

HISTORIC TRIANGLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JAMES CITY COUNTY  *CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG*  *YORK COUNTY*

**MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025, 7:00 PM
CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG
STRYKER CENTER
412 NORTH BOUNDARY STREET
WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23185**

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (CHAIR POSITION IS VACANT, CURRENT VICE CHAIR IS DAN BROWNLEE)
3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 15, 2024 MEETING, OCTOBER 21, 2024 MEETING, AND JANUARY 27, 2025 MEETING
5. VDOT ISSUES
6. BICYCLE CO-OP OF WILLIAMSBURG REPORT
7. FEDERAL FUNDING
8. BIKEWAY PROJECTS STATUS REPORT
YORK
JAMES CITY COUNTY
WILLIAMSBURG
9. OLD BUSINESS
10. NEW BUSINESS/ROUND TABLE
11. ADJORN

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HISTORIC TRIANGLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JAMES CITY COUNTY  **CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG**  **YORK COUNTY**
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 15, 2024

Members Present: Reed Nester, Ted Hanson, Mark Suiter, Grace Bascetta, Rich Thompson, Daniel Brownlee, Brent Segeleon, Jon Cookson, Rich Howell

Members Absent: Nancy Carter

Staff: Caitlin Aubut, Tom Leininger, Tevya Griffin, Madison Scalf, York County Intern, Ezgi Stump, Williamsburg Intern

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Reed Nester. A quorum was established.

Welcome New James City County Member: Rich Howell, Brent Segeleon and Jon Cookson

The committee welcomed the newly appointed members, Rich Howell, Brent Segeleon and Jon Cookson.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The April 15, 2024 meeting minutes have been approved.

VDOT Issues

Mr. Jon Cookson asked if there was a volunteer group that can assist with cleaning and maintaining the trails and bike lanes. He stated that there is grass over growing some of the places.

Mr. Nester stated that VDOT has a trash program that people can volunteer for, but he is not aware of a bike lane maintenance program.

Mr. Ted Hanson stated that James City County and VDOT assist with maintenance of the Virginia Capital Trail.

Bike Walk Williamsburg/Bicycle Co-op Update

Mr. Hanson presented an update for Bike Walk Williamsburg. He stated that they are currently hiring and asked the committee to reach out to anyone that is interested. He provided an update on the Bicycle Co-op. He stated that they are 5% ahead on sales and about 20% ahead on giveaways.

Mr. Nester stated Bike Walk Williamsburg, and the City of Williamsburg partnered on a bicycle class to promote safe bike riding. He stated that there was a classroom portion and outdoor bike riding portion followed by a road ride.

Tidewater Trails Alliance/Trail757 Report

Mr. Nester provided an update on the Tidewater Trails Alliance and Trail757. He handed out a map of the trail that was developed by the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization. He provided an update on the current projects and project statuses that are along the existing Trail757 route. He stated that there is a more detailed study in the works by Michael Baker International. He stated that both Trail757 and Tidewater Trails Alliance have a website that provides additional information on the routes.

Bikeway Project Status Reports

Ms. Caitlin Aubut provided an update on projects in York County. She stated the York segment 1 of the Trail757 project agreements have been signed and the project is moving forward. She stated that there are various sidewalk projects progressing. She stated that the County has roadway projects in the Smart Scale portal looking for funding.

Mr. Mark Suiter asked if the clay pipes that were found were an archeology problem. Ms. Aubut stated that it is more about their location rather than their significance.

Ms. Grace Bascetta asked if there were any improvements happening for Newman Road. She stated there are improvements near Newman Road, but nothing at this time for that road.

Mr. Tom Leininger provided an update on projects in James City County. He provided an update for Croaker Road Widening and that the project is expected completion in 2027. He stated that right-of-way underway for Longhill Road Shared Use Path. He stated that Segment 1 of Pocahontas Trail is progressing along. He stated that Segment 2 will follow. He provided an update on various sidewalk projects. He provided an update on the Colonial Parkway that is currently under construction and phase 3 will begin later in 2024.

Mr. Suiter asked if the project is still on schedule. Ms. Aubut believes the parkway project is on schedule and has not heard otherwise.

Mr. Nester asked if the Toano project will be repaved. Mr. Leininger stated that the project

will be repaved according to VDOT's repaving schedule.

Ms. Tevya Griffin provided an update on projects in the City of Williamsburg. She stated that the police building will include a shared-use path along Lafayette Street. She stated that the project has been moved up to get the shared use path started sooner with a completion in 2026. Mr. Nester asked if the on-street parking will be impacted. Ms. Griffin stated that the travel lanes will be widened, and that parking will be retained on the east side of the street.

Mr. Nester provided an update on the Lafayette Street Trail, Monticello Avenue Trail, and the Richmond Road bike path. He stated that the Committee provided comments to the City of Williamsburg and received a response from the mayor. He stated that he will provide a letter to the committee.

Mr. Suiter asked if a sidewalk will be built near Yorktown Road and asked if that is why there are some staking. Ms. Aubut stated that it is both the County and a developer. He asked when the HRSD improvements will take place. Ms. Aubut stated that it should be later this year.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business/Round Table

No new business.

Chair's Report

No chair's report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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JAMES CITY COUNTY  CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG  YORK COUNTY
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 21, 2024

Members Present: Reed Nester, Ted Hanson, Mark Suiter, Nancy Carter, Daniel Brownlee, Brent Segeleon, Jon Cookson, Rich Howell

Members Absent: Grace Bascetta, Rich Thompson,

Staff: Caitlin Aubut, Tom Leininger, Tevya Griffin,

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Reed Nester. A quorum was not established.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The July 15, 2024 meeting minutes were not approved due to not having an established quorum.

VDOT Issues

Mr. Reed Nester stated that the Strawberry Plains repaving and restriping was well done and provides a bike lane.

Mr. Mark Suiter stated that the traffic lights in lower York County and VDOT have improved the sensitivity of the lights to account for bicycles. Mr. Nester stated that on Treyburn Drive, the light works in one direction, but not the other direction.

Mr. Nester asked if the City of Williamsburg controls the lights on Treyburn Drive. Ms. Tevya Griffin confirmed the City controls the lights.

Bike Walk Williamsburg/Bicycle Co-op Update

Mr. Ted Hanson provided an update on Bike Walk Williamsburg. He stated that they have hired an executive director. They are interviewing City Council members to get insight on how comfortable they are biking and walking in the City of Williamsburg. Mr. Hanson stated that they have started the newsletter up again.

Mr. Hanson stated that the Bicycle Co-op has increased the number of bicycles in and out is up 25% over the past year. He stated that the Co-op is also providing bicycles for people in need. He stated that the bikes come equipped with a helmet, locks, and lights.

Tidewater Trails Alliance/Trail757 Report

Mr. Reed Nester provided an update on Trail757 and presented a slideshow. He stated that supporting multi-use trails in the Hampton Roads region is a top priority. He outlined the various segments of the trail and their current status.

Mr. Jon Cookson asked if the easements for the trail have already been established. Mr. Nester stated that it is mostly just planning routes at the moment, but it will be right-of-way that will be acquired.

Bikeway Project Status Reports

Ms. Caitlin Aubut provided an update on York County projects. She stated that due to budget issues, the County needs to adjust the Waller Mill Road project. She stated that the County is going to pursue the next two sections of Trail757 for funding.

Mr. Tom Leininger provided an update on James City County projects. He stated that the Croaker Road project is underway with construction to the Croaker library. The Longhill Road shared use path project and the Pocahontas Trail Segment 1 project are in the preliminary engineering phases. He stated that the County is focused on studying various projects to line them up for future funding.

Ms. Griffin provided an update on the City of Williamsburg projects. She stated that she met with the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization to discuss the future of Trail757 in Williamsburg. She stated that she hopes on of the topics that comes out of the State of the City discussion is more focused on connecting bike and pedestrian paths.

Mr. Nester stated that he hopes there is a protected bike path to connect to Lafayette Street and has sent that along to the City Council.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business/Round Table

Ms. Nancy Carter stated that the Bicycle Co-op has provided a spark in businesses in the shopping center around them. She asked if Mooretown Road is going to be extended. Ms. Aubut stated that there is a lot of developer challenges and that York County is looking to study the corridor.

Ms. Carter stated that Mooretown Road should be improved to give bicycles safe access

to the new sports complex being constructed.

Chair's Report

Mr. Nester stated that this meeting will be his final meeting. He provided a presentation on the importance of shared-use paths across the three jurisdictions. He discussed the potential of future connections that could create a larger shared-use path network.

Ms. Carter thanks Mr. Nester for all of the time and effort he brought to the Historic Triangle Bicycle Committee.

The committee also thanked Mr. Hanson for his time and support he provided to the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 27th, 2025

Members Present: Mark Suiter, Brent Segeleon, Grace Bascetta, David Slulouff, Jon Cookson

Members Absent: Nancy Carter, Rich Thompson, Daniel Brownlee, Rich Howell, Jason Flood

Staff: Caitlin Aubut, Tom Leininger

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Caitlin Aubut, in the absence of the Vice Chair. A quorum was not established.

Election of Officers

There was not an election of officers since there was not an established quorum.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

The July 15, 2024 and October 21, 2024 meeting minutes were not approved since there was not an established quorum.

VDOT Issues

Miscellaneous VDOT items were discussed by members. There was discussion about maintenance and cleaning of bike trails, particularly regarding leaves and debris. A member mentioned personally cleaning sections of the trail with a blower. The committee discussed whether the Clean County Commission might help with trail maintenance. It was noted that VDOT cleans trails approximately twice a year (spring and fall), but this schedule doesn't always keep up with debris accumulation, especially during seasons with heavy leaf fall.

Bicycle Co-op of Williamsburg Report

There were no Co-op members present to report.

Bikeway Project Status Reports

Ms. Caitlin Aubut read the written updates provided by Tevya Griffin, Director of Planning and staff member for the City of Williamsburg, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Griffin's written comments are quoted:

"Thus far the draft list of 2020 Candidate projects still has the Capitol Landing Corridor Improvements from Bypass Road to Merrimac Trail, Ironbound Road widening Richmond Road to Depue Drive (formerly Longhill Connector), Lafayette Street Shared Use Path from Richmond Road to Virginia Avenue, and Strawberry Plans Road Shared Use Path from Ironbound Road to John Tyler Lane. The following projects were requested by the city as a new project in 2024 and is not recommended to be considered for funding as a LTRP project: Route 132 and 132Y Intersection Improvements from Route 132 to 132Y (Visitor Center Drive) to Investigate and design intersection improvements to the Route 132 and Route 132Y (Visitors Center Drive). Possible Roundabout location and the Treyburn Drive Realignment from Treyburn Drive to Compton Drive to Investigate and design intersection improvements to the Route 132 and Route 132Y (Visitors Center Drive). Possible Roundabout location. Ongoing Projects - Capitol Landing Road - the city is awaiting authorization from VDOT to proceed with discussion of easements with landowners. Property owners are aware/ many public meetings have been held prior to this phase. The utility phase is 95% complete. Last utility company, Cox, is finishing work."

Ms. Caitlin Aubut provided an update on York County projects. She reported that VDOT has released funding recommendations for 2024 SMARTSCALE applications. The County was only recommended funding for crosswalks at Second Street and Merrimac Trail to connect existing sidewalks. Other projects that did not receive funding included intersection improvements on Route 17 and the widening of Barlow Road to improve cyclist safety. She stated that the County is going to pursue section 2 of Trail757 for TAP funding, and are progressing with the Victory Boulevard Trail. A member inquired whether there are concerns about potential redirection of federal infrastructure funding under the new administration. Ms. Aubut noted uncertainty but mentioned that Safe Streets and Roads for All funding is allocated through 2026.

Mr. Tom Leininger provided an update on James City County projects. He stated the Long Hill Road shared-use path is in the design phase, extending from phase one over Route 199 toward Williamsburg. It should enter the right-of-way phase later this year. A new Safe Routes to School project for Laurel Lane Elementary School will be awarded a contract for design and right-of-way at the next board meeting. Jamestown High School pedestrian project is in design phase, connecting Green Springs interpretive trail parking to the school with a new crossing. Trail757 first phase design considerations are focusing on Green Springs Plantation Drive, which presents challenges due to wetlands that may

require boardwalk-style construction. The County is seeking budget assistance from delegates. Croaker Road construction continues, with completion expected around 2027. This includes widening from two to four lanes, adding a multi-use trail, and rebuilding the bridge over CSX railroad. Pocahontas Trail Phase One is in design, adding a center turn lane from the fire station to Magruder Avenue. SMARTSCALE funding was not received for segment two, which would have extended to James River Elementary School.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business/Round Table

Several committee members discussed safety concerns at the intersection of John Tyler Highway and Green Springs. The primary issue involves cars making left turns from John Tyler onto Green Springs too quickly, creating hazardous conditions for cyclists. Members noted that visibility is poor due to trees blocking drivers' view of the trail, and the current trail crossing design is insufficient. Suggestions included adding a precautionary bike crossing sign or other safety improvements. There is currently a trail crossing sign on Green Springs, but members felt additional measures are needed.

A member inquired about maintenance of the Jamestown Island trail, noting deteriorated wooden sections with holes. It was clarified that this is federally managed property, not County jurisdiction. Another member mentioned that the federal government plans to close the area to repair all bridges, which will affect access for walkers, cyclists, and cars. Concerns were also raised about narrow roadways around the island that don't provide enough room for both cars and bicycles.

A member introduced the concept of developing cycling tourism based on the Bentonville, Arkansas model (supported by Walmart), where investment in mountain biking trails has created significant economic benefits through increased tourism. The committee discussed how the Trail 757 initiative could potentially serve a similar purpose by connecting various regional attractions and creating a cycling tourism hub. There was particular interest in how mountain biking trails might generate more tourism than road biking routes. Members noted that the HRTPO (Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization) has a vision for trails connecting regional attractions like Williamsburg, Jamestown, York, Richmond, and Fort Monroe to encourage multi-day cycling tourism.

The committee discussed the trail system in Newport News Park, noting that signage is poor and navigation is difficult without using an app. Members mentioned that there are good gravel and mixed-terrain riding opportunities in the area, including abandoned roads and pathways in the battlefields that feature handmade bridges. The committee expressed interest in improving connections and signage in this area, potentially as part of the Trail757 initiative.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

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