

AGENDA
Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee
January 16, 2020
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Upstairs conference room, 313 Luck Ave SW, Roanoke VA

1. Approval of October 10 minutes of the Procedures Subcommittee and October 17 minutes of the Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (p 2)
2. Announcements ~10 min
3. Update from RVTPO Technical Committee ~20 min (Cecile/Andrea)
4. Review actions from Pedestrian Vision Plan ~40 min (p 7, Rachel)
5. Get to Know Our Members
 - Angela Yarbrough
 - Garrett Brumfield, Overcome Yours
 - Robert Robillard, North Cross High School
6. Committee member updates ~15 min

Committee information, dates, links, and attachments are on the [committee web page](#). Please note this is where you can find **dates** and **times** of upcoming meetings!

Next meeting Thursday, March 19, 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 pm.

October 10, 2019, 1:00 pm

Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Procedures Subcommittee

Cecile Newcomb (subcommittee chair), Andrea Garland, Jim Lee.

Other – Cody Sexton (Technical Committee Chair), Ben Tripp (Technical Committee Vice-Chair).

Staff – Rachel Ruhlen

The Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Bike/Ped Committee) is advisory to the Technical Committee. Members of the Bike/Ped Committee have expressed concern about the purpose of the Bike/Ped Committee because in the year since the Technical Committee adopted the Bike/Ped Committee, the Technical Committee has not consulted the Bike/Ped Committee or requested its advice on anything.

The Procedures Subcommittee of the Bike/Ped Committee requested this meeting with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Technical Committee to address what the Bike/Ped Committee should be advising the Technical Committee on.

The group consensus was that the Bike/Ped Committee could best advise the Technical Committee by updating the Bikeway Plan and the Pedestrian Vision Plan (or combining them) and keeping the plan(s) up to date with frequent reviews. Establishing high priority bike/ped needs through a plan would give localities guidance on what projects to pursue and support in giving them something to point to that supports & justifies their grant applications. Cody Sexton explained, "It's helpful to have regional justification for projects submitted for funding."

The current Bikeway Plan is 7 years old and the Pedestrian Vision Plan is 4 years old. The group felt a useful plan should be much fresher than this. Rachel Ruhlen expressed reservations about staff time required for updates more often than once every 10 years. The group thought that at least the project list could be visited frequently, without requiring a complete overhaul of the plan(s). Ideally, updates could happen in the spring in advance of fall grant deadlines. The group expressed interest in advising RVARC to hire a consultant to complete a Bike/Ped Plan that could then be updated regularly.

The group felt it would be appropriate for the Chair of the Bike/Ped Committee to provide letters of support for applications for external grants (but the Bike/Ped Committee procedures will need modified to allow for this). They considered, but rejected, having the Bike/Ped Committee provide input on scoring Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) applications. The group consensus was that the Bike/Ped Committee should not engage in activities that might favor one locality over another, such as formally supporting a locality's STBG application. It was thought best that the Chair of the Bike/Ped Committee be given authority to write a letter or resolution of support for external grants upon request, such as SMART SCALE or Highway Safety Improvement Program.

MINUTES
Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

October 17, 2019
313 Luck Ave SW, Roanoke VA

Members present

Cecile Newcomb, Roanoke County
Andrea Garland, City of Roanoke
Jim Lee, community volunteer
Greg Walter, Greenway Commission
Erik Olsen, Montgomery County
Lisa Cooper, Franklin County
Angela Yarbrough, community volunteer
David Radcliff, Botetourt
Jeremy Holmes, RIDE Solutions
Jessica Preston, Salem
Kathleen Herndon, SPCA
Matt McKimmy, Ride Amigos
Anita McMillan, Vinton
Robert Robillard, North Cross High School

Others present

Wayne Wilcox

Staff present

Rachel Ruhlen, RVARC

Members absent

Lisa Wever, Fallon Park Elementary
Garrett Brumfield, Overcome Yours
Ken Mcleod, League of American Bicyclists
Carol Linkenhoker, Virginia Dept. of Transportation

Cecile Newcomb called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

1. Approval of August 15, 2019 minutes and minutes of the Procedures Subcommittee meeting on September 19, 2019.
Motion by Greg Walter that both sets of minutes be approved, seconded by Jim Lee. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Announcements

- A) Virginia Dept of Transportation (VDOT) Temporary Bike/Ped Count Program
VDOT will be training Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission and locality staff on Tuesday, October 22, 10 am at the Regional Commission on installation of the temporary counters. Andrea Garland suggested that the bike/ped committee help prioritize these locations submitted by locality staff for counts.

The Regional Commission has also partnered with Virginia Tech professor Steve Hankey, who provided counters and will assist with data analysis. Pedestrian counters are in place on 10th St NW and on Campbell Ave SW.

- B) VDOT Permanent Bike/Ped Count Program
Erik Olsen reported that the VDOT permanent Bike/Ped Count Program in Blacksburg is underway and counters are installed. Blacksburg is also participating in the temporary count program (see A, above).

Jim Lee inquired about the purpose of the count programs. The answers were:

- a) Having data for a specific location makes stronger grant applications.
- b) Having a regional bike/ped count program makes the data for specific locations more reliable and makes stronger grant applications.
- c) Andrea Garland commented that as more marked crosswalks appear, citizens begin requesting crosswalks in places that don't always make sense. Locality staff need pedestrian count data to guide and support their decisions.
- d) Andrea also commented that VDOT Research Council has requested before & after count data on new projects.

David Radcliff mentioned that according to a recent [New York Times article](#) driving is increasing around cities; this information comes from vehicle count programs.

3. Procedures Subcommittee Report

Cecile Newcomb reported that the Procedures Subcommittee met on September 19, 2019 and developed a procedure for electing new members.

Feedback from the Bike/Ped Committee was that members weren't sure of the purpose of the committee. The Bike/Ped Committee is an advisory committee to the Technical Committee. The Procedures Subcommittee met on October 10, 2019 with chair Cody Sexton & vice-chair Ben Tripp of the Technical Committee to discuss the purpose of the bike/ped committee. This discussion resulted in three action items:

- a) The Technical Committee will have a standing agenda item for updates from the Bike/Ped Committee.
- b) The Chair of the Bike/Ped Committee should have the authority to provide letters of support for locality grant applications for external funding. (Internal funding can pit one locality against another and that could put the Bike/Ped Committee in an awkward position.) This will require changing the Procedures which explicitly forbid this action. The Bike/Ped Committee Procedures can only be changed by the Technical Committee.
- c) Most importantly, the Bike/Ped Committee should keep and regularly update a list of priority bike and ped projects, such as what is in the Bikeway Plan and the Pedestrian Vision Plan.

In addition, the Procedures Subcommittee felt that one-year officer terms are too short since the Bike/Ped Committee only meets 4 times a year and recommends amending the Procedures to two-year terms.

There was some discussion about how the Bike/Ped Committee Chair would handle a request for support of a project that shouldn't be supported. Members felt that it could be handled by the Bike/Ped Committee Chair and the Technical Committee Chair.

There was a question about the quorum for the Bike/Ped Committee being 6. Because attendance varies, this was thought to be a reasonable number for a quorum.

The Procedures Subcommittee presented an amendment to the Procedures. Jeremy Holmes moved to recommend that the Technical Committee approve the amendment, seconded by Lisa Cooper. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Bikeway Plan and Pedestrian Vision Plan

Rachel Ruhlen presented an overview of the [Bikeway Plan](#) (2012) and the [Pedestrian Vision Plan](#) (2015), including the interactive maps ([Bikeway Plan map](#), [Pedestrian Vision Plan map](#)).

- Existing conditions are out of date for both plans. If documenting existing conditions is valuable, it should be done more often than every ten years.
- The recommendations are locations but there is a need for identifying the problem at each location.
- There was some effort at prioritization in both plans.
- Conditions and trends can change rapidly. Examples are equity, bike share, e-bikes, and e-scooters.

The Procedures Subcommittee had discussed with the Technical Committee chair & vice-chair the possibility of hiring a consultant to work with the Bike/Ped Committee to update & combine the plans into a dynamic document that the Bike/Ped Committee reviews regularly. Angela Yarbrough mentioned that the Bike/Ped Committee could determine what the problems are at locations already identified, building on the current plans. Andrea Garland commented that the Bike/Ped Committee could determine the criteria for priorities, such as transit, schools, multimodal centers.

5. Get to Know Our members

Matt McKimmy and Kathleen Herndon gave brief presentations about their backgrounds.

Matt McKimmy is the Director of Support for Ride Amigos, a transportation demand management software company that is about 10 years old. Transportation demand software allows organizations to link incentives to commute behavior. Ride Amigos has clients all over the USA. Matt has telecommuted from Roanoke since he moved here in 2016. Matt rides an e-bike and is a long-time bicyclist.

Kathleen Herndon had a 14 year career in bike shops and focused on removing barriers to women bicycling. She managed shops in Richmond and Northern Virginia before coming to Roanoke in 2014. For Feeding America Southwest Virginia, she learned about income difference in the region and managed a senior feeding program. She is currently in fundraising with SPCA and appears with pets on WFXR and WSLs weekly. She helped make the Big Bikes sculpture (her husband was the artist) on Mill Mountain.

6. Updates

Andrea Garland – Lime is on fast-track for e-scooters at GoFest.

Anita McMillan – Localities must have e-scooter ordinances in place by January 2020 or risk having e-scooters come in with no regulation, so Vinton is developing an ordinance.

Glade Creek Greenway Phase II will begin construction in November.

Walnut Ave sidewalks will enable residents of Indian Rock Village to access downtown Vinton.

Erik Olsen – Virginia Tech has 300 e-scooters. Virginia Tech Transportation Institute is collecting data with a \$500,000 grant.

VDOT selected a consultant for the Valley-to-Valley trail study, an 80-mile, mostly off-road trail connecting Pulaski to Roanoke.

Blacksburg has a contract to expand Gotcha Bikes bikeshare to 150 bikes and upgrade to e-bikes.

Blacksburg Transit received Best Transit System (<4 million riders) award from the American Public Transit Association.

Greg Walter – The new Hinchee Trail connects Hanging Rock to Carvins Cove.

Cecile Newcomb – Roanoke County is applying for funds for improvements to the park and ride at Orange Market, which can be used for parking for the new Hinchee Trail.

Loch Haven Lake has proposed a new campground close to the Hinchee Trail.

Jeremy Holmes – Unfortunately, bikeshare stations in underserved areas performed poorly and were most frequently vandalized so they are being moved. The new station in Salem at Eddy Ave is now the 3rd highest use station.

The Tweed Ride is Nov 9 in Vinton, registration at 10:30 am at Vinton Museum.

Jeremy attended the Distracted Driving Summit. Distracted driving has outpaced drunk driving crashes. Distracted driving incidents are almost entirely phone-related. The Hands-Free phone ban passed both Houses last legislative session but still failed. Jeremy belongs to Drive Smart Virginia and will forward action alerts.

David Radcliff – The ribbon cutting on the Northend Greenway in Harrisonburg supports the New Community Project Sustainable Living Center there and helps people without vehicles access downtown Harrisonburg.

Jim Lee – Go Fest (Oct 18-20) will be on the other side of the river from where it usually is.

Jessica Preston – The Cook Drive part of the greenway in Salem is now open.

The Roanoke Blvd sidewalk across from the VA has been approved.

Construction on East Main St is building new sidewalks. Police have been enforcing the hands-free in work zones, the only part of the hands-free bill that made it through state legislation last year.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Pedestrian Vision Plan: Potential List of Actions for Bike/Ped Committee

Pages 131-141 of the [Pedestrian Vision Plan](#) are the Implementation Strategies for each goal. The Bike/Ped Committee could meaningfully contribute to improving walking in the Roanoke Valley by pursuing these Implementation Strategies. Strategies such as “constructing sidewalks” are not suitable for the Bike/Ped Committee. Staff identified those strategies that are appropriate for the Bike/Ped Committee to work on. Staff further drafted specific actions for each strategy.

Although these strategies are from the Pedestrian Vision Plan, many are relevant to bicycling as well as walking, and many could be expanded slightly to be relevant to both bicycling and walking.

As you review these goals, strategies, and actions, jot down:

- Which actions seem most important and which most feasible,
 - How you could be involved in an action,
 - Actions that aren't a good fit for the Bike/Ped Committee,
 - Additional actions that could contribute toward a strategy,
 - Actions that you feel are important but don't fit a specific strategy or goal.
1. Goal #1: Improve safety for pedestrians. More people are seen walking in the Roanoke Valley because they feel safe due to new infrastructure which makes walking safer for people.
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee identify the needs associated with the locations that were identified in the Pedestrian Vision Plan.**
 - b. Strategy 7: Educate pedestrians and drivers about laws, use of the road, etc.
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee share educational materials with local law enforcement, parents, and other stakeholders.**
 - c. Strategy 8: Work with schools and parents to enable students to walk to school.
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee work with RVARC staff, locality staff, neighborhood groups, and schools to develop Safe Routes to School Plans.**
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee work with schools to organize Safe Routes to School events.**
 - d. Strategy 11: Identify high crime areas and address public concerns about the safety of walking.
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee work with neighborhood groups and law enforcement to establish Neighborhood Walks (i.e. Take Back the Night).**
 2. Goal #3: Create a region where active lifestyles are the norm because our land use decisions and investment in transportation infrastructure complement each other and enable a natural tendency for people to walk every day. As a result, people feel healthier, more socially-connected and happy living and working in the Roanoke Valley.

- a. Strategy #1: Revise subdivision/zoning ordinances to encourage or require pedestrian facilities be constructed along with new development as recommended in this Pedestrian Vision Plan.
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee identify best practices in ordinances.**
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee review existing ordinances of localities and compare to best practices.**
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee communicate best practices to locality staff and elected officials.**
3. Goal #5: Clean the environment by walking for more trips and driving less. The Roanoke Valley is an attainment area for air quality, and we want it to remain as such even as we continue to grow in population. As more citizens walk to accomplish everyday tasks, they are able to enjoy the Valley's beautiful environment.
 - a. Strategy #2: Encourage the use of alternative forms of transportation.
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee work with RIDE Solutions to meet with employers to encourage use of alternative forms of transportation.**
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee members commit to participate in Ride Smart Challenge. RIDE Solutions shares their experiences with employers to demonstrate feasibility.**
 - b. Strategy #3: Develop and implement outreach/education campaign to employers to encourage walking.
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee participate in outreach/education campaigns to encourage walking.**
 - c. Strategy #4: Develop and implement outreach/education campaign to the public to encourage walking.
 - **Action: Bike/Ped Committee work with RIDE Solutions to assist its marketing efforts towards the public.**