

**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.