

Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee Minutes of September 29, 2008

Voting Members Present:

Christina Teeuwen – Chair
Richard Fisher – Vice Chair
Debbie Hanson
Connie Smith
Rick Caldwell
Jennie Virden

Staff Present:

Mark Shea, Planning
Kevin Lundgren, Public Works
Earl Sorey, Public Works
Donna Hill, Parks and Recreation

Others Present

Council Member Ritter
Council Member West

Ms. Teeuwen called the special meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Lundgren gave a brief overview of the recent Dominion Boulevard public meeting. There were less than 50 comments out of 114 total related to the bike path issue. Most comments were in favor. The exhibits reflected a path of 10' width instead of 14'. This reduction brings the cost estimate down to \$13 million from \$18 million. The cost of the total project is estimated at \$373 million.

The meeting continued with general discussion on the purpose and need for the bike/multi-use path. The Trails Committee emphasized that it should be geared to multiple users and not just bikes. Mr. Fisher distributed a copy of the Committee's statement given at the City Council meeting earlier. Ms. Smith suggested additional language dealing with finding the lowest cost possible. After further discussion, Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the Committee's revised position statement. Mr. Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a vote of 6-0. The approved motion is as follows:

“The Dominion Boulevard/Steel Bridge replacement project is an important infrastructure upgrade that is much needed to improve the future transportation in Chesapeake. The Chesapeake Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee joins our civic leaders in looking forward to develop the best plan for our transportation needs.

To prepare for the future, we believe that it is vitally important that our leaders include alternative transportation options with all roadway improvement projects in our city. The benefits of alternative transportation lanes are numerous and are integral to VDOT regulations on state funded roadway projects. Not meeting these guidelines could jeopardize the multi-governmental funding that will be needed to go forward with the project.

The vision for transportation in our city should not be limited to motor vehicular traffic. Your City of Chesapeake Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee's unanimous opinion supports a plan that includes alternative transportation options and we strongly believe that it is important to keep the Dominion Boulevard project on the Comprehensive Trails Plan.

We support investigating cost effective options to provide safe accommodations tor alternative transportation methods.”