

Notes

Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

May 19 17, 2022

313 Luck Ave SW, Roanoke VA

Present

Sandy Beyers, Botetourt County
Resident

Nathan McClung, Town of Vinton

Brendan Hall, City of Roanoke
Resident

Isaac Henry, Roanoke County

Cecile Newcomb, Roanoke County

Megan Cronise, Roanoke County

Amanda McGee, RVARC

Renee Powers, City of Roanoke

Frank Maguire, Greenway Commission

Andrea Garland, RVARC

Ken McLeod, League of American

Allan Henry, City of Roanoke Resident

Tom Carr, City of Roanoke Resident

Barbara Duerk, VBF Roanoke City

Wayne Wilcox, Halcyon Planning

Dwayne D'Ardenne, City of Roanoke

Terry McGuire, Roanoke City Resident

Bob Robillard, Roanoke County

Resident

Wayne Leftwich, City of Roanoke

Catherine Fox, Visit Virginia's Blue

Ridge

Nathan Hilbert, National Park Service

Garrett Brumfield, Overcome Yours

Kathleen Herndon, Roanoke City

Resident

Michael Gray, VDOT Salem

Erik Olsen, Blacksburg Transit

Ken McLeod called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

1. **Wasena Bridge – Greenway closure plan – City of Roanoke – Renee Powers**

- Wasena Bridge replacement project is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2022. This project will create an obstruction along the Roanoke River Greenway at Wasena park. The project is schedule to last 18 months.
- Renee shared the proposed engineering detour plan with the group (attached). The plan shows Greenway Closure sign plan and Greenway detour paving making plan.
- The section of road that parallels the Main Street Bridge (AKA Main Street) Will be permanently closed for vehicle traffic and become a connection to the Roanoke River greenway and Wasena park in the future.
- The goal of the Greenway Closure Plan is to maintain bicycle and pedestrian access around the construction zone.
- This will be the first time a greenway is officially closed and detoured for a construction project.
- The detour will start at Wiley Drive and Winona Avenue, and will use Winona Avenue, Main Street and Winchester Roads to connect back to the greenway at Wasena Park.

- This route takes into consideration, accessibility, and distance. It will be marked with signs and pavement markings along the streets mentioned above.
- This project will serve as a framework for future capital and engineering project to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Blog post: <https://www.playroanoke.com/blog/roanoke-parks-and-recreation-prepares-for-replacement-of-wasena-bridge/>

Questions from attendees:

- Amada McGee: Are there railroad crossing signs along the detour route at both ends? – Yes, there are railroad crossing signs, but not bicycle warning rail crossing signs.
- Amanda McGee: Would there be blueways impacts from construction. – Yes, but there is no mitigation plan in place yet.
- Frank Maguire: Would the path along the new bridge be considered a greenway extension? Yes, this will be a multiuse path, like the Memorial Bridge
- Frank Maguire: What is the roadway detour plan for bicycle traffic, would there be additional signage and pavement markings along roads like Ferdinand? Will follow up with Transportation Division to clarify the proposed roadway detour.

2. Greenways - Frank Maguire, Roanoke Valley Greenways Coordinator

- Bring greenway connections Roanoke County, City of Salem, Botetourt County, City of Roanoke, and Town of Vinton
- 1907 Roanoke County Comprehensive Plan included a vision of connectivity via trails
- Greenway linear corridor managed for conservation and recreation
- Frank shared information from research conducted by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council about trail use during the pandemic shutdown of 2020. Findings include:
 - 17% increase in trail users in March of 2020
 - Local and shorter trails saw higher numbers than regional long-distance trails
 - The span of the trips grew to all day, any time trips as opposed to pre-pandemic, where trips patterns felt into a more traditional work schedule.
 - Planning and funding under development for the Roanoke, Salem, Vinton, and County to connect via one greenway system.
 - Furthermore, connections to New River Valley are envisioned.

Questions from attendees:

- Cecille: What efforts can be done to reduce the amount of trash along the greenways? – Some efforts on education from Clean Valley Council. This is a culture mind shift, which takes time. Parks and Recreation conducts weekly clean ups on Mondays and Fridays, for all 25 Miles of paved trails in the city. During the winter months Parks and Recreation collect about 400 pounds of trash weekly, in the summer month is closer to 1000 pounds.

Factors that increase the likelihood of trash accumulation along greenways include:

- Greenway is along the road
- Greenway is in a less economically advantaged community
- How the wind blows.
- Homeless camps
- o Barbara: Suggestion for adopt the trail program
- o Barbara: What is the status on the Valley-to-Valley trail?
 - Eric Olsen with NRV MPO mentioned, that during the MPO Meeting VDOT commented on revising the plans vs. the public comments received.
 - VDOT Remarks: Does the study provide information outlining all the different options? Leaving Final route to be determined latter as part of a stakeholder discussion
 - Or make an alignment decision as plan recommendation
- o Ken: Updates on the Tinker Creek Trail: Construction will start on phase II in June at Mason Hill Park downstream toward Fallon Park

3. Catawba Valley Drive / Route 311, Isaac Henry – Roanoke County

- Isaac provided an updated-on Catawba Road and Bradshaw Road existing conditions, currently there are existing signage but on other bicycle accommodations.
- Total of 9 crashes involving cyclist reported since 2015.
- What percentage of cycling crashes are reported? Studies suggests that about 30% of crashes are reported, however the most unreported type of crash will be single crash where a motor vehicle is not involved.
- Bikeway recommendation I the most recent plan updates include:
 - o Route 311 – Bike lanes for entire rural length in Roanoke County
 - o Bradshaw Road – Bike lanes from Rt. 311 to Old Catawba Road
 - o Old Catawba Road – Improve data collection
- Feedback from Roanoke County 200 Plan
 - o Vehicle speeds on Route 311
 - o Bicycle safety on 311 and Bradshaw Road
 - o Concerns about width and speed on Old Catawba Road
- Proposed Recommendations for Roanoke County 200 Plan
 - o Collaborate with VDOT on a Route 311/Catawba Valley Drive Multimodal Safety Study
 - o Collaborate with VODO to determine appropriate improvements for Bradshaw Road. (Masons Cove)
 - o Work with VODT and adjacent property owners to study the entirety of Old Catawba Road for Potential improvements
 - o Investigate trailhead parking options for the Hinchee Trail
- For more information about the Roanoke County 200 Plan and to sign up for updates visit: <https://www.roanokecountyva.gov/2814/Roanoke-County-200-Plan>
- Next Steps
 - o Finalize the survey results.
 - o Bring draft plan to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors at the end of the year.
- Projects Update:

- Rt. 311/Rt. 419 Roundabout Construction is underway, schedule to be completed by the end of the year.
- Dwayne D, asked if the county staff has a plan or the resources to maintain paved shoulders and bike lanes in County streets? Megan mentioned that this issue is being discussed with VDOT, but neither VDOR nor the Country has resources allocated toward sweeping maintenance.

Comments from the Chat:

- From Erik Olsen - NRVMPPO: Someone might check with the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute re. reported crash rates for bikes. I know they have such data for vehicle accidents, so they may have an "expert opinion."
- From Erik Olsen - NRVMPPO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Vu_hLauj9c

Roanoke Valley – Bicycle Safety Laws video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV6mhU1eAyk>

4. USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All Program- Ken McLeod

The [FY22 Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) for Safe Streets and Roads for All grants is live on [Grants.gov](#).

See Ken's slides [here](#) or see summary below

- Part of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law **\$5 Billion** in Authorized funding for **FY2022 to FY2026**
- Applications deadline is **September 15, 2022**
- **Two types of Grants:**
 - 40% of funding will go towards planning activities (**\$400 Mil**)
 - Develop or update a Safety Action Plan
 - Conduct activities supporting an approved Safety Action Plan
 - 60% of funding will go to implementation of projects authorized in an approved Safety Action Plan
 - For Action Plan Grants, DOT seeks to make awards based on safety impact, equity, and additional safety considerations.
 - **20% match required**
- **Funding levels**
 - Planning grants are expected to be between \$200,000- \$1,000,000 for a political subdivision of a State/ local govt or tribal government, or up to \$5,000,000 for a metropolitan planning organization (MPO)
 - Implementation grants are expected to be between \$5 and 30 million political subdivisions of a State/ local govt.. between \$3-30 million for rural governments and tribal governments, \$50 million maximum award for an MPO or multijurisdictional group
- Application will require a leadership commitment **toward zero deaths**
 - [FHWA VISION ZERO Community of Practice page](#)

- **Webinars**

Register to [How to Apply Webinars](#)

- Webinar: How to Apply for SS4A Grants - General Overview
Date: June 13, 2022
Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm MT/1:00 pm to 3:00 pm ET
https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_PbMkfXJORK6AXr6EA5bsKg
- Webinar: How to Apply for SS4A Grants - Action Plan Grants
Date: June 15, 2022
Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm MT/1:00 pm to 3:00 pm ET
https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ehLI3q2wSSODyk-UB9iyrA
- Webinar: How to Apply for SS4A Grants - Implementation Grants
Date: June 23, 2022
Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm MT/1:00 pm to 3:00 pm ET
https://usdot.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_c2wyhKRgSvm94e9xcYoQWg

Questions from attendees:

- Barbara: Commented about **Virginia Safe Routes to School program**, funds available for localities. These funds are administered by VDOT via the TA program. Next TA program cycle will begin in **Summer of 2023**. [Funding information link](#)

5. **Announcing Nominating Committee for 2022 - 2024 Membership**

- Applications for the Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee are open from June 1st to July 30, 2022.
- Use this link to complete the application form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BPAC2022>
- Current members are encouraged to nominate potential new members and share the application form.
- **Current members whose term is expired need to re-apply.** Andrea will reach out to each individual current member that needs to re-apply.
- The nominating Committee for this year membership selection is:
 - Sandy Beyers, Botetourt County Resident
 - Brendan Hall, City of Roanoke
 - Ken McLeod, LAB
- New members will be introduced in the next meeting on **Thursday, August 18**
- Tim Pohlad-Thomas has requested to step down as vice-chair of this committee. The nominating committee will select a new vice Chair to serve from 2022- 2024

6. **Transitioning Database from Constant Contact to HubSpot**

- An email was sent to all members and followers of the BPAC to subscribe to the new list serve.
- New subscribers can add their information here: <https://rvarc.org/transportation/bicycle-pedestrian-greenways/bicycle-advisory-committee/>

7. Member Updates

Barbara Duerk:

- Bike to Work Day Proclamation by the City of Roanoke declaring May 20, Bike to Work Day

Nathan McClung Vinton Updates:

- [Vinton, Route 24 Bike/Pedestrian Plan](#) will wrap up in May - Nathan would like to present the plan finding in the next BPAC meeting.
- New bus shelters will be installed in June.
 - [Rosie's Gaming Emporium](#)
 - [Kroger Shopping Center](#)
 - [Precision Fabric Group, Inc](#)
- **Vinton VDOT Projects:**
 - Hardy Road Midblock Signalized Pedestrian Crosswalk: The pedestrian crosswalk is for the crossing of Hardy Road, between Bypass Road to McDonald Street. ([Map link](#))
 - Gus Nicks Boulevard Midblock Signalized Pedestrian Crosswalk: The pedestrian crosswalk is for the crossing of Gus Nicks Boulevard, between Glade Creek Greenway Trailhead Parking to W. Madison Avenue, to connect the Glade Creek Greenway to Gish Mill Redevelopment Site. ([Map link](#))

Andrea Garland – Bike Month Events:

- Bike to work day May 20 – Andrea announced planned events and activities for the day

Ken McLeod – Bicycle Safety Forum

- Hope that attendees got the message that infrastructure is the key to bicycle safety
- Take a systemic approach to improve bicycle safety
- Look at the conditions of a roadway and be proactive to make sure that safety is our priority

Brendan Hall

- Would there be any summer activities for the bike ped committee to conduct? Andrea mentioned that nothing has been planned yet.

The meeting adjourned at 5:07 pm.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 18, 2022, 3:00 – 5:00 pm.