



MINUTES

Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

March 29, 2019

313 Luck Ave SW, upstairs conference room

Members present

Anita McMillan, Vinton
Colie Touzel, Virginia Tech
Michelle Via, RAVE
Lisa Cooper, Franklin County
Cecile Newcomb, Roanoke County
Renee Powers, City of Roanoke
Garrett Brumfield, Overcome Yours
Tim Pohlad-Thomas, RIDE Solutions

Members absent

Jim Lee, community volunteer
Greg Walter, Greenway Commission
Vickie Browning, AARP
Lisa Wever, Roanoke City School
Carol Linkenhoker, VDOT
Erik Olsen, Montgomery County

Robert Robillard, North Cross HS
Kristine McCormick, IMBA
Jessica Preston, Salem
David Radcliff, Botetourt

Others present

Terry Smith
Bea Smith
Wayne Wilcox
Ken McLeod, League of American
Bicyclists
Nathan McClung, Vinton

Staff present

Rachel Ruhlen, RVARC

Colie Touzel called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

1. Approval of Jan 4, 2019 minutes

Motion by Anita McMillan that the minutes be approved as amended, seconded by Renee Powers. Motion passed.

2. Announcements

- E-scooter update: Renee Powers stated that the City is adopting a permitting process and Lime e-scooters will probably arrive in the City this month. E-scooters will not be allowed on sidewalks, greenways, or in parks, using geofencing.
- Legislative update: Ken McLeod commented that sponsors of this year's National Bike Summit included e-scooter companies like Lime. The federal transportation bill expires next year and is expected to be renewed. The League of American Bicyclists is interested in preserving the \$2.2 billion Highway Safety Improvement Program and increasing the amount of that program that currently funds bike/ped safety improvements.
- Five members' terms expire this year: Lisa Cooper, Vickie Browning, Colie Touzel, Michelle Via, and Kristine McCormick. The application form is like last year.

3. Future meeting dates

The consensus of the committee was to schedule future meetings for the same day & time of the month, rather than try to accommodate everyone's schedules. 2019-2020 meetings

will be 3:00 – 5:00 pm on the 3rd Thursdays of August, October, January, and March, and 1:00 – 5:00 pm on the 3rd Thursday of May. These dates & times are in the application form.

4. Bike/Ped Counts

Rachel Ruhlen informed the committee that VDOT has withdrawn its offer of two permanent counts in Roanoke for the statewide bike/ped pilot count program because the legal departments of the City and VDOT were unable to agree on a Memorandum of Understanding. Staff are pursuing other avenues for a bike/ped count program. Ken McLeod asked if e-scooter data will be shared. Tim Pohlad-Thomas explained that data sharing is part of the permitting, but noted that data sharing is also part of the Zagster agreement yet it has been difficult to get Zagster data.

5. Locality Chat with Vinton

Nathan McClung presented information about upcoming projects in Vinton. Glade Creek Greenway Phase 2 is expected to be completed in fall 2020, but is turning into a more expensive project than originally estimated and Vinton is seeking additional funding. The two intersections that received Pedestrian Safety Action Plan funding (Pollard & Washington and Vinyard & Hardy) are expected to be completed in December 2019.

6. RIDE Solutions

Tim Pohlad-Thomas explained the mission & a brief history of RIDE Solutions, including its role as the region's bike/ped advocacy group. There are a lot of annual members, and a lot of people come into town and use the bikes while they are in town. The majority of rides are on the greenway. There have been no reported crashes involving a bikeshare bike. While equity has been a consideration in the placement of stations, the underperforming stations are those in the traditionally underserved areas, such as the Fallon Park station and the 10th St station. Renee Powers offered to look into amending the lease to move the Fallon Park station to Wise Ave which would keep it in the Southeast. Michelle Via suggested that the 10th St station will perform better when construction on that street is completed.

7. Committee members report on Jan 14, Feb 7, Feb 19, Mar 12 Bike/Walk/Disability Audits

Renee Powers reported that as a result of feedback received from the Jan 14 audit of Grandin Rd, the alley was regraded at the same time as the Murray Run Greenway trailhead parking lot.

Feb 7 and Mar 23 were Gus Nicks Blvd / Washington Ave. The walk/disability audit was divided into two parts, Washington Ave on Feb 7 and Gus Nicks on Mar 23. The bike audit was done all on Feb 7. Less than an hour after the Mar 23 walk/disability audit, a pedestrian was struck in the intersection of Washington & Pollard. This intersection is slated for pedestrian safety improvements as part of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, estimated completion December 2019.

The City of Roanoke requested the Feb 19 audit of Jefferson St because it is on the repaving schedule and the intersection of Jefferson & Bullitt is getting pedestrian safety improvements as part of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.

8. May workshop or field trip

The four-hour block of time in May is reserved for a field trip or workshop. The last field trip was Garden City Greenway Phase 1. Jim Lee had previously suggested either Garden City Greenway Phase 2 or the newest segment of the Roanoke River Greenway at Aerial Way Dr. Renee Powers commented that Garden City is an underserved area and that people aren't sure how to get from downtown to the new greenway. She suggested a two-part field trip: a bike ride from downtown to the Garden City Greenway, followed by a walk along the new Garden City Greenway. She will check the availability of the engineer who built it.

9. Updates

Individual committee members updated the committee on items of interest.

Garrett Brumfield – Attended the Vision Zero Summit in DC and did a disability road audit there.

Terry Smith – Asked when Reserve Ave parking lot will be paved. Renee Powers explained the entire park is getting a lot of work done, including the parking lot, and it will be closed until October.

Lisa Cooper – Ferrum bridge is moving forward. Franklin County is experiencing a demand for mountain bike options.

Michelle Via – RAVE dissolved after almost 30 years as a support group for people with vision impairment. She is now giving updates on transportation to New Vision.

Colie Touzel – Virginia Tech hired an alternative transportation director, Nick Quint. Bike to Campus Day on Thursday had a lot more booths than usual. Colie and Erik Olsen will be presenting about Blacksburg's Roam bikeshare system at the American Planning Association conference in San Francisco.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 pm.

The last meeting for this fiscal year will be May 30, 2019, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, a field trip to the Garden City Greenway. More details will be forthcoming.