

## HISTORIC TRIANGLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### JAMES CITY COUNTY CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG YORK COUNTY MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 Plains 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.

Minutes adopted 4-21-2025