

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
January 19, 2010 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; NRVPCD; Debby Freed Virginia Tech; Dan Brugh, BCM-MPO; Kelly Dunn, Anderson & Associates; Trevor Kimzey, Gay and Neel; Michael Gray, VDoT

**CALL TO ORDER**.....Chairperson  
The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** .....Chairperson  
The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** .....Open Floor  
There were no Public Comments

**COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS** .....Open Floor  
There were no Committee Member Concerns

**NEW BUSINESS**

*1. New Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Elections for 2010:*  
Jamie MacLean accepted the position of Chairperson and Kim Steika accepted the position of Vice-Chairperson for the calendar year 2010.

*2. Local Trail Project Updates:*  
Sharp shared with the Committee typical easement language findings based on conversations with the Virginia Department of Conservation Resources. In particular Sharp had spoken to representatives from the department of planning and recreational resources about typical language that should be present when looking to transfer ownership to other persons or agencies for maintenance and management. Sharp also directed the Committee to the packet of information which contained some examples of different easements and right-of-way associated with other projects in the state.

Sharp explained to the Committee that he had made an error at the previous meeting regarding the progress of the Draper Mountain biking network. Sharp explained that he had misinterpreted the trails completion. This network of trails is in fact still being planned. A trail building machine was tested along a potential route and it was determined that additional construction was needed to improve the riding experience.

Sharp also explained that the volunteers working on the project were looking at particular solutions along steep grade that may require switchbacks.

Sharp explained that to his understanding the Trails in Floyd was continuing to seek liability insurance in order to fulfill the agreement established with the Industrial Development Authority. Sharp said that recently the Chairperson of the Committee had stepped down and he was uncertain who was championing the project currently.

Sharp expressed his interest to pursue Safe routes to School funding in the New River Valley. Sharp informed the group that there was an excellent online training series that could be completed within about a week at a rate of 30-45 minutes a day. Sharp explained that the presentation also had downloadable templates of various forms and data compilation requirements. Sharp said that he had recently completed the training and would be willing to work with interested folks on getting a project on the ground.

### *3. Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan Update:*

Sharp asked the Committee to continue to submit feedback electronically to work out the Policy Statements for the plan update. Sharp said that he had formatted the alterations to the previous plan using track changes and that he had included a draft of the recommendations in the packet of information.

Sharp informed the Committee that he had been meeting with different localities throughout the region to discuss local goals and objectives, update the facilities inventory, and learn about ways to improve the document. Sharp said that thus far he had obtained some excellent feedback such as: adding a chapter devoted to the planning of bicycle, pedestrian, and water facilities, adding references to state and federal laws, referencing regional data and statistics obtained from various user groups, and promoting integration of transportation systems.

### *4. Transportation Staff Report:*

Sharp informed the Committee that on January 6th the City of Radford hosted a meeting with the consultant and potential stakeholders to discuss the compilation of surveys and review refined recommended routes, service frequencies, and funding scenarios. Based on the survey feedback obtained from the City and University over eighty eight percent (88%) of folks said they would support a new transit service and sixty five percent (65%) said they would use a system if provided. The Committee is anxiously awaiting a final report from DRPT and the consultant engineering firm that summarizes their findings and proposes recommendations. Next steps are to present the information to City council on Monday January 25<sup>th</sup> for consideration to apply for FY 2011 funding. Sharp informed the Committee that the preliminary routes associated with determining the amount of the request lined up considerably well with the existing bicycle and pedestrian system. Furthermore, once the report was completed he would make it available for interested individuals.

Sharp informed the Committee that the latest version of the Maintenance of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) was completed in December 2009. The new

manual also had a section devoted to bicycle facilities which Sharp distributed electronically to each of the Committee members. Sharp said that the entire document could be found online here: <http://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov>

**OTHER BUSINESS** .....Committee

None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

# NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

*Of the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee*



## Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2010 11:30 a.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center  
Fairlawn

**ATTENDEES:** Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Kim Steika, CDAC; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; NRVPDC; Michael Gray, VDoT; Brad Buchanan, Montgomery County; Mitchell Haugh, Montgomery County; Beth Lohman, NRVBA; Shane Sawyer, RVARC; Jeremy Holmes, RVARC

**CALL TO ORDER**.....Chairperson  
The meeting was called to order at 11:36 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** .....Chairperson  
The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** .....Open Floor  
There were no Public Comments

**COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS** .....Open Floor  
There were no Committee Member Concerns

## NEW BUSINESS

### *1. Local Trail Project Updates:*

Sharp shared with the Committee that he had recently met with a group of stakeholders to evaluate a potential connection between Blacksburg/Christiansburg and Salem/Roanoke. Sharp said that he had included the minutes of the meeting in the packet of information. Sharp said that the folks from the Roanoke Valley would like to schedule a joint meeting with the NRV Bikeway Walkway Committee to share project updates and future planning.

Lohman asked Gray about the typical VDoT maintenance schedule. Gray said that typically VDoT received requests through each locality once a year. Gray said he would follow up on actual dates because he was not certain at the time of the meeting.

Sawyer asked Gray if maintenance included signage. Gray said that typically it did not include signage for certain areas. Sharp said that in the predominantly rural areas signage could become more popular to designate low traffic volume roads as shared road facilities. Gray said that he would follow up with the committee to determine limitations.

Sharp informed the Committee that the Huckleberry Trail northern extension was scheduled to break ground this summer. Sharp said that this phase would complete the Blacksburg portion of the trail. Next steps for the trail were to extend to the south into downtown Christiansburg and eventually tie into the New River Trail.

Lohman shared with the Committee that the New River Valley Bicycle Association had been working through a partnership with RIDE Solutions to offer the following events in the NRV:

1. Fix Fest and Bike Swap, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 12 noon. The event is scheduled to take place on Draper Avenue adjacent to the Blacksburg Farmers Market and is sponsored by: Sustainable Blacksburg, Town of Blacksburg, NRV Bicycling Association, RIDE Solutions, Hokie Spokes, Bike Barn, and East Coasters.
2. Bike Month, Clean commute Fridays, Every Friday in May. Blacksburg's designated day is May 21<sup>st</sup> and hospitality stations will be set up at Blacksburg's Farmer's Market and the Corporate Research Center for the morning commute from 7:30 am-9 am. This event will be sponsored by RIDE Solutions, Sustainable Blacksburg, Town of Blacksburg, and the NRV Bicycling Association.

Sharp informed the Committee that to his knowledge the Draper Mountain Biking Trail and the Trails in Floyd projects were still moving forward. The group had no additional information.

Sharp shared with the Committee that he had recently had a good conversation with the State Program Coordinator regarding potential applications and future project criteria. Sharp noted that the program could see some changes in the future particularly in the area of school age. Sharp said that the program was trying to get out of the business of providing bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on new school sites assuming that all new schools should have them constructed as part of their plan. The future criteria would focus more on getting the detached residential communities connected to the school districts infrastructure.

## *2. Introduction to Bicycle Friendly Communities:*

Sharp introduced special guests from the Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission: Mr. Shane Sawyer, and Mr. Jeremy Holmes. Sawyer gave a presentation to the committee regarding the Bicycle Friendly Communities designation in the United States. Sawyer explained that once designation had been achieved there was an abundance of planning resources made available. In addition to receiving the national designation each applicant that did not meet the initial criteria would receive a list of items to fulfill within their community to achieve the level of designation desired.

Holmes made note to two particular areas that would be good to know when applying: engineering and inclusiveness of behind the scenes user group activities. Holmes said to not get tied up on the engineering side for determining lengths of existing facilities. Holmes continued by stating that communication with a variety

of organizations and user groups will reveal an abundance of information that would benefit your application. When obtaining local support it also helps to phrase it as encouragement rather than endorsement for a broader acceptance of planning materials.

*3. Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan Update:*

Sharp informed the Committee that he had been working to complete the personal visits to each jurisdiction to update planning material. Sharp said that he had met with all but the following: Blacksburg, Dublin, Floyd, Pembroke, and Narrows. Sharp said that he intended to have a draft of the document by the next Bikeway-Walkway meeting. The PDC would like to have each Committee member check the validity of the plan for their respective jurisdictions and if they have time provide comment on the introductory chapters. The Committee agreed that this would be appropriate.

*4. Transportation Staff Report:*

Sharp informed the Committee that a full staff report was provided in their packet of materials. Sharp said that highlights included an update on the Radford Transit Study and a briefing on the VAPDC winter conference.

**OTHER BUSINESS** .....Committee  
None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Of the Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee*



**Meeting Minutes**  
May 18, 2010 11:30 a.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center  
Fairlawn

**ATTENDEES:** Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County Planning and GIS; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; Brad Buchanan, Montgomery County; Mitchell Haugh, Montgomery County; Beth Lohman, NRVBA; Debby Freed, Virginia Tech; David Clarke, VDoT; Dave Abraham, Hokie Spokes

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

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** .....Chairperson  
The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** .....Open Floor  
There were no Public Comments

**COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS** .....Open Floor  
There were no Committee Member Concerns

**NEW BUSINESS**

*1. Local Trail Project Updates:*

Sharp shared with the Committee that another meeting was held between New River Valley and Roanoke Valley stakeholders to determine potential bicycle and pedestrian connections. Sharp said that the group discussed a variety of topics such as integration into the public transportation system, aligning long range shared road designations between regions, and discussing potential multipurpose alignment options. Sharp said that the folks from Roanoke were interested in meeting with the NRV committee. The committee agreed that a joint meeting/social networking opportunity in July could be very beneficial.

Hair informed the Committee that the Town of Christiansburg had recently been granted a gift of \$1 million that could be utilized for the Huckleberry Trail bridge over Route 114. This was exciting news for the project as additional funds could focus on linking the Town into the existing trail system.

Lohman shared with the Committee that positive strides had been made in Montgomery County to explore spur alignments off of the Huckleberry and Ellet Valley Loop Trails. Haugh and Buchanan shared some of the conceptual ideas

verbally with the Committee.

Lohman also shared with the Committee that the Draper Mountain biking and hiking project was still in the works. The key project coordinators would be meeting in the coming weeks to explore alignment opportunities on site. Lohman said the weather has limited access to the site until recently.

*2. Blacksburg's Bike and Pedestrian Survey Results:*

Sharp introduced special guest Beth Lohman who presented to the Committee the results of the recent bicycle study. Lohman said that they obtained nearly three hundred responses through the utilization of electronic and physical surveys. The data allowed the individual to share routes they currently utilize as well as main destinations.

Lohman explained to the Committee that this survey was the first step in identifying routes that generate major bicycle traffic and identify spot improvement areas. The Blacksburg Corridor Committee would be using the information as a base to recommending designated bicycle routes within the town.

*3. Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan Update:*

Sharp informed the Committee that he had been completing the personal visits to each jurisdiction to update planning material. Sharp said that he had met with all but the following: Giles, Blacksburg, Pembroke, and Narrows. In addition to updating the database from each jurisdiction Sharp had also been collecting data from the local user groups that will help local governments and planning departments see where cyclists currently ride. This will improve the opportunity to prioritize investments in enhancing local routes. Sharp said that a rough draft of the text for the document had also been prepared but the PDC felt like some improvements could be made to reduce redundancies and increase value for the reader.

Sharp also explained that the mapping and tables portion would be expanding to also contain additional criteria. Sharp said they would be keeping the popular components of the previous plans data tables such as traffic volumes. The new plan would also contain slope information, ADA accessibility, latitude and longitude for access points, and the degree of difficulty.

*4. Transportation Staff Report:*

Sharp informed the Committee that there were a few things to keep in mind the months ahead including but not limited to:

- a. Transportation Enhancement Grants: awards for the FY 11 program are scheduled to be announced by June but could be voted on at the upcoming CTB meeting in May. Also this year there will not be a grant writing workshop to help prepare applicants in light of recent budget shortfalls. This year the program will limit applications to existing projects only and increase the minimum allocation from 25% to 50% and fully fund any project that was \$200k or less to complete.
- b. Safe Routes to Schools: This year around \$4 million in 100% funded

projects were awarded in the Commonwealth. The region will see another success in the Blacksburg area with the Harding multipurpose path and pedestrian refuge. Sharp encouraged the committee members to take advantage of the program.

- c. FY 2011 – 2016 SYIP: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 pm at the New River Community College a public meeting has been scheduled for public comment on the upcoming SYIP. Sharp said that early numbers will not look optimistic for the Salem District.
- d. Statewide Rural Long Range Plan: Sharp informed the Committee that the VDoT Consultant would be sending over draft recommendations in the next couple weeks. The PDC would be breaking the document into sections geographically and passing to stakeholders for direct input. This will alleviate the reviewers from having to siphon through the entire document to find their respective areas of concern.
- e. Cross State Ride Bicycle Social: Sharp informed the Committee that they were invited to join a group at the Radford Gazebo around 10 am for an informal discussion/social with the Cross State Cyclists.
- f. VDoT Changes: Clarke informed the Committee that VDoT was undergoing its last planned major organization overhaul. The plan called for an employee reduction to nearly 7000 that was at one time over 11000. Also, approximately 1/3 of the residency offices would be closing including the Hillsville office that provided services to Floyd. The Christiansburg Residency would be picking up part of the Hillsville service area. Clarke explained that there were still quite a few unknowns regarding the official restructuring of personnel and he was unsure how representation for community committees would be provided on VDoT's behalf in the future.

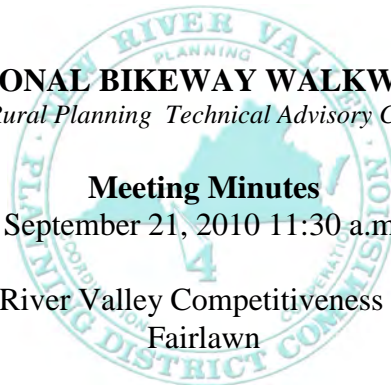
**OTHER BUSINESS** .....Committee  
None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

**NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING**

*Of the Rural Planning Technical Advisory Committee*



**Meeting Minutes**

September 21, 2010 11:30 a.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center  
Fairlawn

**ATTENDEES:** Kim Steika, CDAC; Nichole Hair, Town of Christiansburg; Brad Buchanan, Montgomery County; Mitchell Haugh, Montgomery County; David Clarke, VDoT; David Kiser, VDoT; Adam Carpenetti, Town of Christiansburg; Justin Blackburn, NRVPDC; Jack Whitmore, NRVPDC

**CALL TO ORDER**.....Vice Chairperson

The meeting was called to order at 11:34 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** .....Vice Chairperson

The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** .....Open Floor

There were no Public Comments

**COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS** .....Open Floor

There were no Committee Member Concerns

**NEW BUSINESS**

*1. Local Updates:*

*a. Transportation Enhancement Projects:*

Sharp reminded the Committee that on October 18<sup>th</sup> the Commonwealth Transportation Board Representative would be traveling to the NRV to speak with this year’s applicants. Sharp also reminded the committee of the policy changes that were in effect and provided copies for each attendee.

*b. New River and Roanoke Valley Joint Meeting Recap:*

Sharp shared with the committee that the August meeting was a tremendous success that drew about 40 participants. Based on feedback from the meeting participants the meeting provided a great opportunity to meet people whom they had e-mailed and talked to over the phone for years without ever seeing each other in person. The meeting provided a good opportunity for representatives from mixed disciplines throughout the NRV to discuss a variety of bicycle and pedestrian plan accomplishments and challenges. Sharp said that based on the success of the meeting it may become a regular annual event.

*c. Bike Virginia Coming to the NRV in 2011:*

Sharp directed the committee to the flyer attached to the packet of information that called for charette styled meetings on Monday the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Sharp encouraged interested committee representatives to participate in the meetings so that they could take part in planning the event.

- d. *Sustainable Communities Regional Grant Endeavor:*  
Sharp informed the committee that the PDC recently worked with various local governments, universities, and community organizations to apply for a Sustainable Communities Grant application. Sharp said that the PDC worked with the MPO and local transit provider to prepare the transportation component of the plan. The theme of the grant for transportation was to illustrate how to effectively create transportation choices within existing communities.
- e. *Safe Routes to School Awards:*  
Sharp announced that two projects in the Town of Blacksburg were successful in obtaining funding for bicycle and pedestrian improvements for Harding Elementary School. Sharp explained that he felt the program was still a opportunity that was underutilized in the region. The PDC would also be willing to assist in pursuing this 100% opportunity with interested folks in the community.

The committee discussed some of the common barriers such as the lack of interest in a specific school even when a local community may be interested in providing assistance for the project.

- 2. *Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan Update:*  
PDC cartographer Justin Blackburn provided the committee with a presentation/unveiling of the draft bikeway-walkway-blueway maps. Mr. Blackburn covered the data collection process and shared with the meeting participants how the maps were intended to be used.

The committee representatives provided some preliminary feedback on improving some of the mapping components such as: distinguishing hiking vs. mountain biking accessible trails, adjusting school locations, and recommending unit checking for topographical data. The committee was pleased with the progress of the mapping appearance and data collection presented thus far.

- 3. *Transportation Staff Report:*  
Sharp informed the Committee that there were a few things to keep in mind the months ahead including but not limited to:
  - a. MPO Public Meeting, Wednesday September 29<sup>th</sup> from 4-6 pm
  - b. VDoT State Bicycle Policy Plan comment close September 17<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Tools of the Trade Conference in Williamsburg, September 22-24
  - d. Governors Transportation Conference in Roanoke, December 8-10
  - e. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Course in Blacksburg, September 23 7:30-8:30 pm at the YMCA building.

**OTHER BUSINESS** .....Committee  
None

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

# NEW RIVER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKEWAY WALKWAY COMMITTEE MEETING

*Of the Rural Planning Technical Advisory Committee*



## Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2010 11:30 a.m.

New River Valley Competitiveness Center  
Fairlawn

**ATTENDEES:** Jamie MacLean, Montgomery County; Kim Steika, CDAC; Adam Carpenetti, Town of Christiansburg; Deborah Freed, Virginia Tech; Michael Gray, VDOT; David Clarke, VDOT; Justin Blackburn, NRVPC;

**CALL TO ORDER**.....Chairperson  
The meeting was called to order at 11:34 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** .....Chairperson  
The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** .....Open Floor  
There were no Public Comments

**COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNS** .....Open Floor  
There were no Committee Member Concerns

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. *Local Updates:*

#### 1. *Christiansburg Huckleberry Extension:*

Carpenetti informed the committee that the extension had been making progress since receiving funds from a private donor. Carpenetti said that the bridge over Route 114 was currently out to bid for engineering. The project is also seeking Transportation Enhancement funds to complete the remaining portions of the project.

#### 2. *Virginia Tech Multimodal Facility:*

Freed informed the committee that conceptual planning was underway for the new transit transfer, bicycle and pedestrian friendly facility. Freed said that two public meetings were scheduled: November 30<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Graduate Life Center, and December 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:15 to 6:30 pm at the Blacksburg Police Department. Freed said that both meetings were open to the public and individuals wishing to participate were encouraged to attend.

#### 3. *Bike Virginia Coming to the NRV in 2011:*

Sharp informed the committee that Bike Virginia had been updating their website with information as tasks were completed. Sharp said that two Tent City locations had been determined for the week long event: Pulaski County and the City of Radford. Sharp said that registration would begin in December and encouraged the committee to submit activity ideas to Shane

Cusick, Bike Virginia Director. The theme for the 2011 ride will be The New River Roll Through Time and will draw 2,000 cyclists from across the nation.

2. *Regional Bikeway-Walkway-Blueway Plan Update:*

The committee discussed the organization of the draft plan and worked to refine the objectives. The goal of the work session was to tailor potential solutions to challenges in the region. Some of the recommendations gathered from the exercise included the following:

- Considering differences in design for recreational vs. transportation users
- Designing for the potential least experienced user
- Considering long term maintenance of facilities
- Defining Seasonal uses
- Putting Blueways on public radar screen
- Pick a theme priority project that the region can endorse
- Identify locations where other modes can be integrated
- Develop a matrix to determine priorities
- Provide more educational programs for how each mode interacts with others
- Developing adequate facilities at each trail head

3. *Transportation Staff Report:*

Sharp informed the committee that he had participated in the Tools of the Trade conference in Williamsburg, Virginia in September. Sharp said that he was particularly impressed with the information and value of material shared with the 200 participants from across the nation. Sharp said a few relevant applications/methods observed for use in the NRV were:

1. Housing + Transportation index of 45% or less of total income
2. Livability is about developing practical solutions:
  - Revitalizing Main Street – currently done well in NRV
  - Protecting Natural Resources – critical NRV concern
  - Providing Choices – Next step for NRV communities
3. A good resource for future multimodal planning is:  
<http://www.cnt.org/tcd/ctod>

Sharp informed the Committee that there were a few things to keep in mind the months ahead including but not limited to:

1. Governors Transportation Conference in Roanoke, December 8-10
2. Transportation Enhancement Application Deadline: December 1<sup>st</sup>
3. Recreational Trails Program Application Deadline: January 7<sup>th</sup>

**OTHER BUSINESS** .....Committee  
Elections will be held in January and interested individuals should contact the current Chairperson: Jamie MacLean, or Vice Chairperson: Kim Steika for additional information.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.