

Updates on Previous Agenda Items

a. Federal Street Improvements

The Federal Street bicycle and pedestrian improvements, between Wolfe St and Newman Ave, have been completed.

b. Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program updates

Sunset Heights:

Staff received 140 responses to the survey of the neighborhood. Staff have reviewed the survey responses and identified valuable feedback. Staff are working to test a speed cushion at an offline location to evaluate this measure prior to considering inclusion in the traffic calming plan. Staff will meet with the neighborhood Committee in February to continue the efforts to identify a preferred alternative for review by the neighborhood and TSAC.

Portland East:

All measures proposed in the approved Traffic Calming Plan have been implemented. A traffic study was completed in late October to evaluate the impacts of the traffic calming measures. The traffic study showed that the 85th percentile speed has decreased since the 2018 study, but volumes have increased. Staff are in the process of installing “No Trucks” signs for this route. Staff are in discussions with VDOT about additional measures to be considered.

Northeast Neighborhood:

The TSAC meeting will include a discussion of intersection safety concerns in the neighborhood. Staff are working with Kyle Lawrence, the traffic calming Neighborhood Representatives Organizer, to create a Committee of neighborhood residents to guide this effort. Covid-19 has delayed creation of the Committee and the start of the process to create the Traffic Calming Plan.

c. Garbers Church Rd curve

Closure of the schools on Garbers Church Rd occurred before the traffic study was completed to evaluate the impact of the curve sign. The traffic study will be completed when the schools are in session again.

d. SMART SCALE applications (Round 4)

The project scores were released and the following projects are proposed for funding: N. Main St sidewalk, Port Republic Rd & Bluestone Dr turn lane extension and sidewalk, Port Republic Rd & Bradley Dr signalization and associated improvements on the Port Republic Rd corridor, S. Main St median, sidewalk and bus shelters between Mosby Rd and Stone Spring Rd, and S. Main St and I-81 ramp improvements at Exit 243. The projects that have not been proposed for funding are the Pear St/Erickson Ave modified RCUT and the Bluestone Trail extension. More information about projects and scoring is available at <http://vasmartscale.org/projects/fy-2022-projects.asp>. The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is reviewing the results and will finalize funding plans in the coming months.

e. Heatwole Rd Concerns and Evaluation

Public Works staff are in the process of mailing information to those in the neighborhood to identify if there are any concerns regarding closing Heatwole Rd to vehicles between Sharon St and Perry St.

f. Potential Truck restrictions

Staff will continue identifying criteria for when truck restrictions could be implemented in the City.

g. Safe Routes to Schools and Walk Zones

Staff have identified draft walk zones for the Harrisonburg City Public Schools, which were presented to the School Board at the October 20th work session. Staff are working to identify other safety improvements that will be made in coordination with the walk zones being implemented.

h. Port Republic Rd & Bluestone Dr/Hillside Ave intersection study

MPO, City, VDOT, and consultant staff have evaluated concepts for improving conditions at the Port Republic Rd & Bluestone Dr/Hillside Ave intersection. Consolidating the crosswalks at the intersection was determined to be the preferred alternative to a bicycle and pedestrian bridge. The consultant is completing a report with evaluations and conclusions. In March, an online presentation regarding the preferred alternative will be available to the public along with a survey to gather public comments.