



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
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STREET MAINTENANCE
TRAFFIC ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
REFUSE/ RECYCLING
CENTRAL STORES

TO: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager
FROM: Thomas Hartman, PE, Assistant Director of Public Works
DATE: February 28, 2017
RE: Garbers Church Road Shared Use Path Project Update

Summary: The Public Works Department will provide an update on the Garbers Church Road Shared Use Path project, and discuss phasing options for project implementation.

Background: The Garbers Church Road Shared Use Path (SUP) is a bicycle and pedestrian facility, separated from vehicular traffic, that is envisioned to connect schools and parks on the west side of the City. In 2016, City Council provided \$1.5 million in local funds that was matched with a Revenue Sharing Grant award of \$1.5 million from the Virginia Department of Transportation. The Garbers Church Road SUP will provide biking and walking infrastructure for students, parents, faculty, and staff to more safely travel to and from Bluestone Elementary School, Harrisonburg High School, and Thomas Harrison Middle School, when completed. The facility also introduces separate bicycle and pedestrian access to Hillandale and Westover Parks.

The City is currently under contract with VHB (consultant) to design the Shared Use Path. On January 11th, the Public Works Department hosted a Citizen Information Meeting to present concept plans to the public and received input on the proposed alignment and other design details. A 30-day public comment period followed the Citizen Information Meeting. Conceptual alignments shared with the public can be viewed here: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/garbers-church-road-sup>. Segment 3 is under development as a separate but related project. The public identified a portion of segment 1A from Bluestone Elementary School to the bus loop at Harrisonburg High school, and segment 2A, Garbers Church Road to Hillandale Park as the top priorities by a wide margin. A connection from the SUP to Thomas Harrison Middle School was also requested by many.

VHB prepared cost estimates for Public Works staff for each segment of the proposed SUP, and Public Works recommends phasing the project based on these estimates and public input received. Public Works recommends phase 1 of the project to include the trail limits shown in the attachment. This phase would connect Bluestone Elementary and Harrisonburg High School, and provide a connection to Hillandale Park. While this phase is not expected to expend the entire funding amount, the anticipated remaining funds after phase 1 are not sufficient to complete any additional segments. However, it should be noted that these estimates are planning level and include contingencies for right of way acquisition, stormwater management, and utility impacts. Following the completion of phase 1, Public Works will assess the remaining funds and determine if additional segments may be constructed.

Key Issues: None.

Environmental Impact: To be determined through required project environmental documentation.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Prior Actions: None.

Alternatives: Reevaluate phase 1 limits.

Community Engagement: Citizen Information Meeting held on January 11, 2017.

Recommendation: Proceed with development of phase 1 as outlined in this presentation.

Attachments: Phase 1 sketch.

Review:

The initiating Department Director will place in Legistar, in sequence of transmittal, the names of each department that must initial their review in order for this item to be placed on the City Council agenda. The completion of review only addresses the readiness of the issue for Council consideration. This does not address the recommendation for approval or denial of the issue.

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