



CITY OF ROANOKE AND TOWN OF VINTON, VIRGINIA

RSTP Funds Joint Application

FOR

**Tinker Creek Pedestrian Bridge: Tinker Creek and
Glade Creek Greenways Connection**

Date: September 15, 2014

RSTP Project Profile – Candidate Project

Please limit overall application to a maximum of 5 pages (11 pt. font 1.5 spacing) – supporting materials such as a previous study or aerial photography may be submitted as an addendum and not subject to 5 pages maximum.

1. Project Sponsor(s): City of Roanoke and Town of Vinton, Virginia
2. Proposed Implementing Agency: City of Roanoke and Town of Vinton, Virginia
3. Project Description and Attached Aerial Showing Proposed Improvement Location:

Tinker Creek Pedestrian Bridge – Connection to Tinker Creek Greenway and the proposed Glade Creek Greenway, see Attachment A.
4. Detailed Scope of Work, proposed Schedule and Relation to Other Projects or Project Phases, Project Status, and Other Funding Sources: (attach document if extra space is needed – please refer to overall application limit noted above)
Attachment A: Aerial Location Map, Project Description and Scope of Work
Attachment B: Schedule and Relation to Other Projects and Project Phases
Attachment C: Other Funding Sources

Items 5-9 Pertain to Highway Projects:

5. Functional Classification: Pedestrian and Bicycle Shared Use Facility
6. Existing Traffic Volume and Level of Service with Improvement:
7. Existing Volume/Capacity:
8. Future Traffic Volume or Projected Ridership with Service Implementation:
9. Future Volume/Capacity and Level of Service:
10. Estimated Project Cost by Phase (Preliminary Engineering, Right-of-Way (including utilities) and Construction (including administration): (attach a detailed cost estimate and/or budget to support your application)

PE: \$145,000

CN: \$1,314,500

Breakdown of Costs Continued on Next Page

Tinker Creek Pedestrian Bridge
 Minimum Length of 250 feet
 Cost Estimate

Item	250 Feet Bridge
Engineering/Design Fees	\$120,000
Environmental Document	\$5,000
Surveying	\$5,000
VDOT Review Charge	\$15,000
PE Phase Total Costs: Subtotal	\$145,000
Mobilization	\$30,000
Grading	\$30,000
Drainage/SWM	\$10,000
Bridge (250' Span)/Erection of Bridge	\$830,000
Ramps and Approaches	\$190,000
Parking	\$15,000
Trail Construction	\$80,000
Work Area Protection	\$10,000
Base Bid Total Costs: Subtotal	\$1,195,000
Const Contingency (10%)	\$119,500
Total Costs	\$1,459,500

Tinker Creek Pedestrian Bridge

RSTP Candidate Project Rating Factors

A. Regional Project Consideration

This project is a joint participation project between the City of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton to interconnect two existing regional greenways, the Roanoke River Greenway and Tinker Creek Greenway and the proposed Glade Creek Greenway, with a pedestrian bridge. To date, the Roanoke Valley has 26 miles of trails. The vision for the region is an interconnected greenway system that runs from Green Hill Park in Roanoke County, through the Cities of Salem and Roanoke, the Town of Vinton, to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Explore Park. The Town of Vinton is not currently connected to the regional greenway system. The proposed bridge project over Tinker Creek will complete Vinton's connection to the regional system.

B. Support the Economic Vitality of the Metropolitan Area

The connection between communities encourages economic vitality. Studies have consistently shown that greenway systems attract businesses, enhance the health of a community and its citizenry, produce an economic boost and make a community more livable. The National Park Service (NPS) produced a Resource Book in 1995 that stated properties adjacent to greenways increase in value by 5% (NPS, 1995). This increase is the intrinsic value people place on having access to a greenway system. It produces increased direct, indirect and induced economic benefits. The NPS's Resource Book also states that the Joint Economic Committee of the U.S. Congress reported that a locality's quality of life is more important for a company's relocation than pure business related factors and, in fact, quality of life ranks number three on their list of important factors (NPS, 1995).

C. Increase the Safety and Security of the Transportation System

Southeast Roanoke and Town of Vinton would benefit from increased safety and mobility with the interconnection of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge at the confluence of Tinker and Glade Creeks. These areas can be described as modest income areas. A trail would provide for a safe, alternative mode of travel to the passenger vehicle and open up a larger market to the area for access to employment, services, and cultural centers.

D. Increase the Accessibility and Mobility Options Available to People and/or Freight

The Regional Greenways are fully accessible and the proposed improvements will be designed to adhere to 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

E. Protect and Enhance the Environment, Promote Energy Conservation, and Improve Quality of Life

Improving bicycle and pedestrian connections between the City of Roanoke and the Town of Vinton protects and enhances the environment by promoting walking and bicycling as an alternative mode of travel to the passenger vehicle. The pedestrian bridge that will connect Tinker Creek Greenway to Walnut Avenue and the proposed Glade Creek Greenway will increase access for residents to the regional greenway network, markets, employment, and cultural centers. Improved safety, accessibility, and access to new markets via alternative modes of travel reduce greenhouse gases, rates of obesity, while promoting conservation and quality of life.

F. Enhance the Integration and Connectivity of the Transportation System, Across and Between Modes, for People and/or Freight

The City of Roanoke has plans to continue Tinker Creek Greenway into Downtown Roanoke and beyond Orange Avenue. The proposed Glade Creek Greenway will connect Virginia Avenue to Walnut Avenue, which are on Valley Metro public transit bus lines. The Tinker Creek and Glade Creek Greenways and the pedestrian bridge connections will integrate with the new Walnut Avenue bridge and sidewalk improvement projects, which will connect to Downtown Vinton. Interconnection of the trail network with these major surface streets and employment centers enhances connectivity between multiple modes of transportation.

G. Promote Efficient System Management and Operation

If the connection to the Town of Vinton is made at the current terminus of the Tinker Creek Greenway, pedestrians and cyclists would have to use a road that is not properly striped for pedestrian or bicycle use and has a hazardous intersection at 8th Street and the railroad crossing. The proposed pedestrian bridge crossing provides a safer, separate alternative to Walnut Avenue. Lower volumes and reduced speeds on a separated path encourage use while reducing conflicts and potential for major injury. The current crossing of Tinker Creek at Wise Avenue/Walnut Avenue is at least 300 feet and the expansion of this bridge is not feasible because of the existing bridge is not feasible because of the railroad overpass, limited right-of-way width, and the floodway issues.

H. Emphasize the Preservation of Existing Transportation System

Existing transportation facilities are preserved in this plan. Concurrent phased improvements on Walnut Avenue enhance the function of this thoroughfare to be compatible with bicycle and pedestrian modes while the connection to the existing trail systems via the proposed bridge promotes a safer, separate connection to regional destinations.

I. Cost/Benefit Consideration

The proposed bicycle and pedestrian bridge crossing produces a safer and more cost effective connection than where the Tinker Creek Greenway currently connects to Wise Avenue/Walnut Avenue. The proposed bicycle and pedestrian bridge provides the City of Roanoke, Town of Vinton, and East Roanoke County citizens safe, quick and affordable access to the extensive network of greenway trails already running through the Cities of Roanoke and Salem and will also provide an alternative mode of transportation to the goods and services they need.

J. Projects included in previous plans that had a public input process associated with the plan.

The current plans for the Walnut Avenue replacement bridge and sidewalk improvement projects provide sidewalk and bicycle connections to the proposed Glade Creek Greenway. Street improvements to Walnut Avenue from 5th Street to West Lee Avenue will establish sidewalks and crosswalks to a section of roadway that is heavily traveled and currently does not have either sidewalks or crosswalks. The proposed Phase II of the Walnut Avenue project will increase safety at the 8th Street intersection and improve the railroad crossing at that location.

Attachment A – Location and Scope of Work

Tinker Creek Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Connector

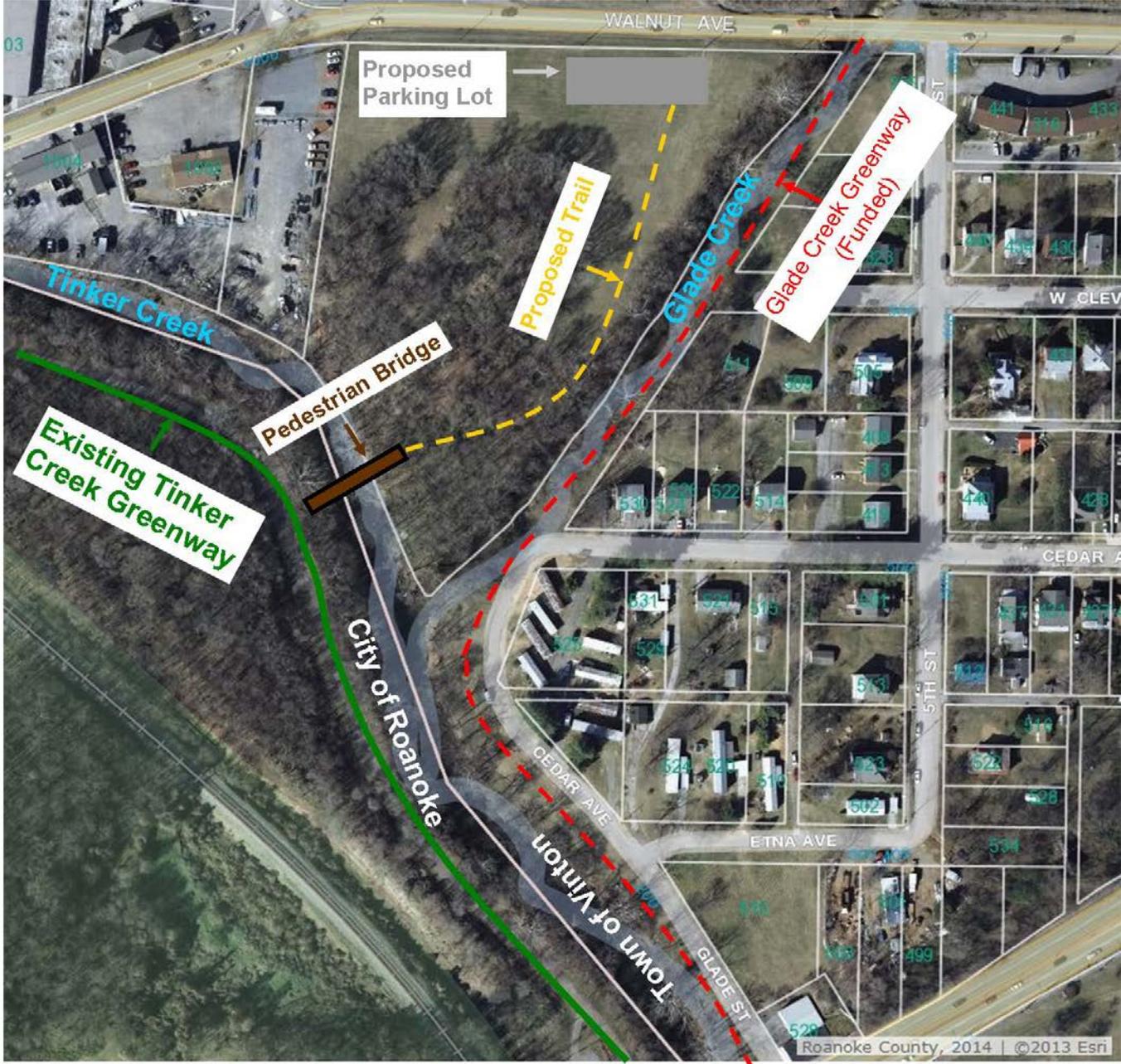
Project Location: The potential locations for the pedestrian bridge connector between the City of Roanoke's Tinker Creek Greenway and the Town of Vinton's proposed Glade Creek Greenway are shown on the attached location map. The bridge is proposed just north of the confluence of Glade Creek and Tinker Creek. Due to the large floodway, the length/span of the pedestrian bridge is to be at least 250 feet long.

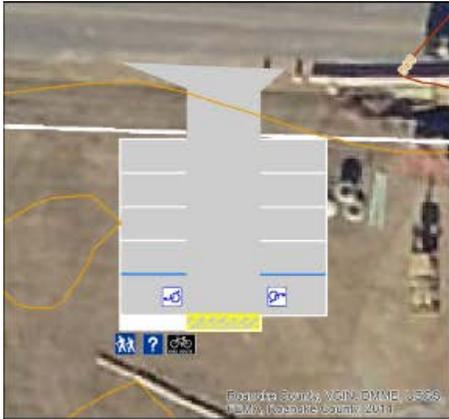
Project Description: The proposed Tinker Creek Bicycle and Pedestrian bridge connector consists of the installation of a 12 feet wide pedestrian bridge, concrete abutment walls, and approaches from Tinker Creek, respectively. The installation of this bridge will complete the connection for the Town of Vinton to the Regional Greenway network. This proposed pedestrian bridge connector implements the goals of the Regional Greenway Plan's vision for an interconnected greenway system that runs from Green Hill Park in the County of Roanoke through the Cities of Salem and Roanoke, the Town of Vinton, to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Explore Park.

Scope of Work: The proposed facility is a 12 feet wide bicycle and pedestrian shared use bridge that will comply with AASHTO's Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities and the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. In addition to the construction of the bridge, the project scope includes construction of trail approaches, bridge abutments, and any and all necessary earthwork associated with the pedestrian bridge crossing.

TINKER CREEK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

City of Roanoke and Town of Vinton RSTP Joint Application

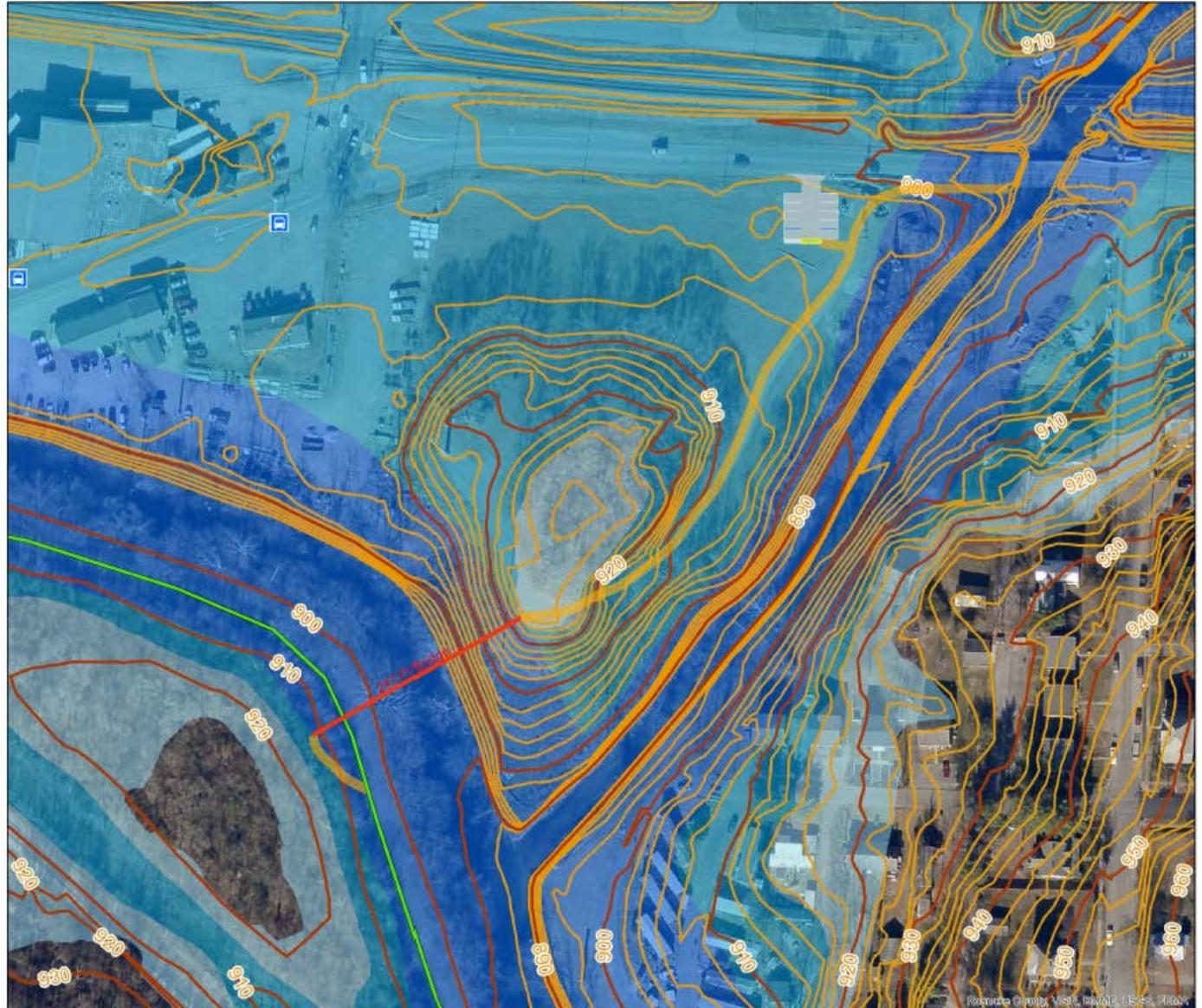




Tinker Creek Pedestrian Bridge and A Loop Trail

- Bus_Stops
- Proposed Bridge Sites
- Existing Greenways
- Greenway 10ft
- Parking Lot**
- Loading Zone
- Parking lot
- Sidewalk & Ramp
- 10ft Contour
- 2ft Contour
- 500 year Floodplain
- Flood Plain
- Floodway
- Not in Flood Plain

Prepared by Roanoke County
1:1,200 1 inch = 100 feet



Attachment B – Schedule and Other Project Phases

Project Request Location: Tinker Creek Pedestrian Bridge

Project Engineering: July 2015 to January 2016

Project Advertisement: February 2016

Begin Construction: April 2016

End Construction: July 2016

Currently Under Review with Completion Fall 2015:

Walnut Avenue Phase I - \$100,000

Sidewalks/gutter - \$88,200

Striping of pavement for Share the Road Program - \$800

Crosswalks (7) – \$1,000

Landscaping (trees for traffic calming/shade) - \$10,000

Currently Under Review with Completion Spring 2016:

Glade Creek Greenway - \$162,000

Attachment C: Other Funding Sources

Concurrent Funded Project Phases:

Walnut Avenue Phase I - \$100,000

RSTP Fund

Sidewalks/gutter - \$88,200

Striping of pavement for Share the Road Program - \$800

Crosswalks (7) – \$1,000

Landscaping (trees for traffic calming/shade) - \$10,000

Glade Creek Greenway - \$162,000

VDOT Revenue Sharing Town of Vinton Fund

Novozymes Cash Donation

Ten feet wide paved multi-use trail along Glade and Tinker Creek from Walnut Avenue to Virginia Avenue



County of Roanoke

PO Box 29800, 5204 Bernard Drive
Roanoke, Virginia 24018-0798

DANIEL R. O'DONNELL
INTERIM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

TEL: (540) 772.2017
FAX: (540) 561.2884

September 4, 2014

Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
313 Luck Avenue, SW
P.O. Box 2569
Roanoke, VA 24010

RE: Joint Application for RSTP Funding for a Pedestrian Bridge over Tinker Creek

Dear Members of the MPO and TTC:

I would like to express the County of Roanoke's support of the Town of Vinton's and City of Roanoke's joint application for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Tinker Creek.

This regional funding will enable the construction of a pedestrian bridge to provide a connection between the existing City of Roanoke's Tinker Creek Greenway to the Town of Vinton's proposed Glade/Tinker Creek Greenway. The Town has received the Revenue Sharing grant funding for Glade/Tinker Creek Greenway to be constructed from Walnut Avenue to Virginia Avenue, to the east of Glade and Tinker Creeks.

A connection between the City's Tinker Creek Greenway and the Town's Glade/Tinker Creek Greenway will provide a wonderful opportunity for bicyclists and pedestrians to go from downtown Vinton to the Roanoke River Greenway and back. The Glade/Tinker Creek Greenway and the Tinker Creek pedestrian bridge would complement the Town's downtown revitalization project, as well as the new downtown Vinton branch library that is currently under construction. The Town has pursued a corridor on the east side of Glade Creek and Tinker Creek, utilizing a sewer line easement, and is now positioned to have a greenway connection as far as Virginia/Dale Avenues, but unfortunately there is no sidewalk on the north side of the City's Dale Avenue bridge. Therefore, a pedestrian bridge over Tinker Creek is needed to connect these two greenways that separated by only the creek.

I hope you and the committee will look closely at the potential this project offers, and I hope you will support this joint application of the Town of Vinton and City of Roanoke for the Tinker Creek pedestrian bridge.

Sincerely,

Daniel R. O'Donnell
Interim County Administrator



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www.greenways.org

September 15, 2014

Roanoke Valley Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and
Transportation Technical Committee
P.O. Box 2569
Roanoke, VA 24010

Dear Members of the MPO and TTC:

The Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission reviewed RSTP applications at its August 27 meeting and would like to express its support for the City of Roanoke and Town of Vinton's request for funding to connect Glade Creek Greenway to Tinker Creek Greenway.

The Town of Vinton has worked diligently through the years to take advantage of greenway opportunities, such as Wolf Creek Greenway and Gladetown Trail. Vinton has Revenue Sharing money to build Glade Creek Greenway from Walnut Ave. to Virginia Ave. and will be starting construction in 2015. The Glade Creek bridge replacement on Walnut Avenue opens today, September 15, and the Town will be developing sidewalks and bike lanes to downtown. The proposed bridge connection in this application will provide ready access from those facilities to Tinker Creek Greenway.

The City of Roanoke has been a leader in greenway construction, and Tinker Creek Greenway as far as Wise Avenue opened over a decade ago. The City is also applying for construction funding to extend Tinker to Orange Avenue. If Tinker Creek Greenway were connected to Walnut Avenue, where the low water bridge has been a significant constraint for bicyclists, it would provide a wonderful avenue for bicycles and pedestrians to go from downtown Vinton to Roanoke River Greenway and back. The greenway would also complement the Vinton downtown revitalization and the new library.

In the Greenway Plan, Roanoke River is the number one priority, and the number two priorities are the greenways that connect to it. For Vinton, because Roanoke River Greenway is on the south side of the river, the connection to it is a high priority. In 2012 the bridge across the river, connecting Roanoke River and Tinker Creek Greenways, was built to provide this connection. Now the Town and the City are moving forward to connect folks from the river to both downtowns. The Glade Creek Greenway and its connection to Tinker are critical to make the route continuous.

Thank you for your consideration of this important greenway connection and your recognition of its importance to economic development in downtown Vinton.

Sincerely,

Bob Blankenship, Chairman
Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission