



Appendix B: Public Input

Economic Development Survey

What parts of the study area do you primarily represent? (# responses)

- Craig County (2)
- rural Roanoke County (2)
- rural Botetourt County (1)
- Alleghany County, Covington, or Clifton Forge (5)
- Outside of the study area (2)

What kinds of bicycling do you see in the study area? (# responses)

- Road biking (9)
- Mountain biking (9)
- Gravel biking (7)
- Bicycle touring (7)
- Commuting by bicycle (3)

Do you feel you've noticed trends, such as more or fewer individual bicyclists, organized groups, or events, or changes in the types of bicycling? Please describe your observations.

- More people on e-bikes needing access to trails, greenways, and other approved riding surfaces that are not roadways.
- Definitely more interest in riding off pavement, particularly dirt and gravel roads. People are regularly searching for those types of roads. Mountain biking is also making a strong "comeback" in our area and that's big. It seems that the groups I see are smaller than they used to be.
- We have noticed significant mountain bikes on our trails and increase in mountain bike events on USFS trails. A new mountain bike organization has formed in Clifton Forge. Bicycling has increased along the Jackson River sites.
- I have seen an increase in the number of bicyclists...both road and mountain/trail riding.
- An increase in all types of bicycling especially on the JRST & at Douthat
- Many more cyclists on the road, both locals as well as bicycle tourists.

What amenities and attractions does our study area have that attract bicyclists, bicycling events, and organized rides?

- Wonderful scenery, blue ridge parkway, historic towns, civil war history, challenging terrain, great beer, souther food... the list is very long.
- State park Lake, picnic area, cabins, restaurant, over 43 miles of trails and camp-

grounds

- Some amount of non-paved roads. Less-travelled roads. Scenic mountains particularly in Southwest Roanoke County.
- Mountain bike trails and parking at access points along the trails. Mountain bike races and outfitter guides are present on the districts.
- A wide range of environment and topographic changes
- great trails for all skill levels
- Scenic back roads. Forest service gravel roads (primarily Craig County). Easy to work with local governments. Temperate year-round climate (attracts Canadian cyclists every spring).
- Great roads for road biking, excellent Backcountry mountain bike riding and gravel riding.
- Natural beauty, topography, location, trails, roads and gravel roads.

What amenities and attractions do we lack that could attract bicyclists, bicycling events, and organized rides?

- Downtown crits, gravel races, e-bike approved infrastructure.
- Large meeting facility
- Places to “hang out” in the immediate area that appeal to riders. Better signage for routes. Safe routes: Roanoke County can be pretty scary along some of the more popular routes.
- More hotels and lodging access. Need more trail volunteers to maintain trails.
- Organized tours
- Lack of funding to complete the JRST; lack of resources for trail maintenance; limited businesses to serve as sponsors for organized events
- Primitive camping options. Signage. Marked bike lanes. Wider berms. Maps of popular road rides, gravel rides, etc.

Questions for survey respondents who operate or manage a bike shop or other business that supports bicyclists

What support do you need for your business?

- Money being put towards trail maintenance
- Maps! Continued driver education. Customers. :)

Please describe any trends in sales you’ve noticed, such as types of bikes sold or quantity of bicycling gear.

- More ebikes, lots of gravel bikes, and beginner level bikes.
- Gravel bikes. Gravel bikes. Gravel bikes. Also most riders are “getting” the idea of daytime running lights
- An increase in the number of people traveling here to mountain bike.

Questions for survey respondents who have organized bicycling events

What do you look for when setting up an event?

- Terrain, interest, skill required, time of year
- User group and volunteer
- Safe routes.
- Safe and scenic route
- Infrastructure: electricity, parking, water, camping. Scenic setting. Options for non-riders to do (i.e. what can they do to be entertained/kept busy while the event is taking place.
- Ability to serve alcohol on site. Music-friendly noise ordinances.

What amenities and attractions does the study area have that appeal to you as an event organizer?

- Good location
- All events have been in the state park
- Beautiful rural roads
- Scenic routes and great volunteers
- Beauty. Smooth roads. Plenty of gravel routes.

What amenities or attractions would make this a better place for bicycling events?

- More money towards promotion and trail maintenance.
- Large meeting area
- Bike lanes or even just wider shoulders. More amenities like restaurants, cafes, etc
- Better lodging options and additional sponsorship dollars
- Location for festival portion of an event - start/finish, food, music, camping, etc. Explore Park is good, but inability to have a road event on Parkway is problematic.

What event(s), if any, have you organized in the study area?

- Party rides
- Facilitated the use of state park for mountain bike race
- Group rides

- Alleghany Gran Fondo

How many people attended the most recent event you organized in the study area? (# responses)

- 51 to 75 (1)
- 76 to 200 (2)
- <10 (1)

What year was the most recent event you organized in the study area? (# responses)

- 2019 (4)

Do you have any other comments and bicycling in the study area?

- Great job
- Bicycling is increasing in the area.
- Town of Clifton Forge is committed to support and continue the encouragement of future retail bike shops and bicyclists.
- When a community is comprised of more that 50% public lands, these rural areas need the state and federal gov't to see tourism as a economic driver in the community and financial support tourism initiatives and tourism infrastructure. I would like to discuss this more with the group creating the study
- We do the GO Cross cyclocross race but it is in the City so I didn't include it in previous questions. We also did a Twilight Criterium a few years ago in the city too. One of the reasons we choose to do them in the City is because of access to hotels, music, restaurants, etc.

Public Input Sessions

Comments on map - concerns and requests

- Bradshaw Road (622) loop - Signs
- Upper Craigs Creek Road (621) - Signage
- Newport Road (624) - Narrow
- Paint Bank Road (311) - Narrow
- Lee Highway (11) - Bigger shoulder, Less gravel on shoulder
- Mountain Pass Road (652) - Narrow
- Mountain Pass Road (652) - Dangerous, needs wider
- Mountain Pass Road (652) - Connect to urban
- Carvins Cove - E-bikes allowed
- Carvins Cove - More trails off Brushy Mountain
- Catawba Valley Drive (311) - Bigger Shoulder

- Catawba Valley Drive (311) - Wider shoulder on 311 until Bradshaw Road (622) → dropoff problem
- Midland Road (US60) - Dangers go east and west Covington - Callaghan
- Trail from Clifton Forge to Roaring Run
- Railbed Glen Wilton → Roaring Run

Comments on map - favorite rides

- Douthat Road - Scenic
- Little Mountain Road - Love
- McGraw Gap Road (606) - Airport Climb
- Jackson River Road (687) - Fortny Branch Morris Hill Campground
- Peaceful Valley Road (611) - Lots of access to gravel/trail riding off this road
- Craigs Creek Road (615) - Forest roads loop to 615

Other comments - Concerns and requests

- All high volume routes → Wide shoulders
- Signed rural suggested routes
- Bike-able trails symbolized diff from hiking-only trails?
- Don't pave gravel!
- Centerline rumblestrips discourage drivers from 3 feet
- Valley to Valley Trail
- No phone service in the rural area!
- I would love to see signed rural routes for recreational cycling in the 25-35 mile range paved and mixed surface route. (Like miniature Bike Route 76)
- Beginner/park-setting mountain biking in Alleghany County
- Connect Roanoke City and Daleville
- Bike lanes/shoulders would be great
- Signage improvement as well
- More bike lanes would be nice as well as safer places to ride.
- It would be great to learn of regional bicycling attractions, properties and conditions, considering the time needed to travel to the further reaches!
- Perhaps collaborating with the city to market/advertise a city → rural bikeway.

Other comments - Resources and suggestions (RVARC comments in italics)

- Local Facebook Group
- Trans VA Route North of the study area
- VA Endurance Series → Gravelocity Most of the Gravelocity route is not in the study area; the parts of the route that are in the study area are included
- Wilderness Rd Initiative

- 606 Tour de Bath Unable to find the route
- Gravel Roads → included in Forest Service maps. Check out gravelroads.org (That url is not functional but we have used the VDOT unpaved roads layer in developing this plan.)
- FHWA has recommendations for rural biking
- Forest Service campground
- Division between road cyclists and gravel cyclists
- This could become awesome.
- Honestly I just appreciate that the fact that cycling is being raised to the extent that it is. It was not like this 10 years ago.
- I'm happy you are working on the plan and I support more bikeways of all types.

Zip codes (# responses)

- 24013 (1)
- 24014 (1)
- 24015 (3)
- 24018 (1)
- 24060 (1)
- 24065 (1)
- 24153 (2)

Race/Ethnicity (# responses)

White (10)