



City of Harrisonburg

City Hall
409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Final Bicycle and Pedestrian Sub-Committee

Monday, December 1, 2025

6:00 PM

City Hall Room 11

1. Welcome and Introductions

In attendance at the meeting were subcommittee members Sumeet Gudi, Jared Wark, Chris Tipton, and Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission member Kyle Lawrence. Also in attendance were City representatives Jakob zumFelde and James Polhamus, as well as JMU representative Valerie Kramer. New Public Works Transportation Planner Max Irwin was also present and introduced to the subcommittee. The meeting was held at City Hall in Room 12.

Attachments: [2025-12 Subcommittee Presentation](#)

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Potential Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application

Jakob zumFelde presented an overview on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), past projects funded by CDBG, as well as two potential projects Public Works could submit by the application deadline of February 2026: the first being a new path connection in vicinity of Kiwanis Park and Spotswood Elementary School and the second a sidewalk gaps project in vicinity of the intersections of Old Furnace Road, Wolfe Street, and East Market Street. Chris Tipton asked if there has been coordination with the city's Safe Routes to School Coordinator Andrea Troyer about the Kiwanis Park path project. Jakob zumFelde responded that there has. Kyle Lawrence noted the complexity of the Kiwanis Park path being a "public route" with city park and school property being adjacent to each other. Jakob zumFelde added that if a path is pursued that connects to the school, a project challenge will be distinguishing where the public is not supposed to be during school hours. Valerie Kramer asked about potential walking school buses from Second Home going through the park to access the school. Jakob zumFelde responded that there is some effort about getting that started up again while also explaining how volunteers to lead walking school busses can sign up if interested, as well as the necessary background check process required to be eligible. Kyle Lawrence asked if there is enough CDBG funds to potentially acquire property. Jakob zumFelde responded that due to limited funding availability, Public Works tends to not submit projects that potentially would need to acquire property. Kyle Lawrence then clarified to the subcommittee that

CDBG funds are allocated by the federal government with projects selected at the local level by a city committee. Jared Wark asked if it was possible for Public Works to submit both projects. Jakob zumFelde responded it was, and that overall, the city would like to see both projects funded one way or another, with selection being relative to other city-wide needs. Jakob zumFelde added that during his tenure with the city, he's seen projects submitted by Public Works both funded and not funded multiple years in a row. A member of the public asked if there was any consideration about utilizing the existing circular path on Spotswood Elementary property to help shorten the need for a new path to access the school. Jakob zumFelde clarified that the arrows indicating the potential paths were only approximate and that more detailed designs are complete that account for grading challenges and ADA accessibility. Jakob zumFelde stated that in addition to a brief discussion between the school administration and Safe Routes to School Coordinator, discussions regarding a path connection to Spotswood Elementary have taken place with HCPS Central Office staff.

4. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update

Jakob zumFelde provided an update on the upcoming aims and efforts to overhaul the city's Bike and Pedestrian Plan (2017), as part of the larger federally funded Safe Streets for All (SS4A) planning effort. Jakob zumFelde articulated the goal of a city-wide connected bike/ped network that is accessible to all ages and abilities. He also indicated that the new plan will likely focus less on the prioritization of the specific projects and more on how projects are prioritized. Kyle Lawrence asked if there was utility in potentially sorting identified bike/ped projects into tiers or blocks. A member of the public added that according to the Bicycle Friendly Community Certification, while the city scored silver in 2023, there was potential for improvement, specifically under the criteria of "evaluation planning". Jakob zumFelde, as well as Valarie Kramer responded with more detail on how the Bicycle Friendly Community Certification evaluates localities and how the scoring thresholds have changed since Harrisonburg was last scored. Jakob zumFelde articulated the anticipated challenge of sidewalks on neighborhood streets as the current Bike/Ped Plan was unclear in its determination of which streets should have future sidewalk and which should not. Kyle Lawrence asked if the new Bike/Ped Plan will provide any specific focus on greenways. Jakob zumFelde responded that he hopes the plan will be specific in identifying corridors where "protected infrastructure" is preferred. Kyle Lawrence agreed and added that being more general can give the city flexibility to pursue the most appropriate and feasible types of infrastructure along a corridor. Jared Wark inquired how the new Bike/Ped Plan will coordinate with other plans, such as those from neighboring localities, other city departments, and others funded by the SS4A grant. Jakob zumFelde responded that within the city, Public Works coordinates closely with the Community Development department while outside the city, communicates often with JMU, the HRMPO, and Rockingham County, with plans to continue engagement of these stakeholders as well as others during the new

bike/ped plan development process. Sumeet Gudi asked if there is a national standard for complete streets. Jakob zumFelde replied that while specific engineering standards for complete streets do not currently exist at the national level, the city's Complete Streets Design will build upon available national guidance that is tailored to the unique needs of Harrisonburg. Jakob zumFelde added that the next step is Public Works staff working on a Request for Proposals (RFP) to bring on a consultant. Jakob zumFelde articulated that efforts on all SS4A component plans are anticipated to start in Spring 2026 with public engagement likely starting in the fall. Jakob zumFelde also stressed that once the SS4A efforts get underway, there will likely be more Bike Ped Subcommittee meetings scheduled next year than usual (once a month compared to one every two months).

5. Projects/Improvements Completed in 2025 & Project Updates

Jakob zumFelde provided an update on projects completed in 2025 as well as updates on multiple projects currently under construction or in design. Projects completed include the new Country Club Road sidewalk from Linda Lane to the Spotswood Mobile Home Park, the reconfiguration of Mt. Clinton Pike and a segment of Old Furnace Road which added new bike lanes, and the addition of a buffer to the existing bike lanes on Central Avenue and Vine Street. Other completed projects included constructing short sections of sidewalk/path on East Market Street, Tower Street, and Kelly Street connecting to Ralph Sampson Park as well as numerous replaced/upgraded curb ramps. Safe Routes to School efforts included successful spring and fall Bike, Walk, and Roll to School Days.

Attachments: [2025-12 Project Updates](#)

6. Other Business/Announcements

Jakob zumFelde announced that the city will be hosting a kickoff open house on Wednesday December 3rd for the upcoming Liberty Street Project in the City Council Chambers. James Polhamus added that there will also be an Open House on December 11th in the City Council Chambers for the ongoing Virginia Avenue Project Pipeline study, led by VDOT in partnership with the city. Jakob zumFelde announced that an online summary regarding the North Mason Street Demonstration Project is now available for public view on the City Transportation Projects webpage. Jakob zumFelde added that the city in partnership with the Harrisonburg-Rockingham MPO is also kicking off a study to determine what a permanent North Mason Street project eligible for Smart Scale funding could be. Jakob zumFelde anticipated that public engagement for this study would take place in Spring 2026. Kyle Lawrence asked if and how the Gay Street reconfiguration project scheduled for 2027 would be affected by any potential North Mason Street project. Jakob zumFelde responded that the Gay Street reconfiguration will be complete well before any potential project on North Mason Street and stated that he did not anticipate any impacts. Kyle Lawrence then asked if there was any update on the Northend Greenway Brookside Phase project.

Jakob zumFelde replied that there was no update to report on regarding the project timeline.

7. Review Applications to Join the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee

This meeting marked the end of the term for three subcommittee members, John Bowers, David Ehrenpreis, and Sumeet Gudi. Sumeet Gudi announced that he had chosen not to reapply while Jakob zumFelde articulated that John Bowers and David Ehrenpreis did reapply. Jakob zumFelde thanked them for their time on the subcommittee and explained that there would be three open positions on the subcommittee with those appointed beginning their terms in February, following appointment by the Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission (TSAC). The meeting was opened to members of the public, and three interested candidates who applied to join the subcommittee took the opportunity to introduce themselves. This was followed by a closed session where the subcommittee members discussed the candidates for the vacant subcommittee positions with the intent to provide a recommendation to TSAC.

Adjournment