401 E. Water St, Charlottesville, VA 22902 www.tjpdc.org
● (434) 979-7310 ● info@tjpdc.org email

Agenda
Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee
Thursday, December 17th, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/527314450?pwd=THlWV1lwbTN3VHBKanBHVFlUbHJjZz09

Password: 510867

Item	Time	Description
1	10:00-10:10	**Introductions**
2	10:10-10:40	**Potential Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing of the Rivanna River - Jessica Hersh-Ballering (TJPDC)** • Review results of Nov 12th Workshop • Next steps
3	10:40-11:10	**Fall Bicycle and Pedestrian Count Results – Jessica Hersh-Ballering (TJPDC)** • Review Fall Count results • Feedback for process improvements
4	11:10-11:40	**Three Notch'd Trail Updates – Chris Gensic (City of Charlottesville)** • New collaboration efforts • Clarifying the project's vision • Next steps for the localities and MPO/PDC
5	11:40-12:00	**Roundtable Updates and Public Comment** • Updates from staff • Bike- and pedestrian-related comments/concerns from the public

Upcoming Meetings:
MPO Tech Committee (3rd Tuesday): January 19th at 10am
MPO CTAC (3rd Wednesday): January 20th at 7pm
MPO Policy Board (4th Wednesday): January 27th at 4pm

Rivanna River Bicycle/Pedestrian Crossing Workshop
Summary of Public Feedback

On the evening of November 12th, 2020 from 6-7:30pm, the TJPDC hosted a Zoom webinar to inform the public and solicit broad feedback regarding a possible bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Rivanna River in the vicinity of Riverview Park. Panelists included Jessica Hersh-Ballering (TJPDC), Chuck Proctor (VDOT), Chris Gensic (City of Charlottesville), and Dan Butch (Albemarle County). There were 67 viewers in attendance.

Staff from the TJPDC also received 25 emailed comments both before and after the workshop (from 11/8/2020 to 12/1/2020).

TJPDC staff posted the project feasibility study on their webpage in advance of the November 12th workshop.

In summary, while neither of the two route options garnered clear support, those who stated their feelings about the project spoke positively about a bicycle and pedestrian crossing of the Rivanna River. This is consistent with previous public engagement done to create earlier planning documents.

Public feedback has illuminated a desire – should the project move forward – for the project design to respect and maintain the character of the neighborhoods near Riverview Park. Discussion around this project offered residents an opportunity to voice pre-existing concerns regarding the overuse of Riverview Park and related parking concerns, as well as traffic concerns related to new commercial uses in Woolen Mills. The excerpt below is from a concerned citizen's email to TJPDC staff and is representative of this category of comment:

> "I either walk or bike along the river almost every day. In that time I have witnessed the Park change from a place where one went for quiet enjoyment of nature, to this past summer when the Park, the parking lot, and the surrounding streets were overrun with people, cars and trash. As a consequence of the pandemic Riverview Park has been 'discovered' and it is on its way to losing its character due to overuse...This project...would put undue pressure on our narrow streets and quiet community and significantly alter the Woolen Mills neighborhood."

Staff and elected officials should note that comments regarding community impacts and parking concerns are not limited to this project, but would likely apply to projects of any type (transportation, economic development, etc.) in this area.

A detailed accounting of the comment/question content can be found below, and comment/question text is available upon request.

In the November 12th workshop, there were 63 comments/questions stated/asked either verbally or in writing in the Q & A box feature. Three of those comments expressed positive sentiments toward the project overall, while two expressed negative sentiments toward the project. The remainder were questions or comments that did not indicate sentiments toward the project

overall. Two comments stated a preference for route option #1, while no comments stated a preference for route option #2.

A large proportion of the questions from the workshop focused on technical considerations of the project, likely due to the level of technical detail made available to the public through the feasibility study that was posted on the TJPDC website ahead of the November 12th workshop. A large number of questions clarifying the details of each of the two route options were also asked; a few of those questions classified as "route questions" asked about the four route alternatives that had originally been considered by the consulting team but disregarded by bicycle and pedestrian staff at the City and County due to concerns of low feasibility at a February meeting of the consulting team and staff.

Other themes to arise in the questions and comments from the workshop included project cost, project accessibility and connectivity, environmental concerns (including impact on the viewshed), parking concerns, and impacts on the residential community character of the west side of the project site for either option (including general concerns of overuse of Riverview Park). The latter two categories (parking and impacts on the residential communities) seemed to be most passionately argued by attendees, as observed by project staff. Seven comments specifically mentioned parking concerns/questions and an additional seven mentioned community impacts.

Of the 25 comments emailed to staff before and after the workshop, 15 expressed positive sentiments toward the project overall, none expressed negative sentiments about the project overall, and two comments expressed support for a crossing of the Rivanna River in other locations. Four comments stated a preference for route option #1, and four comments stated a preference for option #2.

Ten of the emailed comments spoke favorably of how such a crossing would offer residents more mobility options, improve accessibility, and connect neighborhoods. Other comments stated concerns about community impacts; like those comments made at the workshop, these emailed comments stated that the Riverview Park area is already inundated with users, and a bridge crossing is likely to bring yet more users.

[End]

Count Location	Daily Bike	Daily Peds	Daily Total	Female	Female %	<16	<16%	Non-White	Non-White%	Phys. Limitat.	Helmet	Wrong Way	Motorized
Riverview Park	15	278	293	163	55.6	11	3.8	28	9.6	0	7	0	0
Emmet_Angus	12	36	48	18	37.5	9	18.8	18	37.5	0	7	1	1
JW Pkway_Rio	31	48	79	39	49.4	1	1.3	9	11.4	0	29	0	3
Monticello_6th	54	147	201	84	41.8	30	14.9	38	18.9	1	43	4	1
Rio_Pen Park	11	21	32	16	50.0	4	12.5	4	12.5	0	8	1	0
Ridge_Main	115	606	721	335	46.5	35	4.9	100	13.9	3	85	0	17
Market_9th	34	139	173	73	42.2	5	2.9	11	6.4	0	0	0	0
Emmet_Ivy	57	368	425	212	49.9	2	0.5	69	16.2	0	40	0	36
5th_Old Lynchburg	13	29	42	12	28.6	0	0.0	5	11.9	0	12	0	0
Preston_Grady_10	35	151	186	88	47.3	8	4.3	35	18.8	0	27	0	3