



**Charlottesville-Albemarle Metropolitan Planning Organization
of the Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission**

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Memorandum

TO: CHART Committee
FROM: MPO Staff
DATE: August 24, 2009
RE: Northern Commuter Bike Route Project

The purpose of this memo is to inform CHART about the TJPD's involvement with this project. The City of Charlottesville Neighborhood Development Services Office and the Albemarle County Office of Community Development have asked TJPD staff to determine possible locations for a commuter bicycle route along the 29 North corridor. This analysis focuses on one of Albemarle County's designated growth areas, specifically Neighborhood Two. Neighborhood Two is bounded on the east by the Rivanna River, on the south by the City, on the west by Route 29 North and on the north by the South Fork Rivanna River. While the initial focus of this project only extends to the South Fork of the Rivanna River the eventual goal of this analysis is to determine a continuous, safe, and efficient commuter bicycle route from Hollymead to Downtown Charlottesville.

Neighborhood Two contains two major roadways, Route 29 North and Rio Road. Route 29 North does maintain continuous sidewalks which can be utilized by bicyclists; however the use of sidewalks is not ideal for a commuter bikeway. Rio Road includes on-street bike lanes; however these lanes are only along the portions of Rio Road that are four-lanes wide. Other bicycle facilities include on-street lanes along Hillsdale Drive, and sidewalks along Hydraulic Road. Both Greenbriar Drive and Brandywine Drive use share the road signs to facilitate biking along these roadways.

Also the planned roadways Meadowcreek Parkway and McIntire Road Extended have been designed to include bicycling facilities. The planned locations for the Meadowcreek Parkway and McIntire Road Extended will connect with Schenks Greenway along McIntire Road in the City of Charlottesville. Schenks Greenway will be the major connector for all possible commuter bike paths from Neighborhood Two into downtown Charlottesville.

Attached with this memo is the planned scope of work for this project. TJPD staff is currently working on steps one, two and three. In order to complete this project TJPD staff is working with selected representatives from the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County as well.