EASTERN SHORE RAIL TO TRAIL STUDY
Stakeholder Kickoff Meeting

John Bolecek, AICP (VDOT)
Chris Daily, PE (VHB)
Meeting Agenda

Introductions

Study Overview
- Study Goals
- Study Area
- Stakeholders
- Study Work Group
- Contact Information

Study Area and Existing Conditions

Potential Design Features

Proposed Tasks & Schedule
- Proposed Tasks
- Estimated Schedule

Framework Document
- Framework Document
- Next Steps

Discussion Points Throughout
STUDY OVERVIEW

Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study
Eastern Shore Trail Study

• Rail to Trail opportunity
  • Study requested by A-NPDC

• Eastern Shore Railroad Corridor
  • Former Bay Coast Railway
  • 49.1 miles from Cape Charles to Hallwood
  • Primarily flat and straight
  • 66’ right of way

• Connection between communities, businesses, state and federal parks, and other amenities

• Addition/extension of the Southern Tip Bike & Hike Trail

• Northampton County
  • 12,000 residents

• Accomack County
  • 33,000 residents

Virginia Department of Transportation
Eastern Shore Trail Study

- A-NPDC Request
  - Cost estimate for path construction
    - Paved, ADA-compliant
    - Crush-and-run
  - Condition assessment of the corridor
  - Maintenance costs
  - Potential spurs connecting to towns and public facilities
  - Recommended management structure
  - Compatibility with other planned uses of the corridor
  - Funding sources to pursue study implementation
  - Cost-benefit analysis of recommended options
Study Goals

Phase 1 Goals
1) Discuss known and potential considerations for the shared-use path development
2) Develop the Framework Document

Phase 2 Goals
1) Determine feasibility of a shared-use path within the abandoned railroad right of way
2) Develop a strategy to segment portions of the shared-use path and optimize funding opportunities
3) Develop one or more SMART SCALE applications for Round 4
4) Evaluate alternative management structures for the new shared-use path
5) Determine cost estimates for shared-use path construction
What is SMART SCALE?

• State Funding Program
• Based on maximizing the use of limited tax dollars
• Biennial Schedule
  • Pre-applications Due April 2, 2020
  • Full Applications Due August 3, 2020
  • January 2021 – Release of Project Prioritization
What is SMART SCALE?

• Weighted Scored of Six Areas

- Safety (30%)
- Congestion Mitigation (10%)
- Accessibility (15%)
- Environmental Quality (10%)
- Economic development (35%)
- Land Use (0%)
  • Not a factor in Eastern Shore Region
Study Team

- VDOT, Central Office TMPD
  - John Bolecek
  - Terrell Hughes
- VDOT, Hampton Roads
  - TBD
- VHB
  - Chris Daily
  - Chris DeWitt
  - Doug Mettler
- Accomack County
  - TBD
- Northampton County
  - TBD
- A-NPDC
  - TBD
Contact Information

VDOT Project Manager
John Bolecek (VDOT)
John.Bolecek@VDOT.virginia.gov
(804) 371-4869

Consultant Project Manager
Chris Daily (VHB)
CDaily@VHB.com
(571) 389-8121
STUDY AREA AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study
Study Area

- **Eastern Shore Railroad Corridor**
  - Former Bay Coast Railway
  - 49.1 miles from Cape Charles to Hallwood
  - Primarily flat and straight
  - 66’ right of way
  - Northampton County
  - Accomack County
Existing Paths

- Phase 1 opened in 2011
- Phase 2 opened in 2019
- Phase 3 design is completed
- Phase 4 feasibility study completed
Commute Mode – Solo Drivers
Commute Mode – Walk/Bike/Taxi
Transit Network
School Locations
Opportunities for Development
Wetlands

USA Wetlands

- Marine
- Estuarine
- Palustrine
- Riverine
- Lacustrine

Virginia Department of Transportation
Road Crossings

- **Arterial Crossings**
  - Lankford Highway
  - Wachapreague Road
  - Tasley Road

- **Map Legend**
  - Arterial Crossing
  - Collector Crossing
  - Local Crossing
Potential Conflict

• Possible Railway Retention
  • Northern most 7 miles of proposed abandonment
  • North of Parksley to Hallwood
Utility Considerations

- Broadband (Existing in some parts)
- Natural Gas (Future Possibility)
- Sewer (Planned – HRSD)
  - Should not preclude co-alignment within 66’ ROW
- Benefits of Shared ROW
  - Efficient use of ROW
  - Makes utility space more functional and visually attractive
  - Uninterrupted access to utility for maintenance
  - Simplifies easement coordination to one agency, not multiple property owners
POTENTIAL DESIGN FEATURES

Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study
# Pedestrian Crossing Opportunities

## High-visibility crosswalk (includes continental crosswalks)
- Marked crosswalks that use high-visibility surface markings to indicate optimal or preferred locations for pedestrians to cross and help designate right-of-way for motorists to yield to pedestrians.
- Crosswalks are often installed at signalized intersections and other selected locations with appropriate levels of pedestrian and vehicle traffic.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRF</th>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>MUTCD Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19% to 40%</td>
<td>Visibility</td>
<td>VA MUTCD 2011 Section 3B.18</td>
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</tbody>
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## Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB)
- The RRFB is a high-frequency blinking pedestrian warning sign that is used in tandem with a pedestrian cross sign. The flashing pattern can be activated with pushbuttons or automated pedestrian detection (e.g., video or Infrared), and should be unlit when not activated.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>CRF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47%</td>
<td>Midblock crossings</td>
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## Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB)
- A beacon that is used to warn and control traffic at unsignalized marked crosswalks. Key design components of PHBs include: overhead beacon with circular yellow signal indication centered below two horizontally aligned circular red signals facing both directions on the major street; overhead signs labeled “CROSSWALK STOP ON RED” to indicate that the location is associated with a pedestrian crosswalk; a marked crosswalk, countdown pedestrian signal heads, and pedestrian pushbuttons.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18% to 37%</td>
<td>Midblock crossings</td>
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## Pedestrian warning signs
- Highly visible signs that indicate the presence of pedestrian crossings to motorists. Pedestrian warning signs should be used in combination with marked crosswalks at signalized and unsignalized crosswalk locations.

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4% to 15%</td>
<td>Awareness of crossing</td>
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## Pedestrian countdown signal
- A pedestrian signal head that begins a visible and potentially audible countdown at the beginning of the walk phase or at the beginning of the clearance (i.e., DON’T WALK) interval. The incorporation of a pedestrian countdown signal provides pedestrians with information that has been demonstrated to reduce pedestrian crossings when only a few seconds remain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55% to 70%</td>
<td>Signalized crossings</td>
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## Transverse rumble strips
- A pavement treatment for motorists where either grooves into the surface or strips of material above the surface alert drivers of an area to reduce speed. A vehicle passing over the rumble strips produces noise and vibration and alerts the driver to a potentially hazardous situation.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24%</td>
<td>Speed reduction</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Shared-Use Path Crossing Examples
Shared-Use Path Materials

- Paved Asphalt
- Crushed Stone
- Organic Lock Pervious Surface
- Paved Concrete
Shared-Use Path Features

- Path Lighting
- Path Signage and Flex Bollards
- Community Installations along the path

Virginia Department of Transportation
Crossing Opportunities at Lankford Highway

- Crossing at the new signalized intersection
  - ~0.3 mile deviation
  - Add Pedestrian Phases and Signal Heads
  - Consider Leading Pedestrian Intervals
- High Visibility Crosswalk Markings
- Median Refuge
PROPOSED TASKS AND SCHEDULE

Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study
Proposed Tasks and Schedule

Existing Conditions Analysis

Public Outreach

Planning Level Cost Estimation

Management Structure Analysis

Technical Report

Identify Alternative Alignments

Planning Level Alignment and Phasing

Online Study Map

February 2020

March 2020*

May 2020

June 2020

July 2020**

August 2020

October 2020

November 2020

*SMART SCALE Pre-Applications Due April 2, 2020 at 5PM

**SMART SCALE Full Applications Due August 3, 2020 at 5PM
Proposed Tasks and Schedule

Existing Conditions Analysis

Public Outreach

Final Cost Estimation

Management Structure Analysis

Online Study Map

February 2020

March 2020

April 2020

June 2020

July 2020

August 2020

September 2020

October 2020

November 2020

Identify Alternative Alignments

Final Alignment and Phasing

Public Use Condition expires May 29, 2020

Use Negotiating Period expires July 6, 2020
Example Deliverables
FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

Eastern Shore Rail to Trail Study
Study Team and Roles

- Attend meetings and/or workshops
  - Anticipated three in-person meetings and/or workshops
- Provide input in your focus area
  - Transportation planning (Ped/Bike planning)
  - Railway use information
  - Utility information
  - Preliminary design and cost estimating
  - Local Familiarity with Northampton and Accomack Counties
- Review interim and final deliverables
Purpose and Need of Study

- Rails to Trails Opportunity
  - Study requested by A-NPDC
- Determine the feasibility of a shared-use path
- Segment the final path alignment into phases
- Develop one or more SMART SCALE candidate projects
- Determine total cost of construction
Data Collection Needs

- **Environmental Data**
  - Wetlands
  - Topography

- **Cultural Data**
  - Park and Recreation Facilities
  - Historic Assets
  - Population Data
  - Conservation Lands

- **Traffic Data**
  - Road Crossing Locations
  - Speed Limit and AADT of Road Crossing Locations

- **Utility Data**
  - Known Utility Locations
  - Future Utility Possibilities

- **Land Use Data**
  - Right of Way
  - Surrounding Land Uses
  - Future Developments
  - Pedestrian Generators
  - Possible Development Locations
  - Transit Stop Locations and Ridership
  - School and Residential Locations

- **Other studies**
  - Comprehensive Plans
  - Bike/Pedestrian Plans
  - Previous studies in the vicinity
  - Previous plans within the vicinity to verify ROW and Utilities
Next Steps

- Review feedback from stakeholders
- Develop Framework Document
- Study Team Review and Approval of Framework Document
- Begin Phase II Tasks
Project Information Sharing

**VHB SharePoint:** Link to be distributed

**Username:** unique; will be provided separately to each individual

**Password:** unique; will be provided separately to each individual
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Questions and Additional Feedback

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