

Notes
Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

October 20, 2022

313 Luck Ave SW, Roanoke VA

Present

Ken McLeod, LAB

Brendan Hall

Nathan McClung, Vinton

Renee Powers, City of Roanoke

Maynard Keller

Garret Brumfield, Overcome Yours

Terry Huxhold

Rob Issem, City of Roanoke

Jonathan Stanton, RVARC

Andrea Garland, RIDE Solutions

Shaneve Tripp

Carol Moneymaker, VDOT

Wayne Leftwich, City of Roanoke

Betsy Nixon

Rob Robillard

Fayula Gordon, Town of Vinton

Leigh Anne Weitzenfeld

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

1. Roanoke Valley Scooter Providers

Thandi Nyambose, with Bird Government Partnerships, provided an overview of the service and ridership experience of the BIRD service in Roanoke. The main takeaways of this conversation include:

- Ride access for users without smartphones is available through [Text-to-ride link](#)
- Bird offers [community pricing](#) options at half-price ride prices, for low-income populations. See the attached flyers for details and share the information.

I can provide Thandi's contact to the localities interested in touching base with BIRD.

2. Member Spotlight

Ken invited all new members of the committee to discuss their interests and concerns about pedestrian and bicycle accessibility in their communities. The discussion inspired ideas that can be turned into actions for this committee to engage directly with the community and raise awareness.

- Downtown Roanoke Accessibility
 - Members mentioned various mobility issues in downtown Roanoke, primarily associated with sidewalk accessibility. Issues like outdoor dining and scooters blocking ADA access are important for this committee. We proposed inviting Tina Workman, [Director of DRI](#) to speak with the committee members about their efforts to mitigate these problems.
- Bicycle Detection at Intersections

- Roanoke Valley intersections are not currently equipped to detect people on bikes for crossing on demand
 - Town of Vinton Planner, **Nathan McClung** commented that Vinton is upgrading all their signals to have video detection, but does not know if they are capable of detecting bicycles.
 - **ACTION** - Ask localities, and VDOT bicycle video detection technology is accessible to the new signals.
 - **Shaneve** specifically mentioned the difficulty of navigating the intersection of **Franklin Road and Brandon Avenue**, without bicycle detection.
- Greenway Accessibility
 - Garden City Greenway and Mill Mountain Trailhead accessibility from Riverland Road is an issue for pedestrians. - Renee Powers announced that the sidewalk project to connect the Roanoke River Greenway to the Mill Mountain trailhead project is funded and will be completed in 2024.
 - Roots pushing up the pavement along the Roanoke River Greenway. The current mitigation is to mark the sections with bright paint because the cost of permanent removal is out of the budget for greenway maintenance.
 - Safe Routes to School
 - Accessibility to walking and biking routes to schools remains a priority for this committee. We suggest to involved school districts in the committee activities.
 - Street Maintenance
 - **Rob Issem** reminded us that for street maintenance issues people can submit a Service Request: <https://www.roanokeva.gov/1180/Report-Environmental-Issues-or-Concerns>
 - The city of Roanoke street pavement schedule is posted [here](#) through 2024.
 - Suggestion to stripe crosswalks at the intersection of 5th Street and Luck Avenue.
 - Sidewalk gaps in the City street network. The City completed an inventory of sidewalk infrastructure and is working on updating the methodology to prioritize the expansion of the sidewalk network.

3. Member Round Table

2023 Community Event

During the meeting, members proposed a list of ideas for a project or program to pursue as a committee. Please let us know what event or program you would be interested in supporting and helping plan as a Bike/Ped Committee effort next year. Take this [Survey](#)

2024 Roanoke Valley Transportation Plan - Draft: Comment Period

For the next month, the RVTPO is inviting citizens to participate in the [Roanoke Valley Transportation surveys](#). These three surveys cover roadway, pedestrian, and bicyclist safety and transit access projects and services. This is a great opportunity for the public to learn about current projects and share their priorities for transportation efforts within the region.

As a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee it is your duty to voice your opinion and help this planning process reflect the community needs, please [take the surveys](#) and share them with your group of advocates.

ICYMI (In case you missed it)

Check out these engagement videos, learn about what our partners are doing, and share.

- Traffic Garden Project : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jt2SRozwKOM>
- Bike and Pedestrian Interactions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jt2SRozwKOM>
- Roanoke River Greenway - [Southeast Mural Project](#)
- Follow the City of Roanoke [Transportation Division on Facebook](#)

Please note that Committee Members have expressed interest in changing the day and time for this meeting. Stay tuned for updates if a change is confirmed.