

MINUTES

Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

August 15, 2019

313 Luck Ave SW, Roanoke VA

Members present

Cecile Newcomb, Roanoke County
Andrea Garland, City of Roanoke
Garrett Brumfield, Overcome Yours
Jim Lee, community volunteer
Greg Walter, Greenway Commission
Erik Olsen, Montgomery County
Carol Linkenhoker, VDOT
Lisa Cooper, Franklin County
Angela Yarbrough, community volunteer
Ken Mcleod, League of American
Bicyclists
David Radcliff, Botetourt
Jeremy Holmes, RIDE Solutions

Guests present

Colie Touzel, community volunteer

Staff present

Rachel Ruhlen, RVARC

Members absent

Robert Robillard, North Cross HS
Jessica Preston, Salem
Kathleen Herndon, Feeding America –
Southwest Virginia
Matt McKimmy, Ride Amigos
Lisa Wever, Fallon Park Elementary

Jim Lee called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

1. Approval of May 30, 2019 minutes

Motion by Cecile Newcomb that the minutes be approved, seconded by Greg Walter.

Motion passed.

2. Announcements

A) Jim Lee welcomed new members to the committee: Ken Mcleod, Angela Yarbrough, Kathleen Herndon, Matt McKimmy, and returning member Lisa Cooper.

B) Valley Metro is creating a new Transit Passenger Advisory Committee. Applications are available on the Valley Metro website (<http://valleymetro.com>) until August 30.

C) In a partnership with Virginia Tech, last month RVARC installed bike & ped counters on 10th St NW near the Lick Run Greenway and ped counters on Campbell Ave near Jefferson St for a 3-month pilot trial. Earlier today, VDOT contacted RVARC because they have counters available for use by localities & MPOs. The constraint is staff time to install & manage the counters and process the data.

3. Nominating Committee – Greg Walter reported that the nominating committee met on July 22 and recommended Cecile Newcomb for Chair and Andrea Garland for Vice-Chair. There were no nominations from the floor. Motion by Lisa Cooper to accept the report of the Nominating Committee passed unanimously.

4. Procedures Committee – Jim Lee appointed Cecile Newcomb, Andrea Garland, and himself to study the procedures of the bike/ped committee and make a recommendation.

5. Year in Review – Rachel Ruhlen presented the evaluation of the committee effectiveness and engagement. Survey results indicated that at-large members felt excluded. Cecile Newcomb pointed out that survey results also showed people felt ineffective and unsure of the committee’s role. The committee brainstormed and suggested the following roles: advise RVTPO on which projects to bestow Surface Transportation Block Grant funding, advise localities and RVTPO on which projects to submit for other funding opportunities, or advise localities and RVTPO in creating project submissions.

Committee members expressed interested in attending Technical Committee and/or RVTPO Policy Board meetings to better understand transportation planning. The Technical Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm. The Policy Board meets on the 4th Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm. These meetings, and any cancellations or changes, are posted at <http://rvarc.org/meetings/agendas-and-minutes/>.

The committee concluded they would like more direction on their role from the Technical Committee and would like the Technical Committee to have a standing item on their agenda to solicit requests for the bike/ped committee.

6. Bicycling, Walking, & Climate Change – David Radcliff presented information about efforts his organization, New Community Projects, has made to help Myanmar villages, African girls, and Denali wildlife cope with the effects of climate change. Biking and walking can help reduce emissions from personal travel in motor vehicles which produces 30% of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

7. Shaffer’s Crossing – Rachel Ruhlen presented information about the collapsed boardwalk in Shaffer’s Crossing from 2016, which connects Patterson Ave to 24th St NW under four railroad bridges (see attached slides). She documented the conditions pedestrians had to cope with and the lengthy negotiations the City engaged in to get permission from Norfolk Southern to repair it. Phone calls she made may have helped get the agreements moving from where they had stalled, so that the repairs could be completed in September 2018. Understanding invisible constraints (such as agreements between agencies) is important for the bike/ped committee to know how we can be effective.

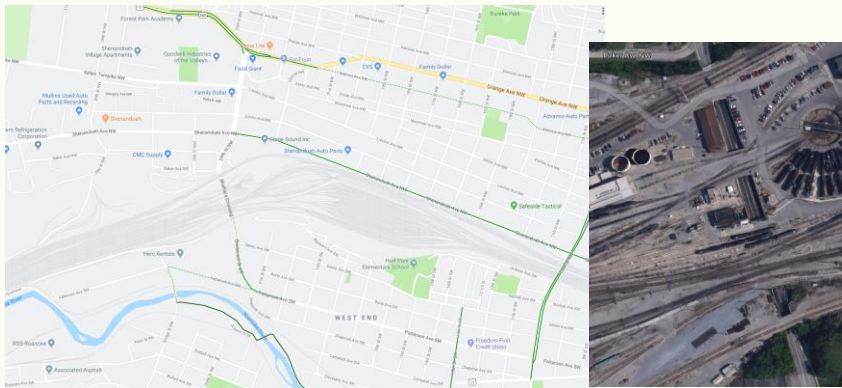
The meeting adjourned at 4:38 pm.



Shaffer's Crossing

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2



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- 875 feet long
 - 4 tunnels
 - 25 mph posted speed limit
 - 10,000 AADT
 - Nearest railroad crossings 1.2 miles east and 2.4 miles west
 - 28-foot right-of-way with 4-foot sidewalk
 - 0 crashes reported from 2011 - 2016
- BEFORE bike through (north to south):**
<https://youtu.be/vrLSrT4cdM>
- AFTER walk through (south to north)**
<https://youtu.be/K4W2jZgDEQ8>

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- Boardwalk damaged in a flood
- City put up barricade and “SIDEWALK CLOSED” sign at the site
 - No advance warning
 - No reasonable detour available
- Boardwalk had steps
- Failing rail in the narrowest tunnel had been reinforced on the INSIDE, leaving <3 feet width

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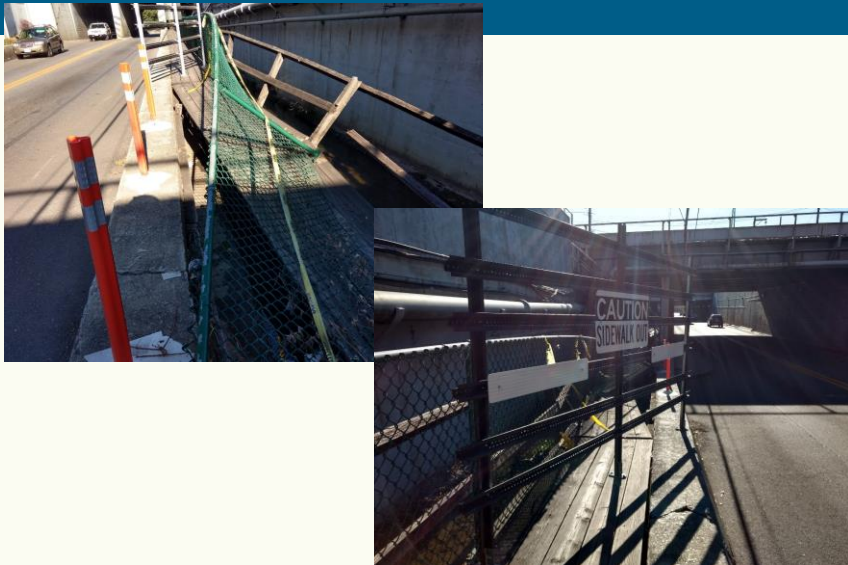
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- Over a year... no repairs
- Norfolk Southern property
- Easement issue
- Thor, Inc. \$208,064
- September 2018

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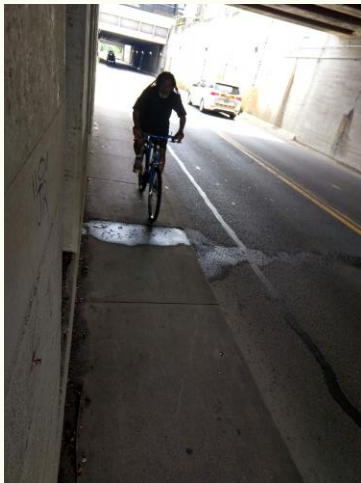
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