

Notes
Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee
January 17, 2023
313 Luck Ave SW, Roanoke VA

Present

Ken McLeod	Robert Brown
Brendan Hall	Brendan Hall
Nathan Grim, Roanoke County	Isaac Henry, Roanoke County
Isaac Henry, Roanoke County	Maynard Keller
Will Crawford, VDOT	Garrett Brumfield, Overcome Yours
Carol Moneymaker, VDOT	Andrea Garland, RIDE Solutions
Rob Issem, City of Roanoke	Jonathan Stanton, RVARC
Leigh Anne Weitzenfeld, City of Roanoke	Barbara Duerk
Nathan McClung, Vinton	Wayne Wilcox
Tom Carr	Alison Treaster, Velo.ai
Phil Hobrla	Micol Marchett-Bowik, Velo.ai
Terry Huxhold	Jo, Velo.ai
Frank Maguire, Greenway Commission	Sandy Beyers
Cheryl Morales, VBR	Fayula Gordon

Ken McLeod called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

1. Locality Updates

Roanoke City Safety Campaign – Passing and Close-call analysis.

The City of Roanoke partnered with Velo.ai to provide hard data about the difference the city's 2023 safety campaign made in driver behavior. Velo.ai produces copilot, a rear light equipped with an ai-driven camera to identify and alert cyclists to vehicles and driver behaviors. Velo.ai was able to measure passing distances for cyclists before the campaign started and after the campaign finished. The primary findings of the analysis were:

- There was a slight improvement in passing behaviors between pre- and post- campaign.
- Identified 'hotspots' and behaviors on different types of infrastructure on four different routes that volunteers rode pre- and post- campaign.
- Was able to identify, on average, the number of vehicles and different behaviors by different vehicle types – such as better passing behaviors by Busses.

Comments during update:

- Members had questions about the viability of the technology and recording capabilities during events, such as crashes.
- Robert Brown asked how the routes were selected – Rob clarified that sources such as Strava were used, combined with creating one route per city quadrant.
- There were questions about what future steps velo.ai would be taking their product, or if they were planning a front-facing camera.
- There was general support for conducting another round of tests and expanding the tests to more riders, given the appropriate resources. Some conversations about testing different infrastructure as well, including standard, buffered, and protected lanes.

- Members had questions about whether this type of data would or could be aggregated and summarized for localities, and some of the different strategies Velo.ai is exploring for how this data could be used to improve infrastructure.

Roanoke City – Miscellaneous updates including 9th Street Cycletrack

Rob Issem presented updates from the city of Roanoke beginning with warning signage installed along Yellow Mountain Rd in South Roanoke, and 'Bikes may use full lane' signage along Grandin between Memorial and Brandon Ave in Southwest Roanoke.

The presentation moved onto the City of Roanoke's new 9th Street Cycletrack, which was installed between the 9th Street bridge over Roanoke River and Highland Avenue in Southeast Roanoke. A parking utilization analysis and discussions led to the selection of a cycletrack along the project area. Other details covered in the presentation included the configuration, parking situation, cycletrack access where it terminates, and signage.

Rob concluded with upcoming projects and ways to track the city repaving schedule and provide input.

Comments during update:

- Members had questions about access from each end of the cycletrack, which Rob addressed
- Members also had questions about snow plowing – Rob replied that the city was able to work through issues with this particular cycletrack
- There was an additional question about a future project north of Highland Ave which is looking at different types of cycling and pedestrian interventions, making continuing the cycletrack less likely.

2. Legislative Updates

Virginia 2024 Legislative Session

Barbara Duerk provided a handout and overview of the 2024 state legislative session, with a focus on bicycling and vulnerable road user safety bills. The handout, which contains a selection of bills currently active, is attached separately. Active bills which Barbara specifically pointed out include:

- Safety Stop (HB1077)
- Bicyclists allowed to proceed on pedestrian signals (HB657)
- E-bike rebate program (HB748)

Barbara has suggested to legislators a bill that would prioritize long-distance bicycle routes when VDOT is utilizing maintenance money for creating paved shoulders.

3. Regional Active Transportation Plan Progress Report

In the interest of timeliness for remaining bike/ped meeting minutes, Jonathan postponed the Active Transportation Plan progress report, with a note that there is an upcoming survey which will be shared with bike/ped committee members.

4. Friends of Blue Ridge/RVARC Bike rack program update

Andrew gave an update on the FBR/RVARC bike rack program – for which applications have closed for this cycle. The program received 12 applications for a total of 15 bike racks that covered areas in the region such as the Alleghany highlands (Covington, Clifton Forge), Roanoke County (Tanglewood), among others.

There were originally 10 bike racks available, however FBR may be able to fund more. Andrea and Jonathan will be touring the proposed locations for viability.

5. Other Business

- Jonathan Stanton provided an update on behalf of Renee Powers, Roanoke City Parks and Rec, that greenways have been plowed, and sidewalks that are not in front of residences or commercial businesses have been plowed as well.
- Nathan Grim noted that members should be on the lookout for a Roanoke County community meeting in the middle of February for concepts on the Starkey/Ogden corridor by Tanglewood, which is a very important corridor for connectivity.
- Barbara Duerk mentioned that Montgomery County prioritized the Valley-to-Valley trail in their legislative priorities
- Terry Huxhold mentioned that Southeast residents are happy with the quick response to lane-shift placement on Tazewell.

Committee information, dates, links, and attachments are on the [committee web page](#) where you can find **dates** and **times** of upcoming meetings.

FY2023-2024 meetings

- Wednesday, March 20, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, May 15, 2023, 3:00 – 5:00 pm

The meeting adjourned at 5:03 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 3:00 – 5:00 pm