

Meeting Notes

Virginia Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Summer Meeting
12th Floor North Conference Room
600 E. Main St Richmond, Virginia 23219
August 6th, 2014 10am – 2:30pm

Attendees:

John Bolecek, VDOT
Monty Mills, DMV
Tien Simmons, VDOT
Liz McAdory, VDOT
John Shelburne, VDOT
Jennifer Wampler, DCR
Champe Burnley, Virginia Bicycle Federation
Cindy Engelhart, VDOT
Allen Turnbull, Bike Williamsburg
Jim Durham, Alexandria Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Sublah Aryai, Richmond Area MPO
Michael Todd, DRPT
George Rogerson, VDOT
Susan Pollock, City of Norfolk
Paul Forehand, City of Norfolk
David Patton, Arlington County
Louanne Pete, VDH
Dan Painter, VDOT
Peter Ohlms, VDOT VCTIR
Kayleigh Roy, VDOT VCTIR
Marsha Fiol, VDOT
Bruce Drees, Tidewater Bicycle Association

1. Welcome & Introductions

- Everyone in the room introduced themselves.

2. Status of Bike/Ped projects at VDOT

- Pedestrian Policy Plan – currently out for stakeholder comment
- Beaches to Bluegrass – about to reach stakeholder comment period (being handled by DCR).
- SEHSR Greenway – about mid-way through the project; there have been some questions regarding approvals needed for rights of way; member requested a presentation on the greenway at the next BPAC meeting; John Bolecek will look into having a presentation.

- USBR 1 Realignment – project is moving along and is scheduled to be complete in time for the 2014 Fall submission to AASHTO (due October 4, 2014).
- 2014 Bike/Ped Work Plan
 - Trip to Arlington was successful.
 - Planning a second trip to Arlington on October 28th; let John Bolecek know if you are interested in attending.
- Discussion re: VDOT Projects. The following comments were captured during the discussion:
 - In regards to the 2004 CTB Policy re: Bike/Ped Accommodations: although there seems to be better integration / communication, bike/ped is sometimes not integrated early in the decision-making process.
 - Often localities communicate with VDOT Residencies, but localities may not be working with the advocacy groups – potential improvement in communication.
 - NOVA district – Fairfax County receives VDOT’s paving schedule and provides bike/ped comments at an early stage.
 - It was mentioned that noticeable progress has been made on the VDOT Bike/Ped work program.
 - Suggested for BPAC to provide VDOT with a list of needs one year prior to the SYIP / Maintenance schedule.
 - If locality has a bike/ped staff member, they are integral in bike/ped planning and implementation.
 - It is currently not possible to track how well the 2004 CTB Policy has been implemented.
 - Recommended for VDOT Bike/Ped Planner to ask VDOT how many lane miles have been repaved annually.
 - BPAC member asked if this group could see something similar to a schedule or timeline.

3. **Rails with Trails/Pedestrian Crossing Bill**

- Jennifer Wampler presented on the status of boating takeout project on the James River near Balcony Falls.
- There was a discussion regarding CSX concerns with at grade crossing of tracks by boaters.

4. **Update on Bicycles on Amtrak**

- Champe Burnley gave an update on the work of the Amtrak task force looking at allowing roll-on bicycle service on Amtrak Trains.

- Two pilot lines are: “Capitol Limited” and “Vermont” – the latter funded by Vermont DOT.
- The following comments were captured during the discussion:
 - This effort is more difficult in VA due to smaller train cars and also due to Amtrak redistributing cars – often the car that leaves the area is not the same car that comes back, thus the returning car may not have bike accommodations.
 - Bike parking at the new Silver Line metro station is 60% of capacity.
 - If Amtrak would/could make space for bikes at the stations, it would reduce the demand for parking and the amount of requests to bring bikes onto train cars.

5. Update on Committee’s Top Five Technical Concerns:

- Add to the list: 10-year review of CTB Policy
 - Suggested to put a small VDOT sub-committee together to prepare for this.
- High-priority shoulders
 - John is driving the U.S. Bike Routes and making notes where shoulders are needed.
- Maintenance payments
 - BPAC member suggested letters of support from localities.
- Winter maintenance of paths and sidewalks – potential update at next BPAC meeting.
- Urban standards
 - National Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices passed a number of bicycle-related proposed changes in their June meeting. There is the possibility of interim approval for some items; update requested at Jan. 2015 BPAC meeting.
 - Proposals here: <http://www.ncutcdbtc.org/sponsors.html>
- Policy on limited access – under review before implementation, provides the ability to change designation or enforce designation when necessary.
 - Comment: In addition to this, signage is necessary to let others know to look out for cyclists and pedestrians (sign would be for vehicle drivers, police, etc.); an example of a location for signage would be Western Freeway bridge.

Miscellaneous comments captured:

- MUTCD and AASHTO Bike Guide to be updated in 2016.
- AASHTO is pushing for a 5-year update schedule.

6. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Data

- Stephen Read gave a short talk on the Highway Safety Improvement Program.
 - Virginia is an FHWA designated focus state for roadway departures.
 - Wider shoulders and rumble strips are treatments.
 - **Action item: Need feedback for Implementation plan for where to place shoulders, look at existing data and tie back to hot spots identified by FHWA.**
 - Updating rumble strip design standards, may need more flexibility for rumble strips where there is not 4 feet of usable shoulder in low bicycle use areas.
 - Bruce Drees mentioned that Virginia Beach implemented the RS-5 standard on Shore Drive and that it seemed to work well.
 - US RAP- roadway assessment program, drive in Google Street View and document roadway inventory for all users. Assess safety for all modes. Pilot—look at City streets, used by many states for off-state system.
- Tien Simmons gave a presentation on the various safety tools available to look at bicycle and pedestrian crash data and HSIP projects. The following comments were captured during the discussion:
 - VDOT safety analysis tools are available on the intranet.
 - Shows frequency of crashes, roadway departures, etc.
 - Bike Ped – Number of crashes on routes generally aligns with traffic volume.
 - TREADS feed data is roughly 6 months behind DMV and their contractor.
 - There is a new 24/7 counter on Route 11 near Roanoke River Greenway.
 - TREADS-2009, now have four years of better crash data.
 - Top 5 % highest priority, top 10%--next highest priority.
 - Can share .kmz file with committee members.
 - Do not have off-road trails on this map.
 - Dooring is included, this data will be useful for legislative push but will be difficult to query.
 - **Action Item: Missing links, ADA issues at intersections, give Stephen some recommendations prioritized by the Districts.**
 - Must download Tableau Reader for external use.

- Have development software, need to hear what cross-tabulations are of interest.
- **Action item: Let us know what you want specific to bike/ped—what reports do you want to see.**
- HSIP Project tracking dashboard.
- Do not have flag in 6-year plan that says it is bike/ped project, should be able to add in by linking to another database.
- **Action item: Will send link out and notify people when it is external.**
- #1 crash predictor is class of roadway (urban arterial), need more demographic info to develop counter measures like targeted education.

7. **Bicycle and Pedestrian Enforcement** - John Bolecek introduced the topic of bicycle and pedestrian enforcement. The following comments were captured during the discussion:

- Monty Mills, DMV mentioned there is money out there for law enforcement to correct bad behavior, Arlington gets grant to do pedestrian enforcement.
- Getting ready to roll out 2014 grant schedule (NOVA, Hampton Roads, Richmond, Roanoke).
- Bob Weakley is contact at DMV for 402 federal funding:

Bob Weakley, Community Transportation Programs
 Manager
 Program Emphasis Area: Aggressive Driving
 DMV Franconia Customer Service Center
 6306 Grovedale Drive
 Alexandria, Virginia 22310
 PHONE: (703) 313-9443
 FAX: (703) 922-6875
 EMAIL: bob.weakley@dmv.virginia.gov

- As part of NVRC grant for safety guides, extra money was used to evaluate driver's manual and questions for text — will be put in pool and evaluated.
- Pam Goheen in charge of publications including the Driver's Manual at DMV.
- **The committee felt that the FABB-suggested changes were good and that more emphasis should be placed on bicycle and pedestrian issues in the manual and the test.**
- The Virginia DMV Manual on the web needs to be updated with the three-foot passing law, the printed version is outdated but PDFs can be edited. Manual is updated every July, need someone from Communications office at DMV to address.

- Ages are increasing because bikes becoming real transportation mode.
- No one reaching drivers to educate them about new facilities, education on new roadway features is a huge need.
- **Action item: Invite Vanessa Wigand, DOE to a committee meeting to discuss the driver's education curriculum.**
- One way to combat high-risk cycling behavior is funding officers to educate cyclists through direct intervention.
- Safety programs at DMV look at levels of biking and walking and the ability to promote safety for a large number of people when distributing money.
- If you can show us that this roadway has a history of intimidation by riders, (and a variety of other conditions are met), NOVA district will put up "Bikes May Use Full Lane" signs.
- State police get their training needs from Criminal Justice Services, there is a curriculum committee.
- It is hard to squeeze in more training regarding bike/ped education of officers.
- Hampton Roads bicyclist killed wearing bright clothes during the day—Driver said "I didn't see him," and wasn't charged.
- **Action item: Police presentation to BPAC.**
- Need campus and local police training.
- Every two years, officers go through training, 4-6 hours, Selective Acts.
- Example Clarendon and 17th in Arlington, bicyclist struck while in bike lane (through merge area), and police blamed bicyclist for the accident. Commonwealth Attorney supported police mistake (they are not under Attorney General).
- Following too closely does not apply to bikes.
- Police awareness, prosecutorial awareness, talk to Chief of Police.
- Dana Schrad, Exec. Director of VA Association of Chiefs of Police, would know avenue to get before police.
- Need sheriff's association.
- Question of whether VA allows a strobe light on the front?

8. Research Statement Example

- Peter Ohlms presented on several research ideas the committee raised. The following comments were captured during the discussion:
 - **Action item: Forward any research suggestions to Peter.**
 - They will be reviewed by TPRAC (Marsha Fiol on this committee).
 - Value engineering raised as high priority for research (starting from 2005).

- Review of 2004 Policy should be done by an on-call consultant, not VCITR.
 1. Local projects, which are more likely to have higher bike/ped volumes, are not required to do the scoping form.
 2. No, we are not following the policy, because it is not being followed at locality level; no documentation.
- Driver education as research project, how to have leverage/cooperation with DMV.
 1. Education part for drivers' education comes out of Dept. of Education.
 2. How do we reach drivers who are out of school? No requirement like most states for re-taking test.
 3. Driving schools operated by ASAP (Alcohol Safety Awareness Program).
 4. All alcohol safety programs, private programs, curriculum set by DMV.

9. Closing

Michael Todd announced a Social Bike Ride he leads --Third Thursday of each month, leaves at 6 p.m. from 600 E. Main St.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.