

# HISTORIC TRIANGLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

Monday, April 21, 2025

Members Present: Mark Suiter, Brent Segeleon, Grace Bascetta, Jon Cookson, Nancy Carter

Members Absent: Rich Thompson, Daniel Brownlee, Rich Howell, David Slulouff

Staff: Caitlin Aubut, Tom Leininger, Thomas Wysong

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Caitlin Aubut, in the absence of the current Vice Chair. A quorum was established.

### Election of Officers

Following nominations and voting, **Ms. Carter** was elected as Chair for 2025.

### Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the July 15, 2024, October 21, 2024, and January 27, 2025 meetings were reviewed and approved. During discussion of the July 15, 2024 minutes, a member requested clarification regarding the HRSD trail development timeline. **Mrs. Aubut** provided updates about the HRSD trails and the Yorktown Road sidewalk project, which has encountered right-of-way acquisition issues requiring the developer to shift the sidewalk to the south side of the road.

### VDOT Issues

Miscellaneous VDOT items were discussed by members. The committee discussed the process for reporting VDOT-related issues, with members advised to first contact VDOT through their online system for any problems with right-of-way maintenance or infrastructure concerns.

### Bicycle Co-op of Williamsburg Report

**Mr. Cookson** provided an update on the Co-op's activities. The co-op recently sold six bikes and continues operations on Mondays and Thursday afternoons with Travis serving as mechanic. The co-op received recognition as "People's Choice" from Coastal Living magazine and has been featured in upcoming articles. The organization received a \$3,000 grant from a company last year, which was used to purchase tools and bike stands. The co-op now has six stands for bike repairs and continues to serve College of William & Mary students and local families.

### Federal Funding

Locality staff provided a comprehensive update on current transportation funding challenges. Federal transportation projects face significant budget reductions due to decreased funding in programs including Transportation Alternative Set Aside, Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality and Regional Surface Transportation Program funds administered by Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization (HRTPO). VDOT's six-year program planning has been impacted by federal budget uncertainties, requiring conservative planning approaches. HRTPO has used reserve funds to cover shortfalls, but these reserves are now depleted. Future projects may require increased local funding and grassroots citizen advocacy to local elected officials.

**Ms. Aubut** stated that funding challenges particularly impact Trail 757, which faces increased competition for federal grants. York County's location presents disadvantages when competing against more economically disadvantaged communities for federal funding.

**Mr. Wysong** noted local budget pressures are also affecting City-funded projects, with the Waller Mill mountain bike trail restoration project being removed from the current budget due to spending reduction efforts.

### **Bikeway Project Status Reports**

#### York County

**Mrs. Aubut** reported significant progress on Trail 757 segments. The committee learned about plans for a BUILD Grant application in partnership with Newport News for sections 1A and 1B, covering the Newport News Water Works property from Port Eustis to the MAC athletic complex. Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) applications are being prepared for section two, connecting across Harwood's Mill Dam to Route 17. Section three is already funded with construction scheduled for 2030. The Coventry HOA is being engaged for easement acquisition to improve and widen their existing multi-use path, addressing ADA compliance issues including steep ramps and narrow sections. The County plans to fund these improvements once easements are secured.

**Mrs. Aubut** noted a funding shortfall of \$3 million was identified for the Victory Boulevard Trail segment from Big Bethel to the Poquoson city line, attributed to inflation and utility relocation costs not included in original estimates. HRTPO will provide reserve funds to cover the shortfall, and the county has committed \$2 million for the complementary segment from Big Bethel to Bowman Terrace. Both segments will be advertised together in early 2026 for construction in 2027.

#### Williamsburg

**Mr. Wysong** reported on the city's comprehensive plan update process, with an RFP being developed for consultant assistance. The proposal process will emphasize pedestrian and bicycle connectivity questions to ensure consultants demonstrate understanding of local needs rather than providing generic responses. The committee then discussed recent bicycle infrastructure developments, including the appearance of orange fluorescent vertical separators on Henry Street bike lanes, which Thomas committed to investigating.

#### James City County

**Mr. Leininger** provided updates regarding the Long Hill Road shared-use path connecting over Route 199 to the Pew Road bridge (preliminary engineering phase,

right-of-way acquisition beginning July 2025, construction January 2027); Croaker Road widening with trail/multi-use path from Richmond Road to the library (90% plans received, construction completion fall 2027); and Pocahontas Trail component of Trail 757 segment one from the fire station to Magruder Avenue (public meeting held, construction scheduled spring 2029).

The committee also learned about potential Eastern State Hospital redevelopment by two separate developers, with projects ranging from 200-300 homes to nearly 1,000 homes plus commercial space. The smaller project received a planning commission denial recommendation (5-1 vote), while the larger project remains under review.

## **Old Business**

The committee revisited the dangerous intersection at John Tyler Road and Green Springs Drive where the Capital Trail crosses, noting ongoing visibility issues due to tree overgrowth. VDOT has been contacted about the safety concerns, and the committee agreed to follow up on the status of requested tree trimming. Discussion of Jamestown Island bridge repairs and seasonal closures due to turtle nesting was noted, with bridge replacement expected in late spring 2025.

## **New Business/Round Table**

Extended discussion occurred regarding mountain biking infrastructure development as an alternative or complement to Trail 757. A committee member presented information about successful mountain biking destinations like Bentonville, Arkansas, which has achieved significant economic impact through UCI events and trail systems. The discussion included potential for pump tracks, improved trail systems, and public-private partnerships for funding. The committee explored various funding mechanisms and the need for land acquisition or agreements with existing landowners for trail development.

The committee addressed attendance challenges and scheduling optimization. Discussion included potential meeting time changes, location rotation between Williamsburg and York County, and strategies to improve member participation. **Chair Carter** noted that bylaws require at least four meetings annually and allow for the removal of members absent from two consecutive meetings. The committee agreed to have the next July meeting at the Stryker Center, and to adjust the meeting date to July 14<sup>th</sup> due to the APA Virginia annual conference on July 21.

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes adopted 7-14-2025