



City of Harrisonburg, Virginia

Department of Planning & Community Development
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To: Kurt Hodgen, City Manager
From: Planning Commission and Department of Public Works
Date: April 11, 2017 (Regular Meeting)
Re: Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update

Summary:

Public hearing to consider adopting the proposed City of Harrisonburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update.

Background:

The City adopted its first Bicycle Plan in 1994, followed by updates in 1999 and 2005. The first Pedestrian Plan was adopted in 2005. The first combined, and existing Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan was approved on July 27, 2010 and amended on March 8, 2011.

Key Issues:

The purpose of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan is to provide a vision and framework for developing an interconnected bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the community. Among other things, the Plan describes its relationship to other city plans; and recommends goals, objectives, and implementation strategies.

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan was presented to and received favorable recommendations from the following City commissions and subcommittees:

- Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee on January 23, 2017
- Transportation Safety & Advisory Commission on February 11, 2017
- Planning Commission on March 8, 2017

Public Works also gave an informational presentation on the plan to the Parks & Recreation Commission on February 27, 2017.

Environmental Impact:

N/A

Fiscal Impact:

N/A

Prior Actions:

N/A

Alternatives:

- (a) Approve the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update as presented;
- (b) Approve the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update with modifications; or
- (c) Deny the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update.

Community Engagement:

As required, the request was published in the local newspaper advertising for both Planning Commission's and City Council's public hearings. The advertisement was published as shown below:

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan

Public hearing to consider adopting the proposed City of Harrisonburg Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan update. The existing plan was approved on July 27, 2010 and amended on March 8, 2011. The purpose of the document is to provide a vision and framework for developing an interconnected bicycle and pedestrian network throughout the community. Among other things, the Plan describes its relationship to other city plans; and recommends goals, objectives, and implementation strategies.

In addition, a notice was provided on the City's website at <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/public-hearings> and the draft plan is available at <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-plan>.

Prior community engagement activities included:

- A public workshop on May 19, 2015
- A public comment period between May 19, 2015 through June 17, 2015
- A presentation to City Council on July 28, 2015
- A series of five focus group meetings in Fall 2015
- A public meeting/open house on November 16, 2016
- A public comment period between November 16, 2016 through December 16, 2016
- Staff reports and discussions at Bicycle & Pedestrian Subcommittee meetings, which are open to the public.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends alternative (a) approval of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Update as presented.

Attachments:

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Draft Plan Part 1
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Draft Plan Part 2
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Draft Plan Appendix
- Public Comments

The draft Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan is also available at <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/bicycle-pedestrian-plan>.

Review:

Planning Commission recommended (6-0, Vice Chair Fitzgerald was absent) alternative (a) approval of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update presented.