristine McCormick	Bike	Bike
Rachel Ruhlen	Walk	
Marc Davis	Walk	
Anita McMillan	Walk	Walk
Nathan McClung	Walk	Walk
Bo Herndon	Walk	

Route: Bicycle – Pollard St from Washington Ave to Virginia Ave, turn right on Virginia Ave to Glade Creek, then return. Discussion of bicycle accommodations on Virginia Ave will be included in the next report with the walk & disability audit of Virginia Ave.

Walk/Disability – Pollard St from Washington Ave to Virginia Ave. West side of Pollard St and returned on the east side of Pollard St. (The bicycle continued on Virginia Ave to Glade Creek; walk/disability will audit that segment separately.)

Vinton purchased the properties in the triangle formed by Pollard, 1<sup>st</sup>, and Cedar for the purpose of redevelopment. On the north end of the segment, the parcel on the southeast corner of Washington & Pollard is available for redevelopment. Redevelopments are opportunities for improvements for walking, biking, and disability accommodations.

Trip generators: Downtown Vinton: Library, Farmer’s Market, downtown businesses, Town Hall & services, Carilion Clinic. Breweries, Farmburguesa are newer businesses downtown. The old high school off of Gus Nicks Blvd is being converted into apartments which may generate pedestrian traffic downtown. New development opportunities may generate pedestrian traffic. The new Vinton bus route has several stops on Pollard St.

Sidewalk: Sidewalk is present on both sides of Pollard St. Sidewalk appeared level throughout, including at drives. Generally the travel path is >4 feet wide with some exceptions. Pavement condition is mostly good. In downtown, placement of street furniture and lamp posts is well done with sufficient space.

Deficiencies:

- Gap in the sidewalk of about 100 feet between Cedar Ave and Virginia Ave on the west side.
- Better delineation of sidewalk from road and parking lot needed along the parcel at the northeast corner of Pollard & Jefferson. Sidewalk and curb ramps are in poor condition along this parcel.

- Three entrances to Helado Bar could be combined, eliminating potential conflict points with pedestrians.
- Several metal grates have worked loose and need secured.
- Encroachment of vegetation, obstacles, and sidewalk disrepair constrain it to <4 feet in spots. Vegetation in particular on the east side along the parcel that is south of Jefferson Ave. Soil from a collapsed retaining wall encroaches on the sidewalk on the east side just north of Virginia Ave.
- Some uneven settling should be ground down.
- Rubber mat in front of Farmburguesa could be a trip hazard.
- A protruding square near a building downtown on the east side is a trip hazard.

Traffic: Traffic was moderate during the audit, and traffic was slow.

Crosswalks: The crosswalk at the library has extensive tactile surface on the east side, and none on the west. The latest guidance from Public Right-of-Way Access Guidelines recommends using exactly 24 inches of tactile surface, as the minimum and the maximum. The rationale is that tactile surfaces are necessary for blind people but pose an inconvenience to people in wheelchairs, so no more than the minimum should be used.

The brick crosswalk is popular in downtowns for aesthetics, but the latest guidance recommends high-contrast borders, as people with low vision may have difficulty discerning red stamped concrete from black asphalt.

The intersection of Pollard & Virginia has no marked crosswalks and no curb ramps.

Curb ramps: Curb ramps south of downtown are not ADA compliant. They lack curb ramps, tactile surfaces, insufficient landing at the bottom or top, and/or >1/4 inch lip.

Curb ramps in the downtown area were improved more recently. However, at the time, there had not been a standard determined on tactile surfaces. These will be brought up to standard at the next opportunity.

Signs: Missing street sign at Cedar Ave

Biking: Biking on Pollard St was comfortable. Pollard St has a combination of stop lights and thru intersections with stops for crossing traffic. Pollard St could benefit from sharrows.

### Recommendations

Geolocated photos of the audit are at this link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/NVdQDVbEyJK275JGA>

Biking: Bike lane, at least on the uphill (eastbound) side. Sharrows or “Bikes May Use Full Lane” signs. Signage directing cyclists through parallel routes north and south of Washington Ave. Improve crossings at Maple and/or provide access to Pollard north of Washington Ave from the east so that bicyclists can use the signalized intersection to cross Washington.

Walk: After pedestrian improvements to Pollard and Washington, consider improving other crosswalks with curb ramps, flashing lights, and enforcement.

Disability: Some small actions would improve the 3-block section from Pollard to Blair for people with disabilities: grind down lips at storm drains and crosswalks, clean up debris. When pedestrian improvements are made at Pollard and Washington, consider high visibility crosswalks.



Volunteers auditing Pollard St



Loose drain cover



Settled sidewalk >1/4 inch



Tactile surface on curb ramp



Collapsed retaining wall



Vegetation encroaching on sidewalk



Protrusions like this are a trip hazard



All the bumps ended up here. Only 24" of bumps, no more no less.