

## MINUTES

### Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee

4:00 pm October 30, 2018

313 Luck Ave SW, upstairs conference room

#### Members present

Jim Lee, bicyclist  
Garrett Brumfield, Overcome Yours  
Erik Olsen, Montgomery County  
Carol Linkenhoker, VDOT  
Lisa Cooper, Franklin County  
Anita McMillan, Vinton  
Cecile Newcomb, Roanoke County  
Wayne Wilcox, Roanoke County  
Robert Robillard, North Cross Elementary  
Colie Touzel, Virginia Tech  
Kristine McCormick, Roanoke IMBA  
Greg Walter, Greenway Commission  
Jeremy Holmes, RIDE Solutions

Andrea Garland, Roanoke City  
Renee Powers, Roanoke City  
Vickie Browning, AARP

#### Members absent

Jessica Preston, Salem  
Lisa Wever, Fallon Park Elementary  
Michelle Via, RAVE  
David Radcliffe, Botetourt County

#### Staff present

Rachel Ruhlen, RVARC  
Amanda McGee, RVARC

#### 1. Approval of June 21, 2018 and August 30, 2018 minutes

Cecile Newcomb requested that the 2<sup>nd</sup> line on page 2 of the August 30 be corrected: "David replied he ~~has~~ but is **not** aware of congestion issues at the intersection."

Motion by Greg Walter that the minutes be approved as amended, seconded by Cecile.  
Motion passed.

#### 2. Announcements

- The Statewide Bike/Ped Committee met in Roanoke on Oct 24. Several members had attended. Topics discussed included dockless scooters, electric bikes, a researcher who developed an app for pedestrians to alert vehicles equipped with the app to the pedestrian's intention to cross. Colie Touzel mentioned the importance of planning for the future which will include those kinds of technologies and others she's learned about in her Autonomous Vehicles group in her Master's program at Virginia Tech.
- Greenway Ambassadors training is on Nov 6, 6 – 8 pm at the Rock Climbing Gym at 806 Wasena Ave. For more information, contact Renee Powers ([renee.powers@roanokeva.gov](mailto:renee.powers@roanokeva.gov)).
- VDOT request help calibrating the bicycle counters on Memorial Ave bridge. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Rachel Ruhlen ([ruhlen@rvarc.org](mailto:ruhlen@rvarc.org)).

#### 3. Locality Chat with City of Roanoke

Renee Powers presented information about Roanoke City greenway and trail construction activity, which is available on the Parks & Rec website:

<https://www.playroanoke.com/planning-and-development/>.

Robert Robillard commented that North Cross high school students are looking for service projects that might be a good fit with trail development. Andrea Garland asked about the community involvement in the Southeast on the Morningside trail project. Renee replied that the Southeast Action Forum had been involved in that. Amanda McGee asked if there were any plans for Walnut Ave bridge related to new signage and treatment for the Mill Mountain Greenway portion that is on-road. Renee replied that she is not aware of any plans for the Walnut Ave bridge.

Andrea Garland presented about Roanoke City bike/ped projects. The interactive map of Public Works Capital Improvements Projects is at this link:  
<http://roanokeva.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b11580329c6841bf940fc843cb2b4851>

Kristine McCormick asked if the Main St bike lanes would include traffic calming. Andrea replied that bike lanes can be added during repaving when striping occurs anyway, but traffic calming is beyond maintenance and requires additional funding. The bike lanes themselves may have a traffic calming effect. Erik asked how bus stops are handled with bike lanes to avoid conflict between bicyclists and bus passengers. Andrea replied the bike lane is striped within 50 feet of a bus stop, which is NACTO standard. Buses pull over into the bike lanes and bikes use the travel lane to pass stopped buses. Colie Touzel asked if there were videos and outreach to educate people on rapid rectangular flashing beacons. Andrea replied the only outreach was the brochures which she passed out to committee members.

#### 4. Committee members report on Oct 8 Bike/Walk/Disability Audit

Rachel Ruhlen reported that six volunteers, including several with mobility or vision disabilities, participated in the Oct 8 audit of Andrews Rd and Norris Dr, from the Roanoke Academy of Math & Sciences to the Lick Run Greenway.

Volunteers commented on how signs could improve the route. Jim Lee recommended a signed bike route similar to those found in the Southwest and Southeast, which contribute to neighborhood identity with neighborhood logos. Andrea Garland commented that she had approached the Melrose-Orange Target Area group with a proposed Neighborhood Bikeway, which is different from a signed bike route, and met with poor reception, but that recently some people who were opposed have expressed interest in hearing more about the concept. Cecile Newcomb commented that people prefer to be involved from the beginning and view even a conceptual route as a plan made without their input. Kristine added that there are no signs from the Greenway explaining where the exit leads to Norris Dr.

Jim also remarked on the significance of the location, and that the Lick Run Greenway brings Valley View Mall surprisingly close to Downtown, just one difficult intersection (Gainsboro & Orange) away. Andrea mentioned that the upgraded pedestrian signals at that location will automatically detect pedestrians and bicyclists, and the funding is approved for 2020. Jim added that other factors that increase the importance of the location are the bikeshare station and the route for the planned Lick Run Greenway extension. Renee said that the land has been available for development for five years and any development will be required to complete the extension, per the Evans Spring Feasibility Study of 2013, but there are no offers yet.

Garrett Brumfield recently participated in road audits in New Orleans and Denver and will be interested in auditing Roanoke area locations.

#### 5. Recommendation on bike/ped count program

Amanda McGee reported that staff had continued to gather information after presenting information on the bike/ped count program to this committee in June. Partnering with the VDOT Virginia Transportation Research Council in their pilot project which will place 2 permanent bike/ped counters in the City of Roanoke would give RVTPO a chance to try out the counters at no additional cost. VDOT may also loan RVTPO a mobile counter. In addition, Steve Hankey with Virginia Tech who researchers bike/ped traffic has counters that may be available to the RVTPO to borrow and may be interested in research with RVTPO. However, the limiting factor on how many locations could be counted with mobile counters is staff time to select a location, set up the counter, and validate the counter at that site with manual counts. Several committee members expressed interest in volunteering to help with validation which could permit more locations to be counted.

Anita McMillan asked if locations had been selected for bike/ped counts. Rachel Ruhlen replied that VDOT is considering three locations that are known to have higher bike/ped volumes for the permanent counters, which would serve as reference sites for mobile counters: Memorial Ave bridge, Downtown Roanoke, and 10<sup>th</sup> St near the Lick Run Greenway. Locations have not been discussed for the possible mobile counter. Anita expressed a desire to have a counter on Wise Ave near Tinker Creek, Fallon Park, Fallon Park Elementary School, and Indian Rock Village housing.

Kristine McCormick asked if Strava or MapMyRide was an option. Amanda responded that Strava is prohibitively expensive. Erik Olsen mentioned that Steve Hankey had been pursuing access to Strava data for research.

Rachel stated that partnering with VDOT on their bike/ped count pilot program would be in lieu of the National Bicycle & Pedestrian Documentation project that has been done in the past, and that there was currently not any discussion of increasing staff time for bike/ped counts.

Motion by Cecile Newcomb, seconded by Andrea Garland.

Recognizing the importance of long-term, on-road bicycle and pedestrian counts, the Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee recommends to the TTC that RVTPO and staff:

1. Partner with VDOT to maintain permanent counters,
2. Partner with VDOT to operate and maintain a mobile counter,
3. Continue to pursue an ongoing bicycle & pedestrian count program.

Motion passed.

#### 6. Updates

Individual committee members updated the committee on items of interest.

Erik Olsen – Blacksburg bikeshare program launched July 21 and 1200 people have signed up with 3600 trips so far. The system has 75 bikes and 12 stations. A grant started the system and now sponsors are being sought to take on the stations.

Kristine McCormick – She and Liz Belcher (Greenway Commission) will be attending the State Trails Advisory Committee Retreat through the Dept. of Conservation and Recreation. Anita McMillan would like her to ask about funding for trail maintenance.

Amanda McGee – The New River Valley Planning District Commission is hosting the Valley to Valley Trail Summit November 29, 9:00 – 1:00 pm at the Montgomery County Government Center.

Cecile Newcomb – The ribbon cutting for the shared use path on Plantation Rd is Oct 31, 2:30 pm. Roanoke County is starting work on its first Bike/Ped Plan.

Lisa Cooper – Franklin County has released the RFP for a trail from West Lake Town Center to Booker T. Washington Monument Trail. Negotiations are concluding for the pedestrian bridge in Ferrum over the Norfolk Southern tracks and construction will begin Spring 2019. Public input on the Ferrum Village Plan indicated an interest in bike/ped pathways and a more walkable community.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

The next meeting will be January 4, 2019, 2:00 – 4:00 pm.