

Regional Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee January 17, 2017

Present: Andrea Garland, Mark Jamison, David Holladay, Liz Belcher, Jim Lee, Carol Linkenhoker, Lindsay Webb, Steve Buxton, Barbara Duerk

Staff: Rachel Ruhlen, Amanda McGee, Cristina Finch, Jeremy Holmes (Ride Solutions)

Introductions and Welcome: Staff researched the origins of the committee and discovered that every TPO Unified Planning Work Process since 2009 lists the Regional Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee, although it has always been called the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Route 419: A few months ago the committee considered a request to send a letter to VDOT emphasizing coordination of bike/ped accommodations among the various projects in the Route 419 corridor. At the December meeting, staff were asked to revise the letter so that it was mostly a thank-you letter with the request of ensuring the corridor bike/ped accommodations are coordinated throughout. However, committee members felt the revised letter would have a negative effect on VDOT bike/ped practices, which are already very good, and that VDOT will ensure consistency of accommodations throughout the corridor without additional prompting. The consensus was to drop the letter.

BikeShare: Jeremy reported that BikeShare will launch in Roanoke in April 2017. RideSolutions is contracting with Zagster because of their flexible and low-cost model. This is possible because it is managed through smartphone app, instead of kiosks. The phase 1 goal is 10 stations with 50 bikes, but it can be launched in April and then expanded. Jeremy is recruiting sponsors. Annual sponsorships are \$1800/bike or \$9000/station; each station has 5 bikes. Phase 2 will include accessibility for those without smartphones. The April launch will include a big bike ride event.

Bike Route 76 study: Amanda reported that this will involve riding the route to identify issues. An initial kickoff meeting will be held in February, with more outreach to follow.

Legislative Update: Rachel reported that Virginia Bicycle Federation is holding Monday night legislative update phone calls. The most recent updates (and bill numbers) on the discussed legislation is provided.

HB2023, Villanueva: Maintenance reimbursement of road diets. Currently, maintenance reimbursement is calculated on lane-miles, a disincentive for converting a 4-lane to a 3-lane road. Passed committee 22-0, passed House.

SB860, Surovell: Texting while driving ban. Many groups spoke in support, no one in opposition. Passed by indefinitely.

HB1834, Anderson: Distracted Driving offense, which is a lesser penalty than reckless driving, which is very severe.

HB2016, Villanueva: Automated 3-wheeled delivery vehicles <10 mph traveling on sidewalks.

SB1339, Surovell: Vulnerable User or Due Care bill

HB 1633, Sullivan and LeMunyon: Vulnerable User, Assigned to a Courts of Justice Criminal Law subcommittee

SB1338, Surovell: Prohibiting a Motor Vehicle from Passing in a Bike Lane. Passed by.

SB1223, Barker: Class 2 Misdemeanor to ride a bicycle, SegWay, moped, or electric power assisted bicycle on a highway while intoxicated. Passed by.

HB1504/SB1229, Delegate Fowler and Senator Dunnivant: Increase the required vision of new applicants for Driver's Licenses. \$2.2 million to replace 634 machines used to test applicant's horizontal field of vision. SB1229 Passed by.

HB1514/SB1024, Delegate Fowler and Senator Dunnivant: exempt Medical personnel from civil liability when they report persons who should not be driving to DMV. Such reporting is voluntary, and not required, but some medical personnel do make such reports, more might do so if immunity were provided.

2017 Work Plan: Not to be confused with the FY 2018 TPO Unified Planning Work Process, but the Work Plan for the Pedestrian & Bicycle Advisory Committee. Discussed what we might be working on in the upcoming year.

The Bikeway Plan is due for a 5-year update, but staff capacity will likely push that out another year or two. Roanoke City may be pursuing Walk Friendly Community designation that could benefit from this committee's involvement.

The committee would like clarification on its purpose, including whether it should focus exclusively on bicycle issues or also address pedestrian issues. Some committee members oppose expanding the role of the committee to pedestrian issues. The TPO Unified Planning Work Process description of the committee offers little guidance:

"Regional Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Board - RVTPO staff will continue to staff the Regional Pedestrian/Bicycle Advisory Committee. In addition, staff will attend meetings and/or serve on the following committees: City of Roanoke BAC, Regional Greenway Commission, Regional Greenway Commission Standards and Design Subcommittee, Joint Greenway Commission-Pathfinders Marketing, PR and Education Subcommittee and other committees as appointed." Staff will seek further guidance from the TPO.

Members felt that field trips in the past had been a valuable activity of this committee. There was some general approval of the idea of the committee serving as a resource for individual localities, which may not have the capacity to staff their own bike/ped committees, to present their bike/ped projects & updates to the committee and receive feedback. The committee could serve as a forum for coordination of bike/ped accommodations throughout corridors that pass through multiple jurisdictions, such as Route 419.