



ANNUAL WORK PLAN: 2017

**ROCKINGHAM BICYCLE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

APRIL 26, 2017

ROCKINGHAM BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BAC) MEMBERS

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Erin Yancey

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James May

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City Liaison

Rhonda Cooper

County Staff Facilitator

Kyle Lawrence

Safe Routes to School Coordinator

Previous Members

Rich Harris

Jason Burch

CONTENTS OF ANNUAL WORK PLAN: 2016

Background

Structure

Engineering

Education

Encouragement

Enforcement

Evaluation

ANNUAL WORK PLAN: 2017

OF THE

ROCKINGHAM BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Background

At the Board of Supervisors' May 25, 2011, meeting, Supervisor William Kyger and Chairman Michael Breeden explained they had met with bicyclists from the County about numerous bicycling-related issues and determined the County needed a study committee to establish a permanent bicycle committee to look into these issues and report to the Board. At the August 24, 2011, Board meeting, the organizational structure presented by the study committee was accepted and the Board created the Rockingham Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC). The RBAC immediately began drafting an annual work plan and presented it to the Board of Supervisors for adoption on July 11, 2012.

Over the intervening years, the RBAC has met regularly to discuss issues identified in the work plan, including the creation of a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Rockingham County. Two years after the adoption of the work plan, the development of a County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan became exponentially more feasible as the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization (HRMPO) began its own bicycle and pedestrian plan, creating the opportunity to complete the two plans concurrently.

Upon completion of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, the RBAC returned its focus to the Annual Work Plan, which had been on hold throughout the development of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. This revised Work Plan aligns the objectives detailed in the original Work Plan with the Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies outlined in the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. The Work Plan further develops the strategies of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan into actionable items for which the RBAC can be responsible.

The RBAC considers this Work Plan to be a living document that must be responsive to its Board-approved mission and organizational goal. Annually, the RBAC will review the Work Plan and present it to the Board of Supervisors for its endorsement. As the RBAC accomplishes projects, it will add additional ones to future work plans. Throughout the year, the Board will be provided with periodic reports of the RBAC's activities.

Structure

The Work Plan outlines specific actionable items, establishes time horizons for their completion, and identifies responsible parties. The primary purpose of the Work Plan is to implement the **Rockingham County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan**. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan identifies the bicycle and pedestrian vision for Rockingham County as:

Rockingham County will become a place where pedestrians and bicyclists can safely and conveniently reach key destinations for work, play, and everything in between.

The Rockingham County Bicycle Advisory Committee takes an integral role in realizing this vision as advisors to the Rockingham County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors on issues relating to the provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout Rockingham County. The stated Mission of the RBAC is:

To advise the Board of Supervisors in the promotion, planning, and implementation of bicycle and other non-motorized transportation in Rockingham County.

To fulfill this mission, the RBAC has identified an Organizational Goal:

Foster a healthy community by promoting bicycling and walking and other non-motorized forms of travel as viable modes of transportation through advising the Board of Supervisors on infrastructure improvements, intermodal connectivity, and education and enforcement programs.

To meet this goal, the RBAC identified a set of objectives organized into five categories, created by the League of American Bicyclists to evaluate the bicycle friendliness of communities across America under its Bicycle Friendly Community Program. These categories, known as the 5 Es, serve to focus the attention of advocates and policy makers and increase the impact of individual efforts. Each E represents a pillar of a successful bicycle and pedestrian program. The 5 Es are:

- Engineering
- Education
- Encouragement
- Enforcement
- Evaluation

All five pillars must be addressed to ensure Rockingham County's transportation network becomes and remains responsive to walking and bicycling for both recreation and transportation. Under each E category, the RBAC organized the Work Plan to differentiate between recurring tasks, annual programs, and special events that occur infrequently. This separation allows the RBAC to measure progress in the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

1 Engineering

Implement and maintain a non-motorized transportation network for users of all comfort levels through collaboration with VDOT, the private sector, towns, and across all the County departments.

1. Review the Six Year Improvement Program – prepare analysis for the Board to review in advance of the Six Year Improvement Plan public meeting.
2. Review Secondary Road Six-Year Improvement Plan – prepare analysis for the Board to review in advance of the Secondary Road Six Year Improvement Plan public meeting.
3. Review annual maintenance and paving projects to identify potential locations for shoulder widening and restriping of lanes to accommodate pedestrians or bicyclists.

4. Identify grant opportunities to plan, design, and construct non-motorized facilities and projects appropriate for application. Assist VDOT, CSPDC, and County Staff with application process where appropriate.
5. Develop annual cycle for review and recommendation on planned and proposed projects.

2 Education

Promote bicycle and pedestrian safety education through the implementation of programs for bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists, by coordinating with appropriate committees, schools, advocacy groups, and other organizations.

1. Review annual report of Rockingham County Public Schools Safe Routes to School (SRTS) coordinator to determine ways to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety in elementary and middle schools.

3 Encouragement

Foster a walking and bicycling culture through programs and events that encourage businesses, schools, families, and individuals to increase the number of trips they make on foot or by bike; continue promoting the region as a prime destination for pedestrian and bicycle tourism.

1. Network with regional stakeholders to identify bicycle and pedestrian issues, using forums such as joint meetings with the JMU Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and Harrisonburg Bicycle Subcommittee, the HRMPO Technical Advisory Committee, Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition, as well as at the annual Harrisonburg and Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit.
2. Consider applying for higher recognition for Rockingham County from the League of American Bicyclists' (LAB) Bicycle Friendly Community Program and encourage local businesses and Towns to apply for recognition also.

4 Enforcement

Improve traffic safety for all modes through collaboration with the public, VDOT, law enforcement agencies, public safety providers, and appropriate non-governmental organizations.

1. Coordinate with the Sheriff's Office to identify a liaison to the RBAC, who can answer questions and provide guidance.
2. In cooperation with the Sheriff's Liaison, identify areas of public safety concerns involving bicyclists, pedestrians, and buggies.

5 Evaluation

Sustain the momentum of this plan and evaluate progress toward these goals.

1. Annually review the Rockingham County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, monitoring the progress of infrastructure and other improvements, and recognizing changing conditions that may impact specific recommendations and recommend amendments where necessary.
2. Explore the development of Greenway routes throughout the County.
3. Cooperate with the Harrisonburg Rockingham Metropolitan Planning Organization's (HRMPO) review of the HRMPO Bicycle Plan for agreement with the County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

4. Review and update the Annual Work Plan.

Schedule

The RBAC agrees to meet on the third Thursday of every odd numbered month. Each meeting will have a recurring agenda to meet the objectives outlined above. The annual schedule is as follows:

January	Education	Safe Routes to Schools/Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition
March	Engineering	VDOT – 6 Year Improvement Plans
May	Engineering	CSPDC – Grant opportunities
July	Enforcement	Rockingham County Sheriff's Office – Safety Concerns
September	Encouragement	Bike Walk Summit planning/ Bike the Valley website
November	Evaluation	Organizational meeting –Review Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan; Review RBAC Work Plan