

**Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
Spring Meeting Minutes**

600 E Main St., Richmond, VA  
March 26, 2014

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

John Bolecek convened the meeting at 10:05am.

Attendees:

Andy Alden, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute  
Fatemeh Allahdoust, VDOT - Northern Virginia District  
John Bolecek, VDOT - Central Office, Transportation and Mobility Planning Division (TMPD)  
David Boyd, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)  
Champe Burnley, Virginia Bicycling Federation  
Bruce Drees, Tidewater Bicycling Association  
Cindy Engelhart, VDOT – Northern Virginia District  
Kelly Hitchcock, Central VA MPO  
Paul Forehand, City of Norfolk  
Joe Morgan, East Coast Greenway  
Tien Simmons, VDOT - Central Office, Traffic Engineering Division (TED)  
George Rogerson, VDOT - Central Office, Location and Design (L&D)  
Charlie Strunk, Fairfax County  
Michael Todd, Dept. of Rail & Public Transportation  
Brantley Tyndall, SportsBackers  
Lloyd "Bud" Vye, Richmond Area Bicycling Association  
Jennifer Wampler, Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR)

**2. Virginia Outdoors Plan**

David Boyd presented on Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP), the state's official document regarding land conservation, outdoor recreation and open space. His presentation focused on the digital capability of VOP and the VOP Mapper. He highlighted the statewide trails that are mapped, along with scenic byways and thematic trails.

Question: Is there anything that differentiates recreational trips from other types of trips?

Comment: There is no policy that discriminates between counting "transportation" vs. "recreation" trips for any mode

**3. Status of Bicycle and Pedestrian projects at VDOT**

John Bolecek reported on the status of current bicycle and pedestrian projects:

- Pedestrian Policy Plan is substantially complete, waiting to go to public comment
- Beaches to Bluegrass is substantially complete, waiting to go to public comment
- Southeast High-speed rail greenway study recently started, only 26% of greenway alignment falls on abandoned ROW. Smaller sections between towns are most feasible in the short term, longer term connections will be captured in long range plans and locality comprehensive plans.
- US Bike Route 1 Study recommends a new alignment in Northern Virginia. People responded to online map form and liked it. Draft alignment ready and will be posted soon for public comment. Signage plan and AASHTO application will be drafted after public comment.

John also reported on his 2014 Work Program and requested committee involvement

- Inventory and sign US Bike Routes (goal is completion before 2015 UCI Bike Race)  
Adventure Cycling has an MOU with National Park Service

**Action item: Champe to provide a copy of MOU**

- Submit map to maintenance division of priority USBR segments for shoulder widening

**Action Item: Committee to identify segments for consideration**

- Develop interactive online map for next Bicycling in VA update
- Complete statewide inventory and map of limited access prohibitions  
Web link for limited access: Bottom of the page on:  
<http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/bk-info.asp>

- Assessment of map of sidewalk gaps

**Action item: Tien to provide presentation at next meeting**

**Action item: Committee to provide any feedback that would help prioritize missing links**

- Trip to Arlington with VDOT staff to look at urban design standards, shooting for late summer/fall. Will invite cities to join (Lynchburg is interested, for example) so that information comes in before next paving cycle in August.

Comment: The trip will benefit people who have not seen bike/ped accommodations. It is important to get cities and towns that provide their own maintenance on this trip.

- **Action item: Subcommittee to help plan trip**

- Update and reorganize bike/ped website

**Action item: Committee on provide feedback on how to make better**

- Lead effort to have VDOT adopt a limited access policy
- Committee to identify specific locations and specific signs as part of that research.

**Action Item: Committee to develop a list of roads to focus on first. Send John any road segments that should be evaluated**

Comment: VDOT has roadway inventory by year in GIS as well as shoulder profiles in Oracle. There is also data on roadway departure crashes (which can be used to justify shoulder wedging)

Comment: The Richmond Region is developing a long-range transportation plan—will identify all transit stops and bike/ped facilities going in—will share GIS layer for Richmond region at MPO level

#### **4. Legislative Update**

Bud Vye provided a report on advocacy efforts at the General Assembly—bicycling safety has been the focus of VBF for the past six year. Bud reported:

3-foot passing bill passed this year. Following too closely sailed through house, but was blocked in senate. A bill passed to allow cyclists to wear masks in cold weather, however, it is still illegal to wear a mask if your intent it to conceal your identity. The dooring bill failed and was seen as an urban issue. Two pedestrian bills, stop for pedestrian in marked crosswalk and don't pass around stopped line of vehicles also failed. Sunday hunting on private land sailed through.

The committee thanked Bud for his efforts.

#### **5. Update on 'Bicycles on Amtrak' Workgroup**

Champe Burnley gave an update on the effort to allow roll on bike service on Amtrak trains on the east coast. A letter was sent to President Boardman of Amtrak, with 30 organizations signing. In response, a Draft Charter is under development by the Bicycle Task Force, and Amtrak is looking at pilot routes. Long distance lines are being looked at first. Amtrak Corridor routes are those funded 100% from the state and those are being looked at second. Northeast Corridor trains would be the hardest to accommodate. Goal is to have charter developed for ProBike/ProWalk in Pittsburgh in September.

Comment: At Staples Mill station, if we have secure parking at either end, we can eliminate some of the car parking demand.

## **Wiehle Ave Bike Station – Charlie Strunk**

Charlie Strunk gave a presentation on the Wiehle Ave Bike Station. Washington Metrorail is being extended to Dulles. The Silver Line Wiehle-Reston East Metrorail Station will feature a Bikeroom. The station has secure bicycle parking, floor-mounted U-racks, vertical space savers, 2 Fixit stations, parking for over-sized bicycles (w/trailers), message boards, workbench, and recycling/trash cans. It is 4200 SF with \$60 a year membership. Fairfax received over 200 registration packets.

The station tried to piggyback on WMATA smart trip card, but technology is too old.

Comment: Structure car parking costs roughly \$35,000/space, can build entire biking facility for cost of one car space

Comment: Super NOVA study is looking at transit hubs, park and ride lots—those locations could be candidates for bike rooms. VDOT doesn't have bike rooms, but manages bike lockers. VDOT does not staff park and ride lots, but could partner with DRPT at transit hubs

## **6. Updates on Committee's Top 5 technical concerns**

George Rogerson talked about the Multimodal Guidelines and Standards for Mixed Use urban centers section of the Road Design Manual.

VDOT owns/maintains majority of roads in Virginia

Recent legislation allowed localities to work w/VDOT to adopt new urban roadway standards

These are not requirements, but are options for new construction and will reduce the number of waivers that would be required.

In January 2014, The DRPT Multimodal System Design Guidelines were incorporated into the VDOT Road Design Manual (RDM), Appendix B(2) as the Multimodal Design Standards for Mixed-Use Urban Centers with a "link" to the DRPT website  
<http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/activities/MultimodalSystemDesignGuidelines.aspx>

DRPT owns the Multimodal System Design Guidelines and will maintain them

Localities have the option to implement these Guidelines and Standards

If you choose to do plan, don't have to go through waivers, just have to address exceptions. Optimal values and minimum values depend on what your modal emphasis is. Amy Inman at DRPT is project manager. Type of multimodal center, travel modes, modal emphasis should be identified in each plan, dimensions like sidewalk width vary greatly between the centers.

The Road Design Manual also incorporates by reference the NACTO Urban Bikeway Design Guide. The DRPT multimodal design standards follow the ITE Designing Urban Walkable Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach guidelines. NACTO Urban Street Design Guide is being fully evaluated to see if it can be added as well.

Question: How well is the 2004 Policy for Integration of Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations working?

Comment: There is very little data on whether locally administered projects are complying with the 2004 CTB Policy, example current bridge project in Portsmouth

Question: What can this committee do to look into the issue and 1) identify the bad players, 2) recognize the good players 3) identify good and bad examples of how policy was implemented and share with everyone so that people know when and how to get involved

Comment: Policy should be evaluated for review, 10 years of complete streets: what have we learned

Comment: Unless have good advocacy group, entities can get away with not following 2004 policy

Comment: City manager is control mechanism between engineers and planners

Comment: This could be phase II of the policy review, identify new best practices, reference NOVA protocols with street design, glitches (i.e. Portsmouth bridge), maybe local assistance division can help us through this process, get right people at table

Comment: Why not get localities to request that bike/ped compliance be addressed at the Local Assistance workshop

**Action Item: Committee recommended that a '10 year Policy Review' be conducted on the 2004 CTB Policy. John will take this back to VDOT**

No update on road diet / loss of funding

Champe made motion to clarify administrative code on urban policy impact on funding of car lanes to bike lanes on road diet. Bud seconded.

Comment: Local Assistance has clarified their position in person and in various e-mails over the past several years

**Action Item: John will follow up with Local Assistance again.**

Comment: Do a study on the maintenance costs of a bike lane versus a multi-use vehicle travel lane (perhaps recommend this as a TPRAC proposal). The point of the maintenance reimbursement per moving lane-mile is to cover costs of maintaining that portion of the road that is providing a transportation service – so having numbers associated with bike lane use and maintenance costs should be an important element in affecting the existing policy/approach.

Comment: To have a case in court, have to put your career on the line and spend the money, do the road diet —and then hope VDOT reimburses you.

High priority shoulders on U.S. Bike Routes:

Action Item listed above for committee to submit list

## **8. Bicycle and Pedestrian Research      Peter Ohlms/ VCTIR/VDOT**

Peter Ohlms presented on his project, Innovative Pavement Markings to Facilitate Bicycle Travel, that included two-stage, left-turn queue boxes, to go on the ground in June, with data collection before and after. There were no recorded bicycle collisions in last 3 years, so have to do analysis of conflicts rather than crashes (based on evaluation of video footage): apparent conflicts (legal violations), actual conflicts.

Questions: Bad drivers are wreaking havoc on our roads. Should we have 3 strikes you are out for driver licensing? Is this a candidate for research project?

Comment: A research project already discussed would look at conflicting roles of Main Street. VDOT needs guidance on how to treat corridors like that when conflicts emerge between local and through traffic

Comment: There was another idea previously raised which was, “What do we know about relatively new bicycle treatments, and how should VDOT spend limited funds on these projects?”

Comment: Could have a research project to evaluate 2004 CTB policy

Comment: For these new road treatments—who is doing education piece? How are other countries doing education? Roundabout video is one example of transportation planning division idea that was created through the research process.

Comment: Could go in Traffic and Safety Research Advisory Committee. The schedule for all research advisory committees is to brainstorm projects in fall, hear updates in spring.

Action Item: Bring any research ideas to July meeting and come prepared to present them

Ideas the committee recommends will be forwarded to be Marsha who is the Chair of the TPRAC committee.

Comment: The VDOT Limited Access Report has not been adopted. It is under revision addressing internal VDOT comments

**Next State BPAC meeting date is July 23**

The snow clearing / technical concern discussion was held at the end of the meeting:

Comment: Snow issue is tough problem, large piles (as high as 8 ft) of plowed snow are an issue because they block sidewalks long after the snow has ended. Arlington has policy that local property owners clear sidewalks, but Arlington receives complaints about VDOT roads where VDOT clears roadways but not sidewalks and snow and ice build up at curb ramps and in crosswalks.

Comment: There may be a "Snow Summit" in Northern Virginia to address this issue

Question: Can somebody from maintenance come and talk with us?

Answer: Yes, we will invite maintenance to talk about snow plowing at the next meeting

**Action Item: John Bolecek will invite Maintenance Division to July meeting to talk about this issue**

Comments: Emphasize pedestrian concerns in plow training, forward complaints to area supervisors. We will do some research, resolution/next steps for next meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm