

Revised October 2008

Bikeways and Trails Advisory Committee

Mission Statement

To advise City Council and work with City Agencies on the implementation of the Bikeways and Trails Plan (adopted 10/04). The Committee works to establish improved connectivity between communities and to promote trail projects throughout the City so that all Virginia Beach residents and visitors benefit from pedestrian systems, trails, bicycle on/off road paths and facilities by:

- representing the needs and interests of the citizens
- promoting the health, recreational and transportation benefits of bicycle on/off road paths and facilities; pedestrian systems and trails
- advocating to make existing and new public roads and trails safe for all users
- working to improve connectivity between communities, public/private facilities, and systems
- implementing and revising the Bikeways and Trails Plan

Bikeways and Trails Advisory Committee 3 Year Goals (2008 – 2011)

GOAL # 1: Increase representation of the needs and interests of the citizens of Virginia Beach related to bikeways and trails.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Coordinate and communicate with City Council, civic groups and others to share the Bikeways and Trails Plan needed resources.
2. Attend City Council meetings as needed to articulate the need to fund implementation of the Bikeways and Trails Plan.
3. Provide information to the local media highlighting the Bikeways and Trails Plan.
4. Provide a forum for direct citizen input in the planning of future bicycle and trail facilities.
5. Advocate for matching funds from City Council and other sources for trail grants.
6. Attend public comment sessions that are related to BTAC (i.e. Comprehensive Plan public forums, roads improvement/construction public forums, etc.)
7. Request City Council approve a seat on BTAC for youth representation

GOAL #2: Promote the health, recreational and transportation benefits of bicycle on/off road paths and facilities, pedestrian systems and trails.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Promote trail projects throughout the City, ensuring every section of the City benefits from the presence of bicycle and trail facilities.
2. Work to develop a mixture of shared use trails, on/off road bicycle facilities and site specific facilities to attract and accommodate the needs of bicycle and trail enthusiasts of all ages, interests and ability levels.
3. Have a presence at large city events to promote the BTAC and its mission (i.e. ECSC, Neptune Festival, July 4th Celebration at Mt. Trashmore, etc.).
4. Coordinate and communicate with organizations with common interests such as biking, hiking, running, equestrian and wellness.
5. Partner with public schools and recreation center educators to offer proper, current information on bike safety and systems throughout the City of Virginia Beach.
6. Partner with the VB Hotel/Motel Association, the Restaurant Association, and other organizations and associations to distribute maps and trail information.
7. Heavily promote the spirit of Bike Month and Bike to Work Day: health benefits, alternative to car, fun, education and safety, good places to ride, encourage new bike commuters, etc.
8. Encourage bike rental businesses, bike shops, and running stores/facilities to make available City trails map and information.

GOAL #3: Advocating to make existing and new public roads and trails safe for all users.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Work with Public Works and Planning to review, identify and recommend appropriate pedestrian/bike facility improvements for all road construction projects.
2. Request City Council to support placement of signs along heavily used biking roads and trails to emphasize safety.
3. Advocate for painting bike lanes on roads which have them now or will need them in the future.
4. Work with City staff to review the City's Development ordinances and recommend revision in consultation with City staff to encourage bicycle and trail related accommodations.
5. Work with local Police precincts and City Attorney's office on correct interpretation of law and then the proper enforcement of those bike path/trails/sidewalks laws.
6. Work with the Traffic Engineering Department on the collection, review, and reporting of accident data (Five year trends – Identifying "Most Dangerous Roads/Intersections" within the City of Virginia Beach) and identify projects to improve those areas. Work with city staff and private organizations to achieve a continuous reduction in bicycle-car crashes.
7. Encourage and support city efforts toward embracing holistic design concepts that attempt to balance the needs of motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians in a unified plan, i.e. CompleteStreets.org

GOAL #4: Increase trails and bike path connectivity between communities, facilities and systems.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Encourage communication and advocate the need for regional connectivity and funding to civic organizations, media and local government.
2. Request local governments to fund connectivity projects.
3. Work with the City Manager, Planning Commission and City Council to encourage new developments or development changes to include the building of trails and connections with surrounding neighborhoods and city infrastructure.
4. Participate in and support all Safe Routes to School initiatives in Virginia Beach.
5. Make recommendations which address non-CIP related needs: spot safety concerns, gaps, bike parking, etc.
6. Work to ensure ongoing funding of sidewalk pedestrian safety improvement project.

GOAL #5: Revise the 2004 Bikeways and Trails Plan for the City of Virginia Beach and implement the new plan.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Review for submission all new projects for the plan.
2. Prioritize list of projects identified in the plan.
3. Revise and update the plan to reflect both recreation and transportation opportunities.