

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Of the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2009 8:30 a.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn



ATTENDEES: Kevin Byrd, Montgomery County Planning & GIS; Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; Debbie Freed, Virginia Tech

CALL TO ORDER.....Chair – Hair
The meeting was called to order at 8:41 am by Chair Hair

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTESChair – Hair
The minutes were approved as presented

PUBLIC COMMENTSOpen Floor
None

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen Floor
None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Local Trail Project Updates:

Byrd provided updates regarding his awareness of several projects in the region including: the New River Trail Extension, Huckleberry Trail, and Montgomery County Trails. Byrd informed the group that he would provide a list of active trail projects that were ready for construction in FY 2009.

Freed informed the group that phases three and four of the Hokie Trail network part of VT enhancement projects were moving forward.

2. Regional Bikeway Walkway Plan Update:

Sharp informed the group per last meeting request to review/update policies, that since 2000 the Virginia Department of Transportation under policy of the Commonwealth Transportation board had specified the construction of paved shoulders and consideration of alternate modes of transportation when designing a new roadway corridor.

Sharp mentioned to the group the potential of using the policy section of the plan as a reference to design standards and materials available to individuals interested in planning new trail or bikeway network rather than identifying individual policies. The group expressed interest in moving towards this approach considering the improvements to design standards and policy updates adopted by Virginia.

Byrd inquired about hiking trails as they were becoming more popular in a variety of regions and the potential need of incorporating some design standard references in the plan.

Sharp agreed informing the group that in most cases 2-3 ft wide hiking trails are often constructed and maintained by volunteers but the need for some design criteria could benefit new trail systems. Sharp referenced a familiar project meeting this criteria in the NRV was the Appalachian Trail. Sharp also mentioned the potential of a hiking trail connector as part of the Great Eastern Trail that would interlink West Virginia in Giles County to the Appalachian Trail. The group agreed to have Sharp research potential design standards or reference materials available for hiking trails.

Byrd informed the group that the National Mountain Biking Association may have some available materials to begin.

3. FY 2009 Solicitation for National Scenic Byways Grant:

Sharp asked the group about their awareness regarding upcoming projects for this grant that would meet the criteria specified within the context of the document provided via e-mail. The group asked Sharp to resend the document as a stand-alone e-mail for their reference and potential project identification regarding the grant.

Byrd informed Sharp that an existing project in Giles County involving Route 635 currently faces some land acquisition issues but, may meet the criteria of a potential Blueway. In addition Byrd identified potential projects near Mountain Lake and Rocky Knobb but to check with Rundgren about matching criteria set forth by grant.

OTHER BUSINESSCommittee

Sharp asked the group to help identify project updates regarding trail and bikeway projects in the NRV as presented in the BWWBW 2000 plan. Updating this section to reflect potential trails and bikeways in the area proposed over the next five (5) or ten (10) years would be very beneficial to providing resourcefulness to the regional plan. The committee informed Sharp that they would assist in providing information for their regions in order to update the plan.

Committee asked Sharp to send information regarding the Great Eastern Trail for their reference.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hair at 9:02 am.

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Of the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee



New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Kevin Byrd, Montgomery County Planning & GIS; Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; Debbie Freed, Virginia Tech; David Clarke, Virginia Department of Transportation; Dennis Anderson, Trails in Floyd; Karen Drake, Town of Blacksburg

CALL TO ORDER.....Chair – Hair
The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chair Hair

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTESChair – Hair
The minutes were approved as presented

PUBLIC COMMENTSOpen Floor
None

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen Floor
None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Local Trail Project Updates:

Byrd followed with the reference in the previous minutes regarding the list of shovel ready trail projects in the NRV. Byrd said that the Ellet Valley Loop Trail effort was moving forward despite a land owner issue. A parking facility has been designated off Cedar Run Road. Byrd and Clarke commented the challenge ahead regarding the proposed alignment relative to the existing steep grade.

Sharp informed the group that the New River Trail extension project from the Town of Pulaski to the Dublin Elementary School laws moving forward. Sharp said that the primary contact regarding the section from Randolph Park to the Elementary school was Regina Elsner whom told Sharp that right-of-way acquisition and engineering had begun.

Relative to the original alignment, Sharp informed the Group that the PDC had met with the director of the Veterans Cemetery, Mr. Dan Kemano to discuss the potential common interest of the public and the proposed cemetery. The PDC had identified the potential of using an existing Ammunition Plant service road as a potential trail.

However after discussion it was resolved that the facilities were in fact conflictive in nature and therefore the trail should be shifted to the west side of Bagging Plant Road in an effort to preserve the tribute to veterans and their families.

2. Regional Bikeway Walkway Plan Update:

Sharp informed the group that he had received positive feedback from the group regarding the proposed objectives which set the tone for revising the document. Sharp said that the bulk of the document had been converted from the only known digital version of the document that was in pdf format to an editable word format. Sharp said that he was ready to facilitate revising the document as the committee saw fit.

Byrd asked the group if it would be beneficial in editing the document one chapter at a time perhaps in two week intervals. The group agreed that the timeline seemed reasonable and would be easier to tackle than facing the entire document at one setting. Byrd suggested to the group that the Regional planning section of the document be expanded by updating the mapping and pointing out new intersecting points of the regions trail network that have occurred in the last few years. The group discussed the section was particularly lacking in the previous document and could be expanded to set the tone for a regional planning effort.

3. PDC Staff Report:

Sharp informed the group that he had prepared a report as an attachment to the agenda and minutes package of information. Sharp informed the committee that the NRV Transportation website was undergoing a major overhaul. Sharp said that a major collaborative effort was in the works with Virginia Techs GIS group in an effort to create a Transportation information hub for the New River Valley. Sharp explained further that the sites initial work would focus on proposed projects such as new roadways and trails that would allow the user to see what projects were in the works and obtain information on status, funding, and project phasing. Eventually the site would allow the interface user to select a mode of transportation such as: walking, biking, horseback, or transit and all of the amenities within the NRV would transpose on a regional base map allowing the user to select alignments and obtain information.

OTHER BUSINESSCommittee

Sharp asked the group to help identify project updates regarding trail and bikeway projects in the NRV as presented in the BWWBW 2000 plan. Updating this section to reflect potential trails and bikeways in the area proposed over the next five (5) or ten (10) years would be very beneficial to providing resourcefulness to the regional plan. The committee informed Sharp that they would assist in providing information for their regions in order to update the plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hair at 9:02 am.

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Of the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2009 8:30a.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; Shawn Utt, Pulaski County; Kelly Dunn, Anderson & Associates; Dean Crane, Town of Blacksburg

CALL TO ORDER Chair – Hair
The meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chair Hair

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES Chair – Hair
The minutes were approved as presented

PUBLIC COMMENTS.....Open Floor
None

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen Floor
None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Local Trail Project Updates:

Sharp informed the group that the Floyd County Trails Dennis Anderson met with the Economic Development Authority on the 24th of March for a walk through and then met with Jon Beegle and Mike Maslaney later. They informed him the Economic Development Authority is willing to move forward but wanted the following areas addressed first: parking, maintenance, emergency access and emergency escrow account for contingencies. These issues are intended to be agenda items at their next meeting on Tuesday April 14th at 10:00 AM at the County Administration Building.

Sharp introduced Pulaski Counties Shawn Utt who had some exciting news regarding the New River Trail. Utt thanked the small group for their attendance and interest in the New River Trail. Utt continued to say that the last Sunday of May the County would be advertising a Request-For-Proposals (RFP) for Preliminary Engineering (PE) for the sections of trail from the existing termination in Pulaski to Dublin Elementary School. Right-of-way commitments from all land owners outside of Virginia Department of Transportation corridors had signed or verbal commitments. Additional positive news regarding the potential alignment included the folks at James Hardies’ interest in providing contributions for landscaping, bridges, or potential

amenities near the two rail crossings on their property. Additionally the office of Congressman Rick Boucher had contacted Pulaski County for the project information so that it could be included in an upcoming transportation bill that would provide \$1.4 million in construction funds for the project.

The new section of trail is approximately 5.5 miles in length and will have VDOT #10 (cinder) aggregate surface which will match the existing trail. The County was very excited about the project that had been in the works for the last three years and hopeful that engineering and construction would move more fluently.

2. Regional Bikeway Walkway Plan Update:

Sharp informed the group that he had received some very good comments thus far from 3-5 committee members. Sharp explained that the comments were still being compiled and would be distributed electronically. Furthermore a new intern would be joining the PDC to have a major focus on the update and redevelopment of the existing document. As a reminder Sharp informed the group that the new ASSHTO policy for accommodating pedestrians was due to be released in 2010 and would feature a specific section on the planning of pedestrian traffic for future projects.

3. PDC Staff Report:

Sharp informed the group that he had prepared a report as an attachment to the agenda and minutes package. Sharp informed the committee that the NRV Transportation website had been updated and by the end of the summer it was anticipated to have a demonstration of the interactive transportation site. Sharp said that Virginia Tech and the Commission were pursuing a grant with a tight deadline but were unable to complete due to various limitations. Sharp informed the group that the primary contact for the GIS project intends on expanding the relationship established with the PDC through partnerships in grant writing and student working experiences in the future. Sharp informed the committee that part of the partnership was to participate in a joint project over the summer halving pay for a graduate student with the goal of establishing a template for the transportation interactive hub.

Sharp informed the committee that he had received a resolution of support for planning trails with rails programs in lieu of the recent federally funded rail programs. Sharp explained to the committee that he would like to know if the document should be recommended to the TAC for support as written or if revisions should be made to reflect a more regional perspective coming from the Commission.

MacLean recommended that the document be sent out electronically for comment and also for other localities to view and provide support in some fashion. Sharp asked if the committee would like to have the bare document or if recommendations for wording a new would be appreciated. Hair instructed Sharp that potential wording in the event the document would not be accepted as written would be very helpful to members.

The Committee asked about a timeline for the document and informed Sharp of meetings for their respective employers that would be beginning and mid June. Sharp proposed the end of June by electronic feedback and the committee agreed.

OTHER BUSINESS Committee

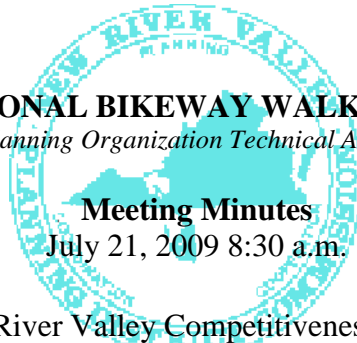
Dean Crane informed the group of recent discussion pertaining to the idea of SHARROWS (shared right-of-way) in the Town of Blacksburg. Crane explained that this was a fairly common accommodation out west but was curious about the potential of the idea expanding into other parts of the region.

The group discussed the value of the idea and how it would positively impact the communities in the NRV but were hesitant to assume the openness of each community to accepting it. Each member was interested in finding out some additional information and speaking with their respective leaders about its potential.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Hair at 9:15 am.

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING
Of the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee



New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; Shawn Utt, Pulaski County; Kevin Byrd, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Karen Drake, Town of Blacksburg; David Ratcliff, NRVPC; Michael Abraham, NRV avid cyclist;

CALL TO ORDER.....Chair – Hair
The meeting was called to order at 8:50 a.m. by Chair Hair

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTESChair – Hair
The minutes were approved as presented

PUBLIC COMMENTS..... Open Floor
None

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS Open Floor
None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Local Trail Project Updates:

Shawn Utt joined the committee again with some additional positive news regarding trails in Pulaski County. Utt shared with the committee that there had been a meeting on July 1st to discuss the potential of a mountain biking network on Draper Mountain. Utt explained that maps had been prepared with the trail network concept and some local citizens were out taping off alignments for the network. Utt said that the group was aware of a trail cutting machine and was pursuing an agreement with the equipment owner to borrow or rent in order to construct the new system.

Sharp added that he had attended the meeting and the group had discussed the possibility of duplicating the signage that was present on the Pandapas Pond network in Montgomery County. Sharp said that the future hope would be to connect the network with the New River Trail and provide an exceptional biking resource on the western part of the region.

Sharp informed the group that a second round of RTP funds was announced but had a very quickly approaching deadline of July 31st. Sharp said that there had been a workshop for applying in the middle of the month and a few of the Regions folks had attended. Sharp continued by stating that there was approximately \$800,000 in funding available and that additional information could be found on the DCR website.

In addition to the upcoming RTP program deadline Sharp informed the committee that the Transportation Enhancement Program workshop was to be held tomorrow (July 22nd) in Wytheville. Sharp added that he would be coordinating with Mr. Dana Martin another visit in October similar to that of last year for applicants to discuss their projects. Utt asked Sharp to see about Martin coming 30 min earlier to talk with the group. Sharp said he would coordinate the effort.

Sharp informed the committee that Trails in Floyd had continued to meet monthly. Sharp said that the volunteer organization had received a verbal confirmation that the trail project could be constructed as long as an emergency action plan and maintenance plan was prepared prior to beginning construction. Sharp said that the major focus for the group had been grant writing in an effort to secure construction funds. Sharp finished the update by saying the trail was to be volunteer constructed and maintained.

2. Regional Bikeway Walkway Plan Update:

Sharp informed the group that the Commission had focused their efforts on mapping and regional database updates. Sharp said that the intern GIS personnel had contacted each of the local governments to obtain layers for the plan revision. Sharp added that he had sent out a compiled list of comments that had been obtained on Chapter 2 thus far. Sharp said that although good comments had been received he felt that a bulk of the research components need some updating as much of the ones stated were from the early nineties. Sharp informed the committee that it may be best to review the chapters in two phases; once to pull generalized updates and a second to provide supporting evidence and finalize document formatting. The committee agreed.

Byrd made a note that he had not seen his comments on the document sent out and that he would provide a hard copy post adjournment. Sharp apologized and said that they would be added.

3. PDC Staff Report:

Sharp informed the group that he had prepared a report as an attachment to the agenda as usual for more detailed updates on transportation related activities. Sharp noted that a big highlight for the Commission was receiving notice of an award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). The Employment Mobility Study was identified as a recipient for a 2009 Innovation award. Sharp pointed out that a formal announcement was included in the packet of information. Sharp added that the opportunity had been pointed out by Mr. Byrd and that the PDC's Jennifer Wilsie who submitted the application after completing the report would be traveling to Chicago to showcase the project.

Sharp pointed out to the Committee that a draft of the Trails-with-Rails resolution that had been circulating the electronic distribution list for comment was included in the packet of information. Sharp said that he was seeking action on the revised document to recommend for review/approval from the TAC to pass onto the commission. Sharp said that also attached in the packet of information was a legislative bill (HB 2088) that focused on primarily the recreational access of the corridors specified for improvement. Sharp informed the committee that he felt that the resolution under review had been well accepted because it supported the idea of multimodal transportation. Whereas corridors for freight movement were being constructed the opportunity for a non-motorized corridor for principal transportation could be constructed concurrently where applicable. The committee moved unanimously to pass on to the TAC.

Sharp shared with the committee that VDOT had asked the PDC's in the Commonwealth to provide regional information to begin the process of the Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements area classifications. Sharp said that if anyone had any questions to feel free and contact him.

OTHER BUSINESSCommittee
None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. by Chair Hair

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Of the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2009 11:30 a.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Kim Steika, CDAC; David Jenks, Town of Pulaski; David Clarke, VDoT; Michael Gray, VDoT

CALL TO ORDER.....Sharp
The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTESSharp
The minutes were tabled to review at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTSOpen Floor
None

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen Floor
None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Local Trail Project Updates:

Transportation Enhancement Fund Applications: Sharp informed the group that the next round of Transportation Enhancement Funds would be due on December 1st this year. In addition the PDC would be hosting Mr. Dana Martin at the Fairlawn office on October 20th to review applications before they are submitted. Sharp asked the Committee if they were aware of applicants in the Region that would be good to personally follow up with.

Clarke informed Sharp that he may want to follow up with the Town of Pearisburg to discuss a downtown enhancement project and Virginia Tech for the Hokie Trails. Sharp thanked Clarke for sharing the potentials and said that he would personally follow up with each.

Sharp continued by sharing with the Committee that it had been rumored the CTB would be conducting a survey that would focus on consolidating the number of permitted activities. Sharp said in particular activities that focused on structure renovations may be on the chopping block and urged the Committee to advocate to interested applicants to submit on this cycle.

Sharp said that a project that came to mind regarding this type of funding was the Train Station in the Town of Pulaski that had received funding previously but had recently been damaged by fire. Gray shared with the Committee that the Town may be undecided as to refurbish the historical structure or construct a larger facility to accommodate more historical artifacts and be utilized for other uses by the Town.

Draper Mountain Trail Network: Sharp informed the Committee that things were still moving positively regarding the addition of this mountain biking network. Sharp said that he and the PDC GIS department had been working with the County to identify potential connections to the New River Trail. Sharp then showed the location and proposed draft alignments of the new trail network utilizing Google Earth.

Gray informed Sharp that it may be good to contact a volunteer group in Roanoke that has constructed and maintained several trails in their perspective region. Gray said that the contact of interest would be Liz Belcher. Sharp said that he would follow up as needed.

Floyd County Trails: Sharp informed the Committee that things had been progressing along smoothly with the planning of the trail in the IDA Industrial Park. Sharp said that the Floyd Trails group was currently being patient as the last two large parcels of the site were currently under negotiation for purchase. If sold the two parcels would provide considerable revenue to the County so the group felt compelled to allow this deal to move forward. Once negotiations have been completed the group would like to plan the new trail facilities and seek funding for construction.

2. A Glance at Google Earth and how it can be utilized to share ideas:

Sharp introduced this common, free to the public application and provided a demonstration of its easy use and versatility. Sharp said that the application could work great in public meetings to share potential alignment options that are easily converted to be compatible with in-house GIS software. The group explored this tool by taking a glance at the proposed Draper Mountain and Floyd trails.

3. Regional Bikeway Walkway Plan Update:

Sharp passed around a draft copy of the initial chapter and some examples of the new mapping. Sharp also passed around a regional map and asked for feedback for additional items that needed to be added.

4. PDC Staff Report:

Sharp informed the group that he had prepared a report as an attachment to the agenda and minutes package.

OTHER BUSINESSCommittee
None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

Of the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2009 11:30 a.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center
Fairlawn

ATTENDEES: Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Kim Steika, CDAC; David Clarke, VDoT; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; Priscilla Cygielnik; Kevin Byrd, NRVPC; Debby Freed Virginia Tech; Mitchell Haugh, Montgomery County Parks & Rec.; Dave Abraham, Hokie Spokes and Pathways; Randy Newberry, New River Trail extension

CALL TO ORDER.....Chairperson
The meeting was called to order at 11:29 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTESChairperson
The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTSOpen Floor
None

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen Floor
None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Town of Blacksburg's Improvement of Bicycle Accommodations:

Cygielnik shared with the group a power point presentation on behalf of the New River Valley Bicycle Association (NRVBA) and the Town of Blacksburg. The presentation identified that the Town of Blacksburg's Greenway/Bikeway/Sidewalk/Corridor Committee was in the process of pursuing opportunities for the designation of continuous, town-wide bike routes. Routes that will provide cyclists with the ability to easily commute to work and school and run utilitarian errands around the downtown area. To begin this process the NRVBA organized and conducted a bike traffic count and the Town of Blacksburg has embarked on a public participation effort to identify local preferred routes.

The Traffic counts were performed in four locations: Kent & Washington Streets, Progress & Giles Streets, Prices Fork & Toms Creek Roads, and Plantation Road. Approximately thirty five (35) volunteers completed this effort and obtained some very valuable feedback. In fifteen (15) minute intervals counters recorded: number of cyclists, Directional movements, and certain behaviors such as: riding without a helmet, wrong-way riding, and riding on the sidewalk. The numbers showed that on a typical Wednesday from 7 am – 7 pm there were 1,753 riders. Of which 74% were

not wearing a helmet, 11% were riding on the sidewalk, and 1% were riding against traffic.

In support of identifying a town-wide system of cycling routes, Town Staff and the Corridor Committee decided that citizen input was needed to identify existing preferred routes. Two methods of obtaining public input were established for the month of November: Old Fashioned, hands on quadrant maps and a web-based application to gather input from a larger audience. The Town worked with Virginia Tech's Center for Geospatial Information & Technology (CGIT) who agreed to develop the application and compile feedback.

Lastly Cygielnik shared with the Committee the intent of the NRVBA to solicit funds from the national advocacy organization: Bikes Belong. If awarded the grant funds of \$10,000 will be utilized to assist with design and construction costs associated with upgrading a pedestrian crossing on Prices Fork Road.

Steika asked about information for the online survey. Cygielnik provided small handouts that had additional information regarding the online survey which give the user directions on the web site.

Byrd asked if cyclist's traffic was broken into commuter vs. recreational uses. Cygielnik responded that traffic was not separated for this study.

Steika pointed out that the Saturday count was held on a game day that revealed only two hundred eighty (280) total cyclists. This number appeared to be rather low which could have been attributed to increase motor vehicle traffic deterring potential bicycle traffic. Clarke pointed out that the time period for the count was only two (2) hours also which would reflect lower numbers than those shown for Wednesday's twelve (12) hour count. Cygielnik concurred with both statements concluding that classes were also not in session so it would be difficult to gather how game day traffic truly affected the average daily uses.

The group thanked Cygielnik for sharing the presentation. Sharp posted the presentation online for future reference of the Committee.

2. Successful Meetings with the Commonwealth Transportation Representative:

Sharp shared with the Committee that the Salem District Commonwealth Transportation Board Representative (CTB): Mr. Martin was very pleased to have spoken with several applicants seeking Transportation Enhancement Funds. Sharp said that Mr. Martin found the meetings very convenient and recommended the concept be shared with other Commissions as other Board members would be appreciative to have the opportunity to discuss potential projects.

3. Local Trail Project Updates:

Sharp pointed out that listed on the agenda were a couple dates that everyone should be aware of: December 1st-Transportation Enhancement Application deadline and November 27th-Safe Routes to School Travel Plan deadline.

Sharp informed the Committee that to his understanding the first phase of the Draper Mountain Biking trail had been completed. Sharp urged the Committee members to notify their fellow cyclists friends that this was now available and ready to be broken in.

Sharp informed the Committee that the Floyd Phlegar House Trail that was being planned around the industrial park had been given a green light from the IDA to proceed with planning. The IDA said that the Trails in Floyd group would have to obtain liability insurance, have an approved plan for parking and sign a “hold-harmless” agreement.

Newberry informed the Committee that the New River Trail Extension plan was still a major priority for Pulaski County and the region connecting to the Huckleberry. Newberry said that the current phase of the project extends the trail alignment to Randolph Park. This new extension as well future extension planning will involve the acquisition of right-of-way from several land owners. Newberry said that typically the land owners have had agreements with Pulaski County but they were in need of a good document that would legally provide a good transition to DCR for ownership and maintenance. Newberry said that if anyone had any information that would be helpful in preparing a document of this nature to let him know.

Byrd informed Newberry that the Commission could help out on this matter and asked Sharp to look into it. Sharp confirmed that he would pursue the requested information for Newberry.

Steika informed the Committee that the Great Eastern Trail President had met with the Town of Narrows to discuss future planning. Steika said that the Town was very receptive to the proposal linking Bluestone National Park to the Appalachian Trail. Steika said that there were still two large gaps in the overall alignment plan between Tennessee and Virginia. Sharp thanked Steika for the update.

4. Transportation Enhancement Fund Future Acceptable Activities:

Sharp directed the Committee to a handout that was provided in the packet of information. Sharp pointed out that a draft of changes concerning the Transportation Enhancement Program Policy were to be reviewed by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. These changes for FY 2011 funds would increase the minimum allocation for selected projects from 25%-50% and fully fund any project selected that is estimated to cost \$200,000 or less. FY 2012 the applications will be limited to existing projects only. FY 2013 new projects which promote core transportation function such as Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities, Education, Landscaping along transportation corridors, and preservation of abandoned railway corridors.

Sharp informed the Committee that some things to be thinking about when applying for funding would be the increase in minimum allocation. This new increase could push larger requests out of competition for funds. Projects broken into smaller phases that could be completed in a four-year cycle (requiring lower funding

incremental amounts) could progress more quickly. Also given the timeframe and change in criteria, projects that would not be included within the confinements of the new criteria should have an application submitted to become an existing project.

5. Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan Update:

Sharp passed around sample draft maps that were to be included in the new plan and directed the Committee to sample documents located in the rear of the packet of information. Sharp said that the Commission had been working diligently to provide attractive mapping that highlighted existing facilities as well as depict accurate future planning. Sharp continued by saying that the intent of providing quality mapping was to supply the local governments and organizations a helpful tool when seeking funding assistance or guide planning committee's discussions that would accelerate projects from paper to construction. Sharp said that the new plan will also quantify existing and future lengths providing beginning and ending latitude and longitude coordinates for each alignment. In addition to the existing and future bikeway-walkway-blueway planning maps additional mapping would be prepared that depicted: historical, educational, high growth areas, employment centers, and recreational areas. Sharp concluded that it was his goal to meet with each jurisdictional office to discuss existing and future projects for their respective areas.

Sharp said that the content of the document would be prepared after local meetings so that it would be inclusive of appropriate planning and expectations of the region.

6. Transportation Staff Report:

Sharp informed the group that he had prepared a report as an attachment to the agenda and minutes package.

OTHER BUSINESSCommittee
None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.