



City of Virginia Beach

Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Annual Report to City Council

Appointed Agency Chair: Bryan M. Hickman

Date: August 31, 2026

Executive Summary

The City of Virginia Beach's Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) has compiled this FY 2026 Annual Report to City Council covering the period July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

The most significant achievements of the past year involving ATAC and active transportation were:

- Continued VB Trail Funding Progress – the City pursued a \$25M SS4A request (with a \$26.3M local match, \$51.3M total) for Phase 2 and pursued SMART Scale Round 7 funding (no local match, ~\$30M estimated) for Phase 3, due August 1, 2026. Phase I and Phase 4 are now funded for staged design and construction.
- Thalia Creek Greenway Phase III completed and opened to the public, extending safe, car-free connectivity in the Town Center area.
- E-Bike Safety Task Force recommendations delivered to City Council on May 28, 2026, by ATAC members Chair Bryan Hickman and Mike Nerino, who served on the Mayor's Task Force; Council agreed to include legislative recommendations in the fall legislative package.
- imagineVB2040 Comprehensive Plan adopted by City Council on April 21, 2026, including an intermediate Master Transportation Plan – the product of two years of sustained ATAC engagement, including a 14-page letter of recommendations.
- Expansion of Kayak Launch Sites – The ATP, Parks and Rec Needs Analysis, and the latest Citizen Survey all reference water access points as highly desired and undeserved. The following should continue to be celebrated and added on to in the coming years.
 - o Historic Kempsville Launch - Completed
 - o Owl Create Boat Ramp - Completed
 - o Pungo Ferry Landing Park – Construction of ADA Launch as part of current project
 - o Bow Creek Kayak Launch – Under Construction
 - o North Landing (Elbow Road) Kayak Launch – Under Construction
 - o Pleasure House Point Kayak Launch – Under Design

- Continued community engagement – Two ATAC-led public site tours (Bow Creek Stormwater Park, July 2025; Thalia Creek Greenway/Historic Kempsville Kayak Launch, May 2026), Bike Month activities at multiple schools, the Holiday Lights Bike Ride (3,000+ estimated riders), and the second annual First Day Hike.
- Burton Station railroad corridor advocacy continued, supporting City use of the abandoned corridor as a buffered active transportation route connecting Shore Drive, the Norfolk Premium Outlets, and the Norfolk park system, pending the Surface Transportation Board's final ruling.

In the past fiscal year, ATAC met 11 times (nine business meetings and two ATAC-conducted site tours – a planned December 2025 tour was cancelled). The presentations below were among those made at FY2026 ATAC meetings to educate Members, City staff and the public; to promote discussion; and to facilitate public input, all in furtherance of the Active Transportation Plan and our Mission:

- Bow Creek Stormwater Park Site Tour, Public Works Stormwater Engineering & Parks and Recreation (July 2025)
- Traffic Engineering Annual Update on Bicycle/Pedestrian Crash Statistics, Dempsey Bruton & Jamarr Waples (November 2025)
- TPO Scoring for the VB Trail, Steve Lambert (January 2026)
- Public Works CIP Projects (36 active transportation-related capital projects), Dave Jarman, P.E. (February 2026)
- Active Transportation Grants – Application & Post-Award Process, Stanley Smith & Charlotte Taylor (April 2026)
- Legislative Report, Brent McKenzie, Legislative Affairs Director (April 2026)
- Site Tour of Thalia Creek Greenway & Historic Kempsville Kayak Launch (May 2026)
- Annual Street Repaving/Road Maintenance Schedule Input, Steve Lambert (June 2026)

Mission Statement

ATAC was originally established by City Council on October 12, 2004, as the Bikeways and Trails Advisory Committee. On June 6, 2022, City Council renamed the committee, adjusted its composition including adding two students, and restated its mission below. On March 18, 2025, Council confirmed ATAC's three Liaison positions to the City's Boards & Commissions ordinance.

The mission of the ATAC shall be to serve in an advisory capacity to City Council with respect to the implementation and coordination of the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) and to coordinate the timely construction of active transportation facilities in accordance with the priorities established by the ATP, to promote a balanced approach between and among various users' interests in the City, and to provide a forum for continued citizen and governmental input in the planning and programming of future active transportation facilities. Specifically, the ATAC shall be charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

1. Work with local civic groups, interested citizens, non-profit and private sector entities to develop secondary network priorities, linkages, and potential new corridors;
2. Work with City staff to review road construction projects to ensure that all roads and bridges, where part of the primary or secondary networks, are constructed, improved or maintained in a manner consistent with the Active Transportation Plan;
3. Work with City staff to review the City's Development Ordinances and recommend revisions in consultation with City staff to encourage active transportation related accommodations;
4. Identify potential funding sources for proposed projects through various private, local, state and federal programs;
5. Provide a forum for direct citizen input in the planning of future active transportation facilities;
6. Focus efforts on achieving completion of the priority projects as identified in the Plan.

Accomplishments of Goals and Objectives

Last year's ATAC annual report listed 9 Goals and Objectives for 2025 – 2026. This section is organized identically, re-stating each item then describing the progress made.

1. VB Trail. *Continue advancing the ATP's top priority, creating the Virginia Beach Trail.*

- Submitted a \$25M SS4A grant application (Phase 2, \$26.3M local match, \$51.3M total) and pursued SMART Scale Round 7 funding (Phase 3, \$0 local match, ~\$30M estimated, due August 1, 2026).
- Phase I and Phase 4 received a Notice to Proceed for a progressive design/build contract; Phase I design (December 2027 – November 2029, \$5.4M) and construction (November 2028 – November 2032, \$30.6M); Phase 4 design (December 2027 – 2029, \$3.3M) and construction (November 2029 – November 2031, \$18.9M).
- Greenwich East Greenway advanced – utilizing the former Greenwich roadbed for a 12-foot shared-use path linking the VB Trail to Witchduck Road; a scoping/design session with Public Works was scheduled to finalize technical standards and timelines.
- The Phase II SS4A application was inadvertently removed and not scored during the prior submission cycle; staff worked closely with the Department of Transportation to address the issue, and the City lost an associated \$2.5M in TAP funding from HRTPO.
- Ten Virginia Beach active transportation projects – mainly VB Trail phases – scored within the top 14 projects regionally in HRTPO's draft 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan prioritization, with the VB Trail ranking highest of all classifications, not just active transportation.
- ATAC sent a letter thanking City Council for VB Trail funding in the FY27 budget while expressing concern that bikeways/trails repair and maintenance funding remained flat at \$280K against a growing repair backlog approaching \$5M.

2. Collaboration, Engagement & Education. *Continue collaborating with others engaged in ATP implementation.*

- ATAC members participated in Planning Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Resort Advisory Commission/TPPC, Bayfront Advisory Commission, and Transition Area/ITA Citizens Advisory Committee meetings throughout the year.
- Regional coordination continued with Chesapeake's Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee, HRT/goCommute, and the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation.
- ATAC gave presentations to the Princess Anne Historical Society, the Clean Community Commission, and multiple civic leagues.
- Members supported the joint Bike Parking Working Group (with RAC/TPPC) addressing resort-area bike parking needs.

3. Funding – Trail Maintenance and TAP Grants. *Inform and advise in support of re-aligning maintenance funding with current infrastructure and costs and advise on a VB Trail TAP grant application.*

- ATAC again advocated increased bikeways/trails maintenance funding; the FY27 budget maintained the existing \$280K appropriation level, unchanged, despite a growing repair backlog.
- ATAC voted to recommend the \$1M Bikeways & Trails Implementation CIP appropriation be directed to the VB Trail for FY26.

4. ITA Implementation Plan. *Support the Plan and subsequent projects in the Comprehensive Plan Update and FY26 CIP.*

- ATAC reviewed and provided comments on a draft letter opposing the ITA Industrial Expansion proposal, based on the ITA Master Concept Plan Update briefings, building on ATAC's November 2024 letter endorsing the prior high-level implementation plan.

5. Comprehensive Plan Update. *Actively contribute to the City's Comprehensive Plan update and advise the Planning Commission and/or City Council on the draft.*

- City Council adopted the imagineVB2040 Comprehensive Plan on April 21, 2026, including an intermediate Master Transportation Plan, superseding the 2016 Comprehensive Plan.
- Mr. Walter Camp drafted and submitted a 14-page letter of recommendations on the draft Comprehensive Plan and Master Transportation Plan; following meetings with staff, the draft Plan was revised, and staff adopted a two-step process (approve the MTP, then amend as needed).
- ATAC members attended the January 14, 2026, final Comprehensive Plan workshop and multiple public open houses.

6. Design Standards. *Assist Staff with updating the Public Works Design Standards Manual Appendix F, Bicycle Facilities.*

- The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) update was passed by the Commonwealth Transportation Board in January 2026; Public Works began incorporating updated bikeways and trails components into the design standards manual.

7. Public Maps & Signage. *Assist with completing Phase III of the City's bikeways & trails mapping project, including proposals for updating on-street bikeway signage.*

- The Park Finder Application was augmented with a Trails component showing all active transportation facilities.

8. R.A.M.P., Rudee Park & Shore Drive. *Continue support and participation to implement the Resort Area Mobility Plan and Shore Drive Corridor Study.*

- Staff presented Rudee Park updates to City Council (August 2025).
- Shore Drive bike path signage requests from citizens were relayed to staff; Shore Drive remains a high City priority for future bike lane improvements.

9. Events. *Plan and execute Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, coordinate Bike Month events, and promote the Holiday Lights Ride and First Day Hike.*

- Holiday Lights Bike Ride (November 13, 2025) drew an estimated 3,000+ riders.
- Second annual First Day Hike held on January 1, 2026, on the Boardwalk.
- Virginia Crossing Guard Appreciation Day proclamation presented by Mayor Bobby Dyer and Chief Paul Neudigate at the February 17, 2026, City Council meeting.
- Bike Month 2026: Wheelie Wednesday events at Smartmouth Brewery with HRT goCommute; Bike to School Day at John B. Dey Elementary (May 8, rain date May 11); a Safety Camp at Great Neck Recreation Center during spring break with fitted helmets for all participants, organized with Bike Norfolk, Tripower Cycling Club, and P&R/OST.
- Two ATAC-led site tours: Bow Creek Stormwater Park (July 14, 2025) and Thalia Creek Greenway/Historic Kempsville Kayak Launch (May 11, 2026); a planned December 2025 tour was cancelled.

Membership and Attendance

This figure understates the actual investment of citizen time; although appointees are reminded to submit their hours monthly, many do not do so. Committee members generously contributed their time in a variety of ways throughout the year to fulfill the mission assigned by City Council, going far beyond just attendance at monthly meetings.

Fiscal Year	Volunteer Hours
2026	1,342
2025	1,948
2024	2,017
2023	1,470
2022	958
2021	472

Membership changes during FY26:

- Sally McMahon joined as a new member (introduced August 11, 2025).
- Student member Collin Knightes' term ended June 30, 2026; New Student – Kayla Jones started her new term on July 1st, 2026. Student member Melissa Chang's term continued to June 30, 2027.
- 2026–2027 Officer Elections: Mr. Bryan Hickman was re-elected Chair unanimously (June 8, 2026); no nomination was received for Vice Chair, which remains vacant. In the absence of a Vice Chair the Past Chair, Walter Camp, has continued to support the Chair and Staff Liaison as part of the leadership team.
- The Remote Participation and All-Virtual Meeting policies were readopted unanimously.

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

1. VB Trail. *Continue advancing the ATP's top priority, creating the Virginia Beach Trail.*

2. Funding – Trail Maintenance and Grants. *This goal specifically references ATAC's continued recommendation to increase the City's Trail Maintenance Fund. The Trail network has increased over the last 14 years and the budget for maintaining such trails has remained unchanged. Additionally, this goal is to inform and advise on a VB Trail TAP grant application.*

3. ITA Implementation Plan. *Support the ITA Implementation Plan and subsequent projects in the Comprehensive Plan Update and FY26 CIP.*

4. Planning and Design Documents. *Actively contribute to the Master Transportation Plan Update and advise the Planning Commission and/or City Council on the draft. Assist Staff with updating the Public Works Design Standards Manual Appendix F, Bicycle Facilities.*

- A. Master Transportation Plan Update
- B. Public Works Design Standards Manual
- C. Micromobility and E-Bike Safety and Transportation Plans

5. Active Transportation Facility and Route Signage. *Advocate for improvements to Active Transportation Facility and Route Signage.*

6. Provide Input for Capital Projects. *Continue support and participation to implement the Resort Area Mobility Plan and Shore Drive Corridor Study as well as other Capital Projects that include Active Transportation components.*

7. Events. *Plan and execute Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, coordinate Bike Month events, and promote the Holiday Lights Ride and First Day Hike.*

Recommendations to City Council

ATAC is prepared to more fully explain any or all the following recommendations, respectfully submitted, in a separate context as Council may desire or deem appropriate.

1. VB Trail – Local Funding Component. Continue seeking Federal & State funding for the remaining unfunded VB Trail gap, including appropriating local matching funds as needed.
2. Funding for Maintenance of Existing Facilities (CIP PG100040). Significantly increase funding for bikeways/trails maintenance, per the longstanding ATAC recommendation. The annual budget for repairs of all bikeways and trails in the City has not changed since 2014/15 despite increased age and mileage of paths, contributing to a repair backlog approaching \$5M.
3. Request Council to review ATAC's recommendations for the ITA and incorporate them into the ITA Plan update.

4. Burton Station Railroad Corridor. Pursue acquisition and dedication of a portion of the abandoned Canonic Atlantic railroad corridor for active transportation per the Active Transportation Plan, Outdoors Plan, and Parks Needs Analysis.
5. Micromobility Safety & User Education. Continue support for the e-bike/micromobility legislative recommendations advanced by the Mayor's E-Bike Task Force.

Additional Information

ATAC would like to express its gratitude to City Council, to the City's career staff professionals in many departments we work with, to colleagues at other agencies and to the public, all of whom are working to implement the Active Transportation Plan and to improve the quality of life in Virginia Beach. It is a privilege for citizen-volunteers to be able to engage as partners at the level reflected in this report for the betterment of our own community.

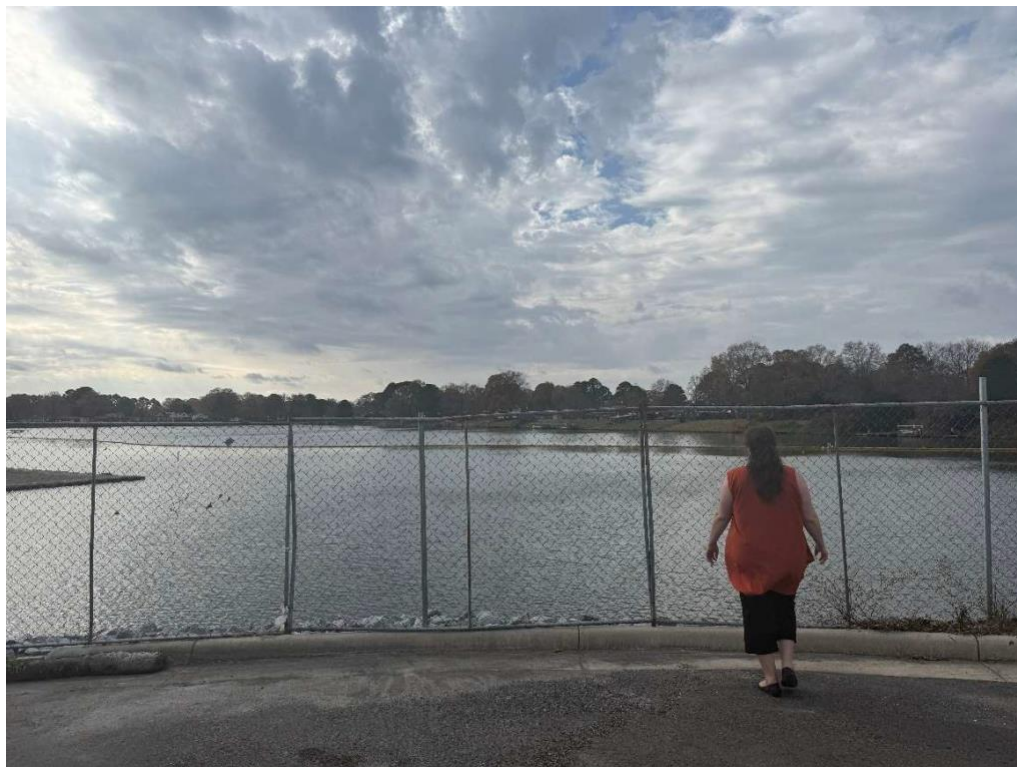
Should you have any questions or desire a formal City Council briefing, please feel free to reach out to Chair Bryan Hickman and/or Staff Liaison Steve Lambert (slambert@vbgov.com, 757-385-4310).

Photos

VB Trail Tour



Thalia Creek Greenway Tour



Local Community Triathlon



ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FY 2025-2026

NAME	ROLE	BEGINNING DATE	ENDING DATE
Allred, Alison E.	Member	8/15/2023	7/31/2029
Camp, Walter T.	Member	10/1/2019	6/30/2027
Chang, Melissa Y.	Student Member	7/1/2025	6/30/2027
Hazelwood, Edward B. .	Member	12/1/2024	11/30/2027
Hickman, Bryan	Chair	1/21/2020	12/31/2028
Knightes, Collin M.	Student Member	7/1/2025	6/30/2026
Krudop, Donald W.	Member	10/21/2025	9/30/2028
Lindauer, Robert A.	Member	7/1/2024	6/30/2027
McMahon, Sally B.	Member	7/1/2025	6/30/2028
Nerino, Michael	Member	7/1/2025	6/30/2028
Peluso, Catherine T.	Member	9/3/2024	7/14/2026
Williams, Christopher A.	Member	10/4/2022	9/30/2025
Lambert, Steven	City Staff Liaison		
Harrell, Trina	City Staff Liaison		
Byler, Kathryn N.	Planning Commission Liaison		
Edwards, Dan	P&R Commission Liaison		
Hutcheson, David	Council Liaison		
Rouse, Jennifer	Council Liaison		

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER HOURS FY 2025-2026

NAME	HOURS	VOLUNTEER COUNT
Allred, Alison E.	23	
Byler, Kathryn N.	12	
Camp, Walter T.	799	
Chang, Melissa Y.	16	
Edwards, Dan	18	
Hazelwood, Edward B.	11	
Hickman, Bryan	247	
Knightes, Collin M.	18	
Krudop, Donald W.	14	
Lindauer, Robert A.	20	
McMahon, Sally B.	45	
Nerino, Michael	99	
Peluso, Catherine T.	14	
Williams, Christopher A.	<u>6</u>	
Grand Total	1,342	14