

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 MINUTESChairperson
The previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENTSOpen Floor
There were no Public Comments

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONCERNSOpen 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 25th 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 BUSINESSCommittee

None

ADJOURNMENT

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