

RBAC Notes 8.17.16

Welcome and introductions

Rachel Ruhlen, the new Transportation Planner for the Regional Commission, introduced herself to the assembled. Also present were Megan Cronise, from Roanoke County; Liz Belcher from the Greenway Commission; Mark Jamison with the City of Roanoke; Jeremy Holmes with RideSolutions; and RVARC staff members Cristina Finch and Amanda McGee.

National Bicycle and Pedestrian Documentation Project

Amanda McGee spoke on the upcoming NBPD project count. Counts will be held on September 14th from 5-7pm and 17th from 12-2pm. Liz Belcher pointed out that the VDOT Local Programs Workshop was also being held this week, September 13th -15th. This may cut into the traditional volunteer pool for this activity. Attendees committed to helping distribute the flyer and suggested other sources of volunteers.

Virginia Bicycle and Pedestrian Awareness Month

September is the statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Awareness Month. Some potential activities to promote awareness were discussed, including a possible screening of the [RideSolutions Bike Safety video](#) at the Local Programs Workshop or other venue, and reaching out to VDOT concerning getting the word out on bicycle awareness.

RideSolutions update

Jeremy Holmes offered an update on upcoming RideSolutions projects, including providing Bike Valet services at the Deschutes Street Pub on August 27th and the potential for these services at future events. RideSolutions has previously discussed the potential to integrate bike valet services into the event permitting process for the City of Roanoke, with the goal of providing these services to 5 major events this year. Jeremy also discussed creation of a StoryMap App which could be used as a tourism service to guide visiting bicyclists through the city across various themed routes. Some possibilities discussed included "Birds by Bike," following birding paths, and a historical tour. RideSolutions is actively looking for recommendations for this project.

Electric Road (Route 419)

Cristina and Rachel led a presentation on the upcoming redevelopment of sections of the 419 corridor and how that fit into broader vision plans. Emphasis was placed on connecting multimodal centers through bicycle infrastructure and providing pedestrian access to transit. Attendees brainstormed on good next steps for achieving a multimodal redevelopment of this corridor.

Other business

Documenting Bike Route 76 was still on the work program for this year. Other planning district commissions have produced planning documents for their sections of the route, such as the [New River Valley Planning Commission](#). Liz Belcher drew attention to the issue of the route curving past Roanoke Cement, and the large delivery trucks with which bicyclists on this stretch were forced to share the road.

Discussion was had about coordinating a section ride for part of the bike route, to get some public feedback and participation on issues that cyclists face on our regional section of this route.

Performance measures are due in September.

The Roanoke Valley/New River Valley Social will be held Friday, September 16th at the Holiday Inn in Christiansburg. All members of the Regional Bicycle Advisory Committee are invited. The meeting will last from 10:30 to 1:30pm, with lunch provided.

Future role of the RBAC

Discussion was held as to the future role of the RBAC. This will be an ongoing topic. The next meeting of the RBAC will be held on November 16, 2016, at 8:30 am.