



**AGENDA**  
**Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee**  
**October 15, 2020**  
**3:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85858955863?pwd=cytmS2Y2NXZaN2VMNkg2SHIzV3htZz09>

Meeting ID: 858 5895 5863

Passcode: 819289

Or join by phone: +1 (929) 205-6099 (\*6 to mute)

1. Updates
  - Roanoke County (Cecile)
  - Rural Bikeway Plan (Amanda)
  - Pedestrian Safety Campaign (Andrea/Rachel)
  - Regional Bikeway Plan – equity (Rachel)
2. One year of bike/ped counts: How can we use this data for better walking & biking? (Rachel)
3. Committee member updates

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, January 21, 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 pm



# ROANOKE COUNTY

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
5204 Bernard Drive, P.O. Box 29800  
Roanoke, Virginia 24018-0798

Daniel R. O'Donnell  
County Administrator

TEL: (540) 772-2004  
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September 3, 2020

Mr. Ken King, P.E.  
Salem District Engineer  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
731 Harrison Avenue  
Salem, Virginia 24153

RE: UPC 116203 Interstate 81 Widening Crossings for Bicycle and Pedestrian  
Accommodations

Dear Ken,

The Roanoke Valley is very fortunate to have a unique opportunity to improve Interstate 81 from Troutville to Christiansburg. Thank you for the efforts that you and your staff have put into the Interstate 81 Corridor Study, and for the ongoing work to bring hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of widening and safety projects to the Salem District.

I am writing to ask that bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, or at a minimum space for future accommodations, be included as part of these important projects. There are very few ways to safely cross under or over Interstate 81 in our region today: the Hanging Rock Battlefield Trail along Kessler Mill Road, on newly constructed sidewalk along Thompson Memorial Drive at Exit 140 and on the Appalachian Trail along Valley Road in Botetourt County.

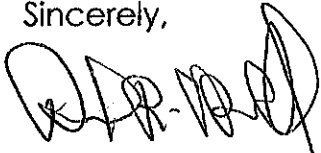
VDOT, Roanoke County and City of Salem staff recently discussed potential opportunities for the widening project UPC 116203 currently moving forward between Mile Marker 136 and Exit 141 (Route 419/Electric Road). Please see Attachment 1 for specific requests and references to adopted regional bicycle, pedestrian and greenway plans.

In addition to these locations, there are many other opportunities for collaboration on bicycle and pedestrian accommodations between Mile Marker 136 and Exit 118 (Route 11/Route 460 at Christiansburg), as well as between Exit 143 (Interstate 581) and Exit 150 (Route 11/Route 220 at Troutville). In particular, the Valley to Valley Trail proposed to connect the Roanoke and New River Valleys together with Roanoke River Greenway, the Huckleberry Trail and the New River Trail should be taken into account. A safe trail crossing of Interstate 81 should be identified and incorporated into the Valley to Valley Trail Study and the Interstate 81 project UPC 116197 between Exit 137 (Wildwood Road) and Exit 128 (Ironto). The Tinker Creek Greenway is also conceptually planned to cross

Interstate 81 between Exit 146 (Plantation Road/Route 115) and Exit 150 (Route 11/Route 220 at Troutville) and this accommodation should also be included in UPC 116201 between Mile Marker 144 and Exit 150. Please see Attachment 2 for identified crossings and references to regional plans.

Roanoke County staff would be pleased to continue to work with your staff on potential crossing concepts. Thank you for your continued dedication to all modes of travel in the Salem District.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. O'Donnell  
County Administrator

Enclosures

C: Bob Cowell, City of Roanoke Manager  
Jay Taliaferro, City of Salem City Manager  
Gary Larrowe, Botetourt County Administrator  
Liz Belcher, Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator

**UPC 116203 between Mile Marker 136 and Exit 141 (Route 419/Electric Road)**

**1. Thompson Memorial Drive/Route 311/Exit 140**

Creating space for sidewalk on the west side of the road to facilitate pedestrian access for residents living on the west side of Thompson Memorial Drive would be beneficial.

- Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley MPO (2012 Update) – Identified as a Priority alignment between the City of Salem and Route 311/Catawba Valley Drive
- RVTPO Regional Pedestrian Vision Plan (2015) – Pedestrian improvements identified along Thompson Memorial Drive from the City of Salem limits to Route 311/Catawba Valley Drive
- Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan (2018) – Identifies the Gish Branch Greenway in the vicinity of the Exit 140 Park and Ride.

**2. Wildwood Road/Academy Street/Route 619**

Leaving space for sidewalks on both sides of the road, as well as for bicycle lanes, would be ideal.

- Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley MPO (2012 Update) – Identified as a Vision alignment between the City of Salem and Route 311/Catawba Valley Drive

**3. Goodwin Road/Route 635**

This location is close to Salem High School so leaving space for sidewalks and bicycle lanes on both sides of the road would be preferable.

**4. Wildwood Road/Route 112/Exit 137**

Wildwood Road is an important gateway from residential Roanoke County into the City of Salem commercial business district and should include bicycle and pedestrian accommodations on both sides of the roadway.

- Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley MPO (2012 Update) – Identified as a Vision alignment from the City of Salem at Academy Street to the City of Salem near Exit 137
- RVTPO Regional Pedestrian Vision Plan (2015) – Pedestrian improvements identified along Wildwood Road from West Main Street to Interstate 81

**Electric Road/Route 419/Exit 141**

While outside of the scope of this particular project, please note that Electric Road is mentioned in several bicycle and pedestrian planning documents as needing multimodal improvements.

- Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley MPO (2012 Update) – Identified as a Priority alignment between the City of Salem and Route 311/Catawba Valley Drive
- RVTPO Regional Pedestrian Vision Plan (2015) – Sidewalk is identified along Electric Road across Interstate 81 to Route 311.

## **UPC 116201 between Mile Marker 144 and Exit 150**

Specific recommendations from regional plans include:

1. Belle Haven Road/Route 1876
  - Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley MPO (2012 Update) – Identified as a Vision alignment between Lock Haven Drive and North Barrens Road.
  
2. Plantation Road/Route 115
  - Adding width to this bridge will facilitate multimodal travel from the existing accommodations along Plantation Road across Interstate 81 to the Hollins Trailhead for the Tinker Creek Greenway located on the north side of Interstate 81.
  - Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley MPO (2012 Update) – Identified as a Priority alignment between Williamson Road/Route 11 and Crowe Hollow Lane in Botetourt County.
  
3. Hollins University underpass
  - Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan (2018) – Identifies a Tinker Creek Greenway crossing option under Interstate 81 through the existing underpass.
  - Hollins Center Plan (2020) – Recommends constructing a greenway segment from the trailhead parking lot under I-81 to Carvins Creek in collaboration with Hollins University.
  
4. Reservoir Road/Route 648
  - Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan (2018) – Identifies a Tinker Creek Greenway crossing option under Interstate 81 along Reservoir Road.
  - Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley MPO (2012 Update) – Identified as a Rural alignment from Williamson Road/Route 11 to connect to trails at Carvins Cove Natural Reserve.
  
5. Tinker Creek
  - Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan (2018) – Identifies a Tinker Creek Greenway crossing option under Interstate 81 along Tinker Creek.
  
6. Roanoke Road/Route 220
  - RVTPO Regional Pedestrian Vision Plan (2015) – Sidewalk and streetscape is identified along Route 11 and Route 220 at Interstate 81 Exit 150. Additionally, pedestrian improvements are identified along Route 220 from Tinker Mill Road to Route 11.
  - Bikeway Plan for the Roanoke Valley MPO (2012 Update) – Identified as a Priority alignment from Glebe Road to Route 11.

**UPC 116197 between Exit 137 (Wildwood Road/Route 112) and Exit 128 (Ironto)**

The following crossings provide connections from dense residential neighborhoods across Interstate 81 to West Main Street/Route 11/460 commercial and employment centers. Pedestrian and bicycle accommodations should be considered for these crossings: Texas Hollow Road/Route 641, Butt Hollow Road/Route 642, Alleghany Drive/Route 642, Fort Lewis Church Road/Route 777 and Glenvar Heights Boulevard/Route 927.

Specific recommendations from regional plans include:

1. Daugherty Road/Route 643
  - RVTPO Regional Pedestrian Vision Plan (2015) – Sidewalk is identified along Daugherty Road from West Main Street to the Glenvar Schools campus.
  
2. Callahan Branch
  - Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan (2018) – Identifies the Perimeter Trail crossing under Interstate 81 along Callahan Branch.
  
3. Dow Hollow Road/Exit 132/Route 647
  - This area is planned for future commercial development so bicycle and pedestrian accommodations would be beneficial in this location.
  - Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan (2018) – Identifies the Perimeter Trail crossing along Dow Hollow Road.



September 17, 2020

Mr. Ken King, P.E.  
Salem District Engineer  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
731 Harrison Avenue  
Salem, Virginia 24153

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SALEM, VA 24153

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Liz.belcher@greenways.org

[www.greenways.org](http://www.greenways.org)

RE: UPC 116203 Interstate 81 Widening Crossings for Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations

Dear Mr. King,

This letter is to express the support of the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission for the recommendations made by the Roanoke County Office of the County Administrator in its letter dated September 3, 2020. In that letter, the County Administrator asked that bicycle and pedestrian accommodations be included as part of improvements contemplated for Interstate 81 from Troutville to Christiansburg, Virginia. We at the Commission believe that incorporating such accommodations would be beneficial to the Roanoke and New River Valleys and should be given due consideration.

As noted in the County Administrator's letter, there are very few avenues for bicyclists and/or pedestrians to safely cross under and over Interstate 81 in the Roanoke and New River Valleys. Being able to cross Interstate 81 is paramount in allowing access and connections to trails and greenways both existing and planned for the future including the Valley to Valley Trail proposed to connect the Roanoke and New River Valleys together with the Roanoke River Greenway, the Huckleberry Trail and the New River Trail. Such connections are in-line with Roanoke Valley Greenway Plan (2018) as are the other connections that would result from providing access across Interstate 81 as noted by the County Administrator.

The decisions of the Virginia Department of Transportation relative to providing access across Interstate 81 could have a significant impact on the further development of the trails and greenways for the Roanoke and New River Valleys. The five localities represented in the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission include the City of Roanoke, City of Salem, Roanoke County, Botetourt County, and the Town of Vinton. Those localities view the Roanoke Valley Greenways and the potential future connections to the trails and greenways referenced above as important aspects of the economies for each by expanding recreational opportunities.

We at the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission appreciate the efforts of the Virginia Department of Transportation regarding the planning for the widening of Interstate 81 would be pleased to be a part of the review process for potential bicycle and pedestrian crossings.

Very truly yours,

Frank M. Simms  
Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission, Chair

Cc: Daniel O'Donnell, Roanoke County Administrator  
Bob Cowell, City of Roanoke Manager  
Jay Taliaferro, City of Salem, City Manager  
Gary Larrowe, Botetourt County Administrator  
Liz Belcher, Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator