

Virginia Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

Fall Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2016

Meeting start: 10:00 am

Meeting end: 2:00 pm

1. Driver Education for New Multimodal Facilities – Andrew Mondschein (UVA)
 - a. This project was an identified research need at the Spring 2016 TPRAC meeting. Namely that new facilities are unfamiliar to current drivers and other road users and that the processes and roles of practitioners are unclear as to who should be responsible for driver education. The goal of project was to educate drivers and other road users about new multimodal facilities.
 - b. The method this project employed include in-depth interviews and content analysis (print and video content, review of US and Canadian driver education related to safety and usability)
 - c. Findings and best practices are provided in slideshow
 - d. Discussion:
 - i. Has there been discussion with Department of Motor Vehicles or Department of Education?
 1. DMV was clear that the kinds of outreach that are currently underway are defined in State safety programs
 - ii. Private driver education courses that provide information about new facilities
 - iii. What new practices can be adopted to communicate new facilities to drivers (both new and old)?
 - iv. Has there been tracking of accidents related to multimodal facilities?
 - v. One of the reasons that most education campaigns are related to safety is that is where funding is available. Some funding for education that was previously under TAP has gone away. Some former education programs have been transitioned to safety programs.
 - vi. Suggestion: Provide one page flyer on safety tips about new facilities whenever you go to DMV

- vii. Out of 20 questions on the DMV test, one question is related to bicycles
 - viii. Problem: How to get the information out there. We need to get local and regional planners to take on some of the outreach related to usability (i.e. how to use/understand the message of the sign/facility).
 - ix. There is currently no repository of materials/guidelines relating to the educating people on the usability and safety aspects of new bicycle facilities
 - 1. A good repository could be developed by PBIC and FHWA. It would need to be continuously updated as new facilities are accepted in the MUTCD.
 - 2. Action: Communicate to FHWA about getting this going
2. Statewide Trails Advisory Committee (STAC) update – Jennifer Wampler
- a. *Current and Future Plans for a State System of Attractive Sustainable and Enduring Trails Across the Commonwealth* report submitted in October 2016
 - b. Plan to have a Governor’s Conference that will be focused on greenways, trails and land conservation. STAC will plan to convene on the first day of this conference.
 - i. Plan field trips on Capital Trail or have historians provide interpretations of trail areas
 - c. North Carolina has a yearly bike summit that provides updates on what the state and Federal government are doing related to bicycles. Attendee’s include state and private consultants as well as advocacy groups. This could be a good idea for Virginia to have.
Attendees
 - i. Harrisonburg has a yearly bike summit
 - ii. VBF doesn’t have the resources to pull this off but it’s something they support
 - iii. How much does it cost to plan a conference?
3. Statewide Bike/Pedestrian Count Program Study – Peter Ohlms and Lance Dougald
- a. Out of 9 projects this was the top ranked project at the last TPRAC meeting
 - b. This research project began last month and has a January 2018 due date. The interim due date is June 2017. The interim report will give some ideas of might be started in the short term
 - c. Purpose: no count program in Virginia for nonmotorized modes similar to automobile count programs

- d. Existing literature: There is an increased federal focus on topics. Other states that have or have considered nonmotorized count programs include Washington, Minnesota, North Carolina and Louisiana (Louisiana is at about the same stage as Virginia).
 - i. Relevant existing research: count site selection, k factors, use of technologies used to collect counts
 - ii. There are a few local and regional count efforts in Virginia
 - e. Purpose and scope: how to plan and implement a program in Virginia (who will be served and how would they use the data?)
 - i. Options for counting methods
 - ii. Options for data warehousing and how to store the data
 - iii. How to incorporate a program into VDOT routine business activities
 - f. Method: literature review, reviewing other states' practices, document what's happening in Virginia (locations of counts, methods and benefits received)
 - g. Discussion:
 - i. There needs to be separation between counts of recreational travel and transportation travel
 - ii. Develop Guidance on potential uses of data and how to integrate data with existing databases (Traffic Management System [TMS], iPeMS, federal Travel Monitoring Analysis System [TMAS], etc.)
 - iii. What are the general costs of the individual options for count programs? Is the project return on investment focused?
 - iv. Counts of bikes and peds could be done to prioritize snow plowing where bicycles are predominantly used for transportation purposes
 - v. There will be a session at TRB on QA/QC of bike/ped data convened by Scott Brady of DVRPC Philadelphia
4. VDOT Bike and Ped Program Update
- a. Smart Scale – 436 Applications received. Very large time commitment. 75% of project feature bike/pedestrian component
 - b. Discussed the Department's response to the CTB Policy Implementation Audit
 - c. Hampton Roads Cap Trail Connection Study (underway): Considering alignments from the existing terminus to Monroe Point (Peninsula) and to Virginia Beach via Scotland

(Southside). The next meeting will take place on November 16. Location TBA (Note: As of 11/10/16 the location was set to be in Suffolk)

- d. Print bicycle map update: Hopefully will be complete before Commonwealth Classic
 - e. NOVA maintenance research and inventory (still ongoing, no updates)
 - f. Bicycle Facility Resource Guide Update (still on going, on hold until finished with hb2/SMART SCALE review)
 - g. Traffic Engineering Division has completed its Guidance for Pedestrian Accommodations at Unsignalized Intersections (comments are due Nov. 4)
 - h. Robin Grier – Inclusion of more pedestrian issues at BPAC
 - i. Virginia is 5th in the country for Safe Routes to School participation
 - ii. Is there a need to give more emphasis to pedestrian issues on the BPAC? Several existing groups throughout the state that speak on pedestrian issues:
 - 1. Arlington County Pedestrian Advisory Committee is a way to expand emphasis on pedestrians for the Statewide BPAC. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month.
 - 2. Fairfax County and Prince William County implement pedestrian advocacy under the Board of Supervisor's Disability Committee
 - 3. Richmond's Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee, ten ADA centers nationwide and region-wide
 - 4. Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission Star City Striders (running group)
 - iii. Send recommendations to John Bolecek on who to invite to BPAC committee meetings and agenda items related to pedestrian issues.
 - iv. Pedestrian facilities have increased – critical not just to look at from a sidewalk perspective, intersections, both signalized and unsignalized are also important to consider
 - v. Virginia Regional Transportation Safety Roadshow – collecting input on potential strategies and actions from throughout the state to add to Strategic Highway Safety Plan (due next summer). Separate State Highway Safety Plan for Pedestrians and Bicycles because while they typically overlap there are many differences. Last SHSP did not include bikes and pedestrians.
5. VDOT Business Plan – BPAC to comment on new P.E. starts.
- a. You can search UPC in Virginia Roads where most of the projects are mapped

- b. Project Managers are responsible for documenting compliance with CTB Policy
 - c. The purpose of the P.E. Starts spreadsheet is to 'daylight' all projects that have been added to the SYIP and allow BPAC to comment on them.
 - d. Resent P.E. Starts list if there are no additional comments
6. Updates on Committee's Top Technical Concerns
- a. Next STAC Meeting on Dec. 1 in Natural Bridge
 - b. Cap Trail Connection Study on Nov 16 in Hampton Roads (Location TBA)
 - c. Legislation/GA: maintenance payments/ loss of funding from road diets – looking for a sponsor
 - d. Sweeping bike lanes/ snow clearing – new updates to MyVDOT will allow you to report things that need to be fixed with regards to sweeping bike lanes and snow clearing of sidewalks and paths. No clear timeline for when this will be ready.
7. Urban standards/ urban retrofits/ DRPT Multimodal Design Guidelines and NACTO
- a. Updates info in the DMV Driver's Manual
 - b. NACTO Global Street Design Guide released
 - c. FHWA Interim Approval of Bike Boxes
 - d. 2 % of maintenance budget is set aside for wedging – - what is the status of districts around the state doing this
 - e. Update on review of 2004 CTB Policy – close to finishing memorandum detailing response to audit: maintenance will have to list locations that have been wedged each year. The chart from list year indicated that many districts were going over 2% the new documents will provide even more information including distance and width of shoulders wedged
 - i. Howard (FABB) – VDOT should adopt and implement FHWA Bicycling Facilities Maintenance Guidance. Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling would like to see street sweeping properly taken care of, proper patching of pavement on trails, remove vegetation encroaching on paths must be cut back, encourage citizens to report maintenance problems, clearly spell out and document maintenance costs, decide maintenance responsibilities prior to construction, and include snow removal and maintenance.
 - 1. Things that can be done without a contract are more likely to be done
 - 2. Invite Bronco Vlacich to come speak at next BPAC meeting

- f. Update on review of 2004 CTB Policy – mapping of limited access highways that are prohibited to bikes when Smart Scale is done
 - i. May be civil rights/DOJ issue regarding explicit language that says sidewalks won't be maintained
- g. Virginia Tech Transportation Institute now part of Pedestrian and Bike Information System, along with Toole Design Group, People for Bikes, and ITE
- h. Next meetings – January 23
- i. Research statement to be submitted to Pavement Research Advisory Committee – improve designs for sidewalk pavement structure