

Notes

Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

August 20, 2020

Electronic meeting

Present

Cecile Newcomb, Roanoke County
Andrea Garland, City of Roanoke
Jim Lee, community volunteer
Garrett Brumfield, Overcome Yours
Kathleen Herndon, Walkabout Outfitters
Anita McMillan, Vinton
Tim Pohlad-Thomas, RVARC
Wayne Wilcox, Halcyon Planning & Design
Greg Walter, Greenway Commission

Nathan McClung, Vinton
Michael Gray, VDOT
Erik Olsen, Montgomery County
David Radcliff, New Community Project
Laura Hartman, Roanoke College
Phil Hobrla
Colie Touzel
William Drake, City of Roanoke
Josephus Johnson-Koroma, City of Roanoke
Rachel Ruhlen, RVARC

Andrea Garland called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

1. Wasena bridge replacement

Josephus Johnson-Koroma, project manager, described the Wasena bridge replacement project. The current design features:

- 8-foot wide multiuse paths on both sides of the bridge separated from the travel lanes with rails and curb.
- 4-foot wide painted concrete bike lanes with a 2-foot wide buffer and 11-foot wide travel lanes.
- A roundabout at the north end of the bridge replacing the existing traffic signal.
- Lights below the bridge and street lights on the bridge.
- Overlooks on the north and south ends of the bridge.

Incorporating the bike lanes into a wider multiuse path was considered but the bike lanes were retained separate from the multiuse paths because of the difficulty getting on and off the multiuse path from some directions.

2. Announcements

- a) Andrea Garland presented information about the Pedestrian Safety Campaign which is getting good traction in the media. Next year's Pedestrian Safety Campaign will focus on speeding. She shared videos from the Pedestrian Safety Campaign:
[Andrea Garland introduces Every Corner is a Crosswalk](#)
[Why pedestrian safety is important \(Bike/Ped Committee\)](#)
- b) Rachel Ruhlen mentioned that she presented the [Roanoke Valley Regional Transportation Safety Study](#) to the Blue Ridge Transportation Safety Board after several delays. The study identified traffic speed as a key component of crashes that result in fatalities and serious injuries.
- c) Rachel Ruhlen commented that the RVTPO is updating the Bikeway Plan. She recently read "Bicycle Race: Transportation, Culture, & Resistance" by Adonia Lugo.

This inspired her to make a major part of the Bikeway Plan update engaging people of color who do not see themselves as bicyclists but use bicycles for transportation.

3. Get to Know Our Members

a) Jim Lee

Jim started bicycling at age 50 with a neighbor. He has bicycle toured extensively in Italy, Ireland, Oregon, U.S. 1 in California, the C&O Canal Trail, Alleghany Passage, and New York Finger Lakes. He's a regular with Bike Virginia. As an accountant by trade, Jim routinely ends up as the treasurer of the many volunteer organizations he's been involved with. Bicycling has kept him fit for a long time and he's in better shape now than when he was much younger.

4. Brandon Avenue

Andrea Garland reported that Brandon Avenue will be repaved from Franklin Avenue to Brambleton Road. It was scheduled for this summer but has been delayed until spring to allow time for analysis and outreach for a road diet. It is a major gap in the bicycle network and in May, two women were struck while crossing the street on foot (one did not survive). Bike/Ped Committee members met with City staff on Brandon Avenue to review the corridor on foot and bicycle and discuss options ([report here](#)).

The City will combine temporary lane closures to assess the effect on travel delays with community input. A complication is the altered travel patterns resulting from pandemic shutdowns, so the temporary closures and input will occur in November when students return to schools and traffic is closer to "normal".

Bike/ped committee members and friends should watch for this public input opportunity.

In conjunction with this, the City is looking at a tactical urbanism approach to solve the problem of no sidewalk on north side of the street by painting a pedestrian lane on Brandon Driveway (which closely parallels Brandon Avenue on the north side). Andrea hopes that bike/ped committee members and friends can help with outreach to the residents on Brandon Driveway.

Michael Gray commented that upgrading signal hardware to allow for signal coordination is appropriate for a SMART SCALE grant application.

5. Wrap up

Nathan McClung reported that the pedestrian improvements to the Washington Avenue/Pollard Street and Hardy Road/Vinyard Road intersections will be complete in December. Anita McMillan added that Glade Creek Greenway Phase II will also be complete in December. The Walnut Avenue project is in design.

Phil Hobrla requested that after Brandon Avenue, Melrose Avenue be addressed. Vehicles park in the bike lane. He also asked about how to get Salem to invest in more bicycle infrastructure. Wayne Wilcox also lives in Salem and has the same interest.

Erik Olsen reported that the New River Valley Multimodal Plan will be completed by March, 2021. It is following the [Multimodal System Design Guidelines of the Department of Rail and Public Transportation](#).