



**Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission**
POB 1505, 401 E. Water St, Charlottesville, VA 22902 www.tjpcdc.org
(434) 979-7310 phone • (434) 979-1597 fax • info@tjpcdc.org email

CHART Advisory Committee Meeting
November 5, 2008 Minutes

Present

Members

Stephen Bach
Jeff Monroe
Tom Loach
Linda Seaman, Chair

Representing

MPO, Bicycling
Albemarle County At-Large
Albemarle County Planning Commission
City At-large

Not Attending:

Bobby Burke
James Burton
James Currie
Marc Evans
Jay Gauldin
Mac Lafferty, Vice Chair
John Pfaltz
Jon Schroeder
Bill Wuensch

MPO, Pedestrian
City At-Large
Albemarle County, Environment
MPO
MPO
Albemarle County At-Large
City At-Large
City At-Large
MPO

Staff:

Chris Gensic City of Charlottesville
Dan Mahon Albemarle County
Chuck Proctor VDOT
Juandiego Wade Albemarle County
Ann Whitham TJPCDC

Ms. Seaman called the meeting to order.

Matters from the Public

Randy Salzman: Mr. Salzman urged the Committee not to move the bike and pedestrian bridge over the Rivanna at Riverview Park and Pantops to the Vision List, but rather to promote it and prioritize it. He noted the increased traffic on Free Bridge that will result from the move and expansion of Martha Jefferson Hospital. He noted that there are national and local foundations interested in backing a research project about what gets employees to walk or bike to work. He added that there is also support for the study from the UVA planning department to determine what factors convince people to use modes of transportation other than the car.

Chad Freckman: Mr. Freckman also spoke on the Rivanna Bridge project from Riverview to Pantops. Mr. Freckman supports the bridge and noted his work in the alternative fuels industry. He added that there will be additional large employers moving to Pantops and this will be a key

commuter connection. He urged the Committee to add it back to the proposed list of CLRP projects.

Peter Hedlund: Mr. Hedlund is the President of the Fry's Spring Neighborhood Association. He spoke in support of the Sunset Fontaine Connector, which is on the proposed list of additions to the CLRP. He noted that the project is of greater importance than just to his neighborhood.

Stratton Salitas: Mr. Salitas agreed with everything that he heard and also spoke in support of the Rivanna bike and pedestrian bridge supported by Mr. Salzman and Mr. Freckman. He stated that the project is a critical one for the region. He also spoke in support of a MeadowCreek Bikeway rather than a Parkway, which he stated may not be built.

Ms. Seaman thanked the members of the public for attending.

Approval of the Minutes

Approval of the minutes was deferred until next month when a quorum is present.

Bike and Pedestrian Projects Discussion

Ms. Whitham responded to the public's comments on the Rivanna bike and pedestrian bridge, suggesting that members of the public committed to having the project added back to the fiscally constrained project list should attend the November 24 MPO Policy Board meeting to speak in its support.

Mr. Proctor suggested that adding the Rivanna Bike/Ped bridge to the list of grouped bike and pedestrian projects referenced in the CLRP.

Mr. Bach asked which member of the Policy Board recommended that the project be moved to the Vision List. Ms. Whitham responded that she did not recall.

Ms. Seaman asked if Martha Jefferson Hospital is interested in funding the bridge. Mr. Gensic responded that he expects that the City and County to pay for all of the bridge projects using some proffer or developer contribution.

Mr. Wade added that the County Board of Supervisors has not made any recommendations for this project yet. Mr. Mahon added that the hospital has proffered a park, but does not know about their support for a bike and pedestrian bridge. He noted that it will be a difficult crossing to land at Riverview Park and the grade is very steep on the County side. He added that the bridge could be located under the I-64 bridge over the river like the bridge in Richmond.

Mr. Gensic reported that the Rivanna Trail/City trail at Greenbrier Park will keep the crossing under the Norfolk Southern Railroad. The crossing will only require some fencing and a protective screen above the crossing, which will only cost \$100,000. Ms. Seaman added that she has been involved in this project.

Three Notched Trail: Ms. Whitham asked County staff how this should be listed in the CLRP. Mr. Mahon responded that it could be included in the next County Comp Plan update but that it might be an appropriate project for the Vision List for this update.

Bike and Pedestrian Connections Across I-64: Mr. Mahon then provided the Committee with more detail on the proposed bike and pedestrian connections under I-64. He stated that developers on both sides of a Biscuit Run connection have proffered to build the project. He does not feel that it is a significant project for the CLRP. Mr. Proctor suggested working with the VDOT Charlottesville Residency to get the VDOT permission to move forward with the project.

Mr. Mahon went on to note that there are several other places where trails could cross under the interstate that would be valuable to include in the list. For example, the Avon Street Bridge is a dangerous crossing for cyclists and pedestrians. He suggested a bike/ped catwalk retrofit and mentioned an example he saw in California. Mr. Wade added that the Avon/5th Street Developer which is building an Avon/5th connector road.

Mr. Monroe suggested cleaning up stretches of trail connecting to Biscuit Run would be a good National Trails Day event.

Mr. Salzman suggested digging underneath the Interstate. Mr. Mahon noted the difficulty of a cyclist or pedestrian negotiating the Route 20/I-64 Interchange. Mr. Monroe asked if the trail could be linked up with Mill Creek. It could. He added that Biscuit Run must begin construction before the proffered trails will be built.

Mr. Mahon suggested connecting Avon Street to Route 20 south of the Interstate. Such a connection would also provide access for students at PVCC and Monticello High School. He explained that once the trail crossed Avon on the Brass Ink property, it could link up with an East/West trail along Moores Creek all the way to Fontaine Research Park.

Ms. Whitham asked Mr. Mahon for clarification of the Downtown Trail project. Mr. Bach asked for a summary of the extent and alignment of the trail. Mr. Wade and Mr. Mahon stated that the project is fully planned up to Rio Road via Schenks Greenway, the Meadowcreek Parkway and the Belvedere development. Mr. Mahon noted that this project has run into issues with the Forest Lakes neighborhood HOA.

Mr. Proctor added that if the County wanted to, VDOT could build it like a road project that could even receive primary road funding, and this was VDOT's vision. It may be an issue of finding a new corridor for the trail. The Committee suggested adding it to the Bike/Ped project list and bump up the budget line item to \$10 million.

Mr. Mahon suggested that the Three Notch'd Trail project could almost be built like a road project.

Ms. Seaman and Mr. Monroe noted potential issues with the Woolen Mills neighborhood around the bike and pedestrian bridge across the river to Pantops.

Other Business:

There were no items of other business

The meeting was adjourned.