

SUMMARY OF REQUEST FOR CITIZEN MEMBERS OF THE BIKEWAY/WALKWAY COMMITTEE:

The NRV Bikeway-Walkway Committee (BWWWC), a sub-committee of the NRV Transportation Advisory Committee, would like to invite each locality in the New River Valley to appoint a citizen member to the BWWWC. Currently, the membership of the BWWWC is composed of staff members from the surrounding localities, universities, and representatives of local bike organizations. Although citizens have been welcomed to the committee, citizen participation has been low.

Background and Role of BW-WW Committee

The committee has primarily been working to connect the Huckleberry Trail to the New River Trail (NRT), with other efforts including: promoting Safe Routes to School and to bring awareness to bicycle and pedestrian issues in the New River Valley. In late summer of 2005, the group began as an informal effort to move the development of the NRT-Huckleberry Trail Connector forward. Later in May of 2006, the group was later formalized as a working group to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Upon its formalization the following guidelines were set forth for the committee by the TAC: the working group may consist of up to 25 members and deliver recommendations on related projects to the TAC. The group is open to all citizen, organizational, and locality participation. Since it is a sub-committee of the TAC, agreement is NOT done through membership voting. The group works to obtain consensus on issues with all members of the sub-committee. Please see attached sheet of protocol developed for the BW-WW Committee.

The roles of the BWWW Committee are the following:

- Serve as a steering committee for the NRT-Huckleberry Connector Regional Trail.
- Provide input and guidance on the regional bike trail planning and implementation process/future studies.
- Serve as a forum for information exchange among localities and groups.
- Identify and help address pedestrian/bike/trail needs in region/area.
- Provide a mechanism for BWWW Committee's recommendations to be incorporated into future local/regional transportation/Comprehensive Plans by bringing results to the TAC, Planning Boards, etc.

Why Citizen Appointees?

Currently, participants include planning and parks and recreation staff from the following localities: Town of Christiansburg, Town of Pulaski, Pulaski County, Montgomery County, City of Radford, Town of Blacksburg; State Agencies include: VDOT and DCR, Virginia Tech and the following organizations: New River Valley Bicycle Association. Attendance at

meetings range from 7-15 participants, with the only consistent citizen representation coming from one bicycle group in the valley.

In an effort to continue to build community support for a regional network of alternative transportation and recreation, the BWWWC feels it is now time to **effectively** recruit citizen participation. The BWWWC will benefit from the additional membership by creating a community voice for the project. Throughout the past 18 months, the BWWWC has benefited from the support of citizen volunteers working on behalf of the Committee in working to identify possible routes for the regional trail network as well as having discussions with property owners on the benefits of a regional trail network. These citizen members can also work to enhance communication between existing citizen volunteer organizations and the staff members of the BWWWC.

If localities are in need of help with identifying individuals to appoint, one potential source would be those existing community bikeway/walkway organizations, such as NRV Trails/Chapter of BikeWalk VA, NRV Bicyclist Association, Friends of the Huckleberry, Pathways for Radford and Citizens for Trails in Floyd. As well as represent locality needs that may not be currently participating on the committee.

#### Role of the Citizen Appointee

Appointed citizens are expected to work to generate community support for locality projects as they are designed. The citizen appointees will have the opportunity of having a leadership role within the committee. Currently, the BWWWC has a Chair and Vice-Chair, one of which would be open to the citizen representatives (see attached sheet for duties). The citizen members will be responsible with working with their respective government's appointee to keep the local Council/Board up to date on the progress of the Committee on obtaining grant funding to begin to construct the regional trail network or other trail issues for that locality. The term of appointment of these citizen members will be at the discretion of each individual locality.