

## **Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee Minutes of January 22, 2007**

### **Members Present:**

Christina Teeuwen – Chair  
Richard Fisher  
Connie Smith  
John Kelly  
Susan Harris

### **Staff Present:**

Mark Shea, Planning  
Donna Hill, Parks and Recreation  
Earl Sorey, Public Works  
Paul Dunn, Public Works

### **Others Present:**

Carolyn Sanford

The meeting began at 4:35 p.m. Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the October, 2006 minutes. Ms. Smith seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Mr. Dunn provided the Committee updates on various projects he is involved with:

- Plans to install a 5' bike lane on the south side of Portsmouth Blvd. have been completed and the project will be advertised in May and complete in August. The cost will be \$420,000.
- The Gum Road project plans are nearing completion. This project will consist of a 10' path on the east side of the roadway from Portsmouth Boulevard to Deerfield Crescent. The Right of Way cost exceeds the construction cost, so the project will be phased. The initial phase builds the multi-use path from each end as far as current funding will allow. The final phase will be completed when additional funds are available or by developers.
- A Citizen Information meeting was held on October 12, 2006 for the Dominion Blvd. /Steel Bridge replacement project. At this meeting, the City presented the project as not including a bike/ped. Facility due to cost. A number of proponents for bike/ped. facilities came to this meeting. VDOT recently instructed that the facility not be excluded based solely on cost. The City is still evaluating inclusion but has not made a decision. The cost of the facility has been estimated at \$14.7 million out of a total project cost of \$310 million. The facility would run from

Cedar Road to the interchange with relocated Bainbridge Blvd. and Dominion Lakes and consists of 8' of pavement with 2' shoulders on each side. The Draft Environmental Assessment review is underway with distribution scheduled for March, 2007. A public hearing on the EA is scheduled for May, 2007.

- Mr. Sorey updated the Commission on the rail relocation project in Western Branch. The port terminal will open in July, 2007 and the rail relocation is expected by the end of 2009. There is a \$100,000 General Assembly budget request to remove the existing rail and grade the corridor for a trail when the trains are relocated.

Mr. Shea passed out copies of the Trails Plan and text from the 2026 Comprehensive Plan to update the new members on current policy. There was some discussion of canoe launches and greenways. Mr. Shea suggested that when the Plan is revised that the legend state that the canoe launches are existing and proposed. He also indicated that staff is planning to plan for more greenway corridors which could fit into the Trails Plan with multi-use off road trails. He will bring the committee more information in April.

Mr. Shea stated that the President of the South Norfolk Civic League requested that the Committee look at more trails in South Norfolk. Ms. Teeuwen asked about possibilities on Bainbridge Blvd. and Rodgers Street. Mr. Sorey indicated that Bainbridge Blvd. had a limited right of way with development close to the road. Ms. Teeuwen stated that Rodgers Street had too many stop signs. Staff indicated that they could check on the stop sign information.

Mr. Shea spoke with George Wallace (who has the only home on the trail) and he indicated that the trail was very positive and had heavy usage.

Mr. Shea indicated that there should be meetings soon regarding the Greenbrier TIF improvements. Multi-use paths are shown along most major roads as 8' wide concrete sidewalks. Based on the web page, a public meeting should be held soon. Ms. Hill indicated that a major recreation center is being planned at the Camp 22 site just north of City Park.

A Committee member asked about utilizing Safe Routes to Schools funding for trails. Mr. Sorey indicated that the regulations need work but it was worth looking into. A point was made that schools did not allow elementary age children to walk without a parent. A suggestion was made to contact Schools about the program and also to consult with the School Health Advisory Board.

Mr. Fisher asked if Mr. Fitzpatrick's question regarding the trail/railroad crossing be looked at. Mr. Sorey stated that the rail relocation project is not at the detailed design stage but he would look into this issue.

Mr. Fisher made a motion to write a letter of gratitude to City Council for considering a bicycle/pedestrian option for Dominion Blvd. Ms. Harris seconded the motion and the motion was approved. Ms. Teeuwen will draft and send the letter to City Council.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.