



City of Virginia Beach Active Transportation Advisory Committee

2024 - 2025 Annual Report to City Council

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Executive Summary

The City of Virginia Beach's Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) has compiled this FY 2025 Annual Report to City Council covering the period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

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

- Record-Setting Grant Award
 - **\$23,800,000 Virginia Department of Transportation Smart Scale** for the Virginia Beach Trail Phase IV (London Bridge Road to Birdneck Road) in June 2025. With this grant 2/3 of the entire VB Trail now has funding, leaving just a 4.6 mile gap.



- Multiple Legacy TAP Grant Supported Trails Completed with Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies
 - Foxfire Trail:
 - **The Foxfire Trail**, funded by a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant, transforms a historic rail line into a scenic, accessible path for all. Stretching approximately 0.91 miles long (4800 linear feet), this new trail offers a safe, car-free route for pedestrians, cyclists, and nature enthusiasts from the City's Municipal Center to the Foxfire/Seaboard neighborhoods crossing.
 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: November 2nd, 2024
 - Three Oaks Trail:
 - **The Three Oaks Path**, funded by the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) as a Safe Route to School, is a 0.33-mile (1700 linear feet) paved shared use path. As an independent greenway not associated with a road, it provides a car-free link between Three Oaks Elementary School and the Three Oaks, Sherwood Lakes, and Highgate Greens neighborhoods, as well as the Red Mill Shopping District and surrounding areas.
 - Ribbon Cutting Ceremony: June 2nd, 2025
- Record-Setting Participation
 - **4,000+ residents and guests** participated in the inaugural January 1st, 2025, Oceanfront First Day Hike (Holiday Lights Tour).
 - **Bike/Walk/Roll to School events** during Bike Month in May 2025 attracted a record number of students, parents, and faculty members at six different schools -- supported by City Council Members, VBCPS, the Parks & Recreation Department, VBPD, VB Parks & Recreation Foundation, J&A Racing, and ATAC.
 - **Nearly 2000 hours of voluntary personal engagement and outreach** by all ATAC members across Virginia Beach and the region, resulting in greater public awareness and input, delivery of valuable services augmenting limited City staff, and significantly increased realization of the mission assigned by Council.
 - **Student Engagement** – ATAC student Ysabel Wells immediately jumped in to learn about the Resort Area Mobility Plan last July. She also worked on an educational program for children to learn about biking and bike safety. In addition she created an ARC GIS Map for trails and biking in Virginia Beach. Ysabel organized and participated in a roadside cleanup along the London Bridge bike path with LRNow, ATAC and others. Ysabel helped to draft a Virginia Beach High School student letter to City Council advocating for cross country and soft trails in the ITA. She organized, cleaned, photographed, and inventoried repairs needed on a fleet of 30 City bikes.
- **Virginia Beach's Trails Are Available on the Parkfinder Mobile App.** After years of work by ATAC volunteers and Parks & Rec staff, the public can now readily find and learn about the many miles of bikeways and trails in our City on a simple, mobile, GIS-based application.

In the past fiscal year, ATAC met 10 times (nine business meetings and one ATAC-conducted tour of sites and facilities – a planned second tour/meeting was rained out), engaged in multiple events during National Bike Month in May, and members participated in planning, project commenting, educational, ceremonial, and other types of activities throughout the year. The presentations below were among those made at FY2025 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. Several of these were developed by ATAC volunteers without staff support:

- Site Tour of the Transition Area & Sandbridge – this 2.5-hour long walking & bus tour was conducted twice to accommodate demand from other agencies and public participants. It covered 25 miles and showed participants more than 15 active transportation facilities as well

as related existing conditions, roadway & stormwater CIPs, historical & environmental sites, and examples of Council-adopted Design Guidelines and Plans. Created by ATAC.

- ITA Implementation Plan, Parks & Recreation PDD Division.
- Local Road Safety Action Plan, Public Works Engineering Support & Traffic Engineering.
- Student Bike Month Proposal, ATAC Student Member Ysabel Wells.
- Bikeways & Trails FY2025 CIP Input, Parks & Recreation PDD Division
- Cyclist and Pedestrian Crash Statistics 2019-2023, Public Works Traffic Engineering & VBPD
- Site Tour of VB Trail Phase I Newtown Transit Station to Town Center – this detailed 2.5-hour, 3.2 mile-long walking tour was researched and scripted by ATAC and fully booked, but it had to be cancelled due to rain. The site tour materials were later used for multiple subsequent tours led by ATAC upon requests from other agencies and the public, but which did not constitute ATAC meetings.
- Comprehensive Plan Update (not an input session), Planning Department.
- Plan Review Process and Application of Active Transportation Plan to Proposed Projects, Planning Commissioner Kathryn Byler and Active Transportation Planner Steve Lambert.
- 2025 Virginia Bike/Pedestrian Legislation, ATAC
- Regional & Statewide Trails Update, Parks & Recreation PDD Division.
- Economic Development Projects Involving Active Transportation, Economic Dev. Dept.
- Grant Funding for Active Transportation Projects, Public Works Engineering Support Office
- FY2026 Street Repaving Plan & Comment Opportunity, Parks & Recreation PDD Division
- *Note: the annual Roadways CIP Review & Input presentation by the Public Works Transportation Division took place off-schedule the prior year so it was not duplicated in 2024-25; it will resume in FY26*

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 conformed 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:

- a. Work with local civic groups, interested citizens, non-profit and private sector entities to develop secondary network priorities, linkages, and potential new corridors;
- b. 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;
- c. 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;
- d. Identify potential funding sources for proposed projects through various private, local, state and federal programs;
- e. Provide a forum for direct citizen input in the planning of future active transportation facilities;
- f. 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 10 Goals and Objectives for 2024 – 2025. This section is organized identically, re-stating each item in italics then describing the progress made.

1. **VB Trail.** *Continue advancing the ATP's top priority, creating the Virginia Beach Trail.* Examples of ATAC's efforts made toward this goal over the past year are below. The goal itself will carry over every year into the future until either the VB Trail is fully built out or City Council adopts a new top priority by revising the Active Transportation Plan:
 - a. **ATAC worked** with City leadership, staff from multiple departments, and other agencies **to advance multiple funding options** including:
 - i. Grant Applications: ATAC again provided text, photos, community letters of support, information, and other forms of assistance for the City's applications to USDOT, EPA, DOE, Smartscale and other grant programs. The body of work contributed by ATAC volunteers since 2019 continues to be utilized by City staff in these applications, including the \$23.8M grant noted earlier.
 - ii. City Council: Many ATAC members regularly spoke with Council Members about the VB Trail as a City Priority, had individual meetings & site visits with them, and promoted the project's prioritization in the City's budget. ATAC is very grateful that Council chose to include the VB Trail in the Major Projects category and to augment the project's budget with local funding in response to departmental requests.
 - iii. Planning Department and Commission: ATAC held two 3.1-mile walks from Newtown Road to Town Center to give ATAC Members, City Staff, Planning Commissioners, members of the public and Regional Trail Leaders an opportunity to see and visualize the future of the VB Trail and its relation to current land uses. Engagement with the Planning Commission and staff on the relation of the VB Trail to the SGAs and adjoining properties was frequent and constructive throughout the year.
 - iv. Legislative Director's Office: ATAC regularly coordinated with the Legislative Director during the 2025 legislative session on state funding opportunities, tracked legislation, and provided information supporting his engagements with federal and state officials for the VB Trail throughout FY25.
 - v. ATAC voted to recommend dedicating the \$1M Bikeways & Trails Implementation CIP appropriation managed by the Parks and Recreation Department to the VB Trail for FY26, which is reflected in the approved budget.
 - b. **ATAC continued its education and outreach efforts** about the VB Trail, including:
 - i. Public speaking engagements, both formal and informal, across the City, including the creation of presentation slide decks later turned over to staff.
 - ii. Providing volunteers at every Comprehensive Plan Update meeting and assisting staff and the public in understanding the VB Trail and others, which planners have grouped into a Linear Park system of greenways and blueways labeled one of the five "Big Ideas" for Virginia Beach's future.
 - iii. Assisting City staff with development of media materials used at the departmental marketing and City Communications Office levels.
 - iv. ATAC assisted staff throughout the year in updating the VB Trail webpage, in creating many new maps of the VB Trail, and adding to the photo collection used in presentations, grant applications, online, and by the media.
 - v. Keeping partner agencies informed within the City and externally and identifying collaboration opportunities some of which are detailed below.

2. **Collaboration, Engagement & Education.** *Continue collaborating with others engaged in ATP implementation, including appointive agencies, City departments, elected officials, non-profit agencies, schools, businesses, and the public; continue attendance & input gathering at public meetings; continue providing presentations, site tours, and other forms of education. These efforts align with multiple ATP Goals and ATAC's Council-assigned mission. Also, work to restore, reconnect, and update public-facing active transportation content and searchability on the City's website, per ATP Goal #4, Technology.*

a. ATAC members again attended and participated in our own meetings as well as over 125 other meetings during the past year (sometimes more than one person attended a meeting) in support of this goal. Examples included:

- i. public meetings for roadway, trail, and safety projects, with particularly strong contributions to the Road Safety Action Plan, specific bike/ped intersection projects, and Resort Area projects;
- ii. other appointive agency meetings including RAC, RAC-TPPC, BAC, TA/ITA, Parks & Recreation Commission, Open Space Advisory Committee, Clean Community Commission, Planning Commission; City Council meetings and Member Town Halls;
- iii. meetings of civic organizations, nonprofit agencies, CACs, and others. The heightened engagement increased public input to ATAC and staff, raised awareness of active transportation projects and plans, and improved coordination among agencies, staff, and elected officials.

b. Regional Collaboration was significantly increased this year:

- i. **Norfolk.**
 - a. **ERT.** Following an ATAC presentation to their Board of Directors, the Elizabeth River Trail Foundation voted to change their mission statement to include connecting to the VB Trail, and they established a permanent Board Liaison position for an ATAC Member.
 - b. **BPAT.** ATAC gave a presentation to Norfolk's City Council-advisory Bikeways, Pedestrian, and Active Transportation Commission and held a series of follow-up calls & meetings, particularly regarding the VB Trail and aligning both city's comprehensive plan updates.
 - c. **Bike Norfolk.** ATAC representatives also participated in events & regularly communicated with Bike Norfolk, which generously donated youth bike helmets given away in Virginia Beach during Bike Month.
- ii. **Chesapeake.** ATAC now has a regular representative at each meeting of Chesapeake's Bicycle/Trails Advisory Committee (BTAC), and several members of ATAC participated in multiple Chesapeake TTAC Plan and Comprehensive Plan Update sessions during the year.
- iii. **Regional & Statewide.** Two ATAC members regularly attended meetings of the Virginia Bicycling Federation, including one who is a statewide Board member. ATAC members attended meetings of HRTPO, VDOT BPAT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board. ATAC again attended the North Landing River Symposium, networking with dozens of blueways & trails allies. These time investments regularly paid dividends back to the City in the form of grant awareness, legislative information, further speaking invitations, and cooperation among agencies on matters of shared concern.

c. Presentations & Site Tours: ATAC created and delivered many formal presentations and site tours over the past year, and assisted City staff in developing and delivering others. These efforts educated the public, members of ATAC and other agencies, School & City staff, and elected officials about active transportation matters. ATAC planned, researched, mapped, and developed the narrative for the site tours, and created most of the

- presentation slide decks. These efforts demonstrate a significant way ATAC's volunteers augment the City's staff by providing professional work products and services the staff would otherwise not have time to do. Some of the presentations and recipients included:
- i. Transition Area & Sandbridge Site Tour (2.5hrs, 25 miles)– twice!
 - ii. Transition Area / ITA Citizens Advisory Committee
 - iii. Regent University School of Law – Real Estate Law Students
 - iv. Norfolk Bicycle Pedestrian Active Transportation Commission
 - v. Resort Advisory Commission – Planning / Design Review Committee
 - vi. Resort Advisory Commission – Transp., Ped. & Parking Committee
 - vii. Resort Advisory Commission (main body)
 - viii. VB Trail Phase I Site Tour (3hrs, 3.2 miles walking) – twice!
 - ix. Elizabeth River Trail Foundation Board of Directors
 - x. Economic Development Director onboarding
 - xi. TTAC (supported Parks staff)
 - xii. VBCPS Environmental Studies Program
 - xiii. Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach Historical Society (*adjoining landowner to the VB Trail Phase IV, Upper Wolfsnare*)
 - xiv. Virginia Beach Clean Community Commission & Sheriff's Office
3. **Funding – Trail Maintenance and TAP Grants.** *Inform and advise in support of re-aligning maintenance funding with current infrastructure and costs in the City's FY26 Resource Plan per ATP Goal #2, Safety, and advise in support of regaining TAP grant competitive status per ATP Goal #1, Connectivity and per Council's mission statement on funding sources.*
- a. The Parks & Recreation Department fully agreed and requested a budget increase to restore purchasing power lost to inflation over the 10 years funding has been flat.
 - b. ATAC again worked to make Council Members aware of the need for this adjustment, especially due to aging existing facilities and expanded mileage of the trails network.
 - c. Unfortunately, Council did not increase the maintenance funding.
 - d. The underlying need to align the City's annual maintenance budget with the cost, mileage, asset life, age and materials of its facilities carries over as a FY26 Goal.
 - e. ATAC continued its efforts dating back many years, including every annual report to Council since 2021, to call attention to TAP funding eligibility problems due to uncompleted legacy projects, culminating in a November advisory letter to Council. Two of the four larger remaining TAP-funded projects (Foxfire Trail and Three Oaks Path) have now been completed, and substantial progress has been made on the other two, as well as the City's unfinished TAP-funded sidewalk projects.
4. **ITA Implementation Plan.** *Assist with completing the Implementation Plan project in time for delivery to City Council by October 1, 2024. Depending on direction from Council, support the Plan and subsequent projects in the Comprehensive Plan Update and FY26 CIP.*
- a. ATAC provided volunteers who researched accreditation standards for four levels of cross-country competition courses (High School, NCAA, National & World)
 - b. ATAC volunteers photographed existing conditions, hosted a site tour for Virginia Wesleyan running coaches, and helped lay out schematic course designs intended to maximize competitive appeal, spectator engagement, and coaching goals while taking advantage of existing conditions and minimizing cost.
 - c. ATAC engaged with other participating Council-advisory volunteers (TA/ITA, Open Space, and Green Ribbon) and City staff to provide input on development of the proposal at a series of design meetings, including gathering information from external interest groups such as the mountain biking and running communities.

- d. ATAC met and engaged with Council Members to answer questions about the proposal and submitted a written letter of support explaining in detail the actions taken by the Committee and the reasons for its support of the proposal.
5. **Comprehensive Plan Update.** *Actively contribute to the City's Comprehensive Plan update per ATP Goal #1, including the opportunity identified by the City Manager (5/19/2023) to focus the revision on "walking, bike, and transit travel options within centers and along corridors."*
 - a. All ATAC members dedicated many hours to this project throughout the year.
 - b. ATAC members attended and publicized every Open House, completed surveys, studied proposals, met with staff, and listened to public comment across the City.
 - c. Through discussion, presentations, and actual plan review matters throughout the year ATAC members elevated their knowledge of the Comp Plan and how it is applied.
 - d. ATAC assisted and strengthened the Planning Commission's consideration of the ATP portion of the Comprehensive Plan, as noted above.
 - e. This Goal will carry over into FY26 as the Comprehensive Plan Update continues.
6. **Design Standards.** *Assist Staff with updating the [Public Works Design Standards Manual Appendix E, Bicycle Facilities](#), which is based on the City's superseded 2011 Bikeways and Trails Plan. This still-unfinished task was identified by City staff in 2019 but delayed due to staff turnover and the pandemic. It is listed under Goals #1 and #4 of the ATP approved by City Council, and it includes incorporation of the ATP's Design Guidelines. This project has been deferred for several years due to Parks staff turnover and vacancies.*
 - a. Public Works and Parks and Recreation staff continued to collaborate on updating overall Design Standards for Bicycle Facilities. There is a strong indication that this goal will be met in FY26.
 - b. Parks and Recreation staff will be working on the Design Standards project with Public Works during FY26, and ATAC will stand ready to support them as requested.
7. **Virginia Beach Public Bike Route Maps.** *Assist with completing Phase II of the City's bikeways & trails mapping project for the public, per Active Transportation Plan Goal #3, Economic Vitality.*
 - a. ATAC provided proposed bike riding routes to City staff as requested for review.
 - b. ATAC worked with Parks staff to finalize stress ratings, locations, names and other factors in the new GIS inventory of active transportation facilities
 - c. The Parks & Recreation Department was finally able to release a major upgrade to the Parkfinder application, giving the public access to the locations and information of all the major bikeways and trails in the City on a simple, map-based mobile app.
 - d. Staffing time constraints and internal coordination issues with Parks & Rec Marketing resulted in the paper map and website portions of this project being carried over to FY26. ATAC will continue to advocate and to assist as requested, but the next steps are with City-staff.
 - e. This project will now transition to Phase III, involving updating signage on City bikeways along streets and paths.
8. **Southeastern Greenway.** *Continue education and advocacy in support of the Southeastern Greenbelt Trail, part of the ATP for 38 years and a key element of ATP Goal #1, Connectivity.*
 - a. City Council allocated funding from the Dominion easement purchases to construction of the VB Trail, to other deferred Complete Streets roadway projects, and to the Transportation Safety Initiative (TSI) CIP, all benefitting active transportation users.
 - b. The Southeastern Greenway was independently identified by the Comprehensive Plan consultant as one of the City's 4 major linear park locations, and it is identified for that

- purpose in the draft update. This aligns with the ATP and affirms 39 years of planning, providing the direction City Council requested at their January 2024 briefing on the future use of the right of way.
- c. Construction on Twin Mills Road was nearing substantial completion at the end of the fiscal year. This Complete Street involves build-out of the portion of the Southeastern Greenway between London Bridge and Dam Neck Roads, alongside the new Amazon distribution facility, including the cross-city shared-use path and sidewalk.
9. **R.A.M.P., Rudee & Shore Drive.** *Continue support and participation to implement the Resort Area Mobility Plan, planning for the development of Rudee Loop as a park that includes the East Coast terminus of the Trans-America Trail and updating the Shore Drive Corridor Study. These key projects and focus areas align with multiple ATP Goals.*
- a. ATAC members attended all Resort Advisory Commission Transportation-Pedestrian-Parking Committee meetings, some RAC's Design Committee meetings, and many full Commission meetings, building a shared-interests partnership.
 - b. ATAC worked with RAC and City staff from three departments to focus attention on high priority maintenance areas of the Boardwalk bikepath, resulting in repairs being made just ahead of the 2025 tourist season.
 - c. ATAC participated in all of the public sessions and several stakeholder meetings related to Rudee Park, raising awareness design process of active transportation concerns and that the park will also function as the Eastern terminus of the City-wide Virginia Beach Trail as well as regional, statewide, and national trails.
 - d. ATAC members attended all Bayfront Advisory Commission meetings, continuing another shared-interests partnership. Examples of coordination and cooperation included:
 - a. ATAC and BAC working together to elevate safety concerns about the Cape Henry Trail crossing of N. Great Neck Road, resulting in plans by Public Works Traffic Engineering to soon install one of the City's first two HAWK signals at the crossing, an innovative solution.
 - b. At BAC's request ATAC assisted with getting desired bike parking infrastructure at five Bay beach access locations evaluated. The bike racks were installed in the winter of 2025.
 - c. ATAC and BAC collaborated in public engagement involving bike/ped improvements at the intersection of Independence and Wakefield
 - d. ATAC took the lead on coordinating with staff from three departments to preserve and upgrade the neighborhood path at Bromfield Avenue
10. **Events.** *Plan and execute Crossing Guard Appreciation Day 2025, coordinate Bike Month 2025 events, and promote the 2024 Holiday Lights Ride as the largest annual bicycling event in the City. These events support ATP Goals #2 Safety, #3 Economic Vitality, and #5 Health.*
- a. Holiday Lights Ride at the Oceanfront – November 2024. ATAC members again used many communications methods for targeted event promotion. Direct outreach, submitting content to Parks & Recreation for mass-emails, and posts on many social media channels augmented general publicity from Beach Events and the City. However, a downpour on the night of the event ruined chances of matching last year's 5000+ participants, although a very hardy 300 people still biked the lights despite the storm.
 - b. First Day Hike – January 1, 2025. ATAC's request was granted to change this from another boardwalk holiday lights bike ride into a walking event. The many skeptics who doubted that the public would walk over 3 miles on New Year's Day were astounded when over 4000 people came to the Resort Area and participated! First Day Hikes are a national trend kicking off healthy habits and New Year's Resolutions, and ATAC is grateful that

stakeholders took a chance on our advice and created a phenomenal family-friendly event for Resort visitation. With proof of concept now shown, we are hopeful the hospitality and restaurant sectors will capitalize on this opportunity to bring people to the Oceanfront on a day they wouldn't otherwise visit.

- c. Crossing Guard Appreciation Day – February 2025. In October 2023 a school crossing guard was hospitalized after being struck by a vehicle in front of an elementary school. This led ATAC to organize Virginia Beach's first-ever Crossing Guard Appreciation Day in February 2024, aligning with VDOT's statewide event. For 2025 ATAC again worked directly with the Virginia Beach City School Board and their attorney's office and Chief of Staff as well as VBPD to facilitate a Resolution honoring the City's crossing guards. ATAC student Melissa Chang led an initiative for students to write Thank You notes to crossing guards in recognition of their service in all-weather protecting the safety of our most vulnerable pedestrians and bicyclists.
- d. National Bike Month – May 2025. ATAC worked with many organizations, City offices, and individuals to coordinate and publicize a range of activities aligned with its Mission and the Active Transportation Plan's goals during National Bike Month. School-based events were deemed the most important and viable way for Virginia Beach to achieve the aspirations of National Bike Month in 2024.
 - i. May 6th – the Mayor's Proclamation of Bike Month was presented in a ceremony at City Council. Celebrating the Committee's 20th Anniversary, ATAC recognized the past Chairs and Leaders of ATAC & its predecessors from the last 40+ years.
 - ii. Bike Walk & Roll to School Events. Six schools participated in Bike/Walk/Roll to School events, a tremendous increase over last year's pilot program with just one. With the strong support of school administrators, John B. Dey Elementary, Trantwood Elementary, Arrowhead Elementary, Thoroughgood Elementary, Great Neck Middle School, Cooke Elementary all held such events. The participation rates were overwhelming, with hundreds of students, parents and faculty members walking and rolling to school as neighborhood residents came out and cheered. ATAC and Parks & Recreation staff worked with each school to devise plans suitable to their location, all supported by the Virginia Beach Police Department. As noted on page 1, many supporting organizations organized by ATAC and staff helped to make these events positive, healthy, social experiences for the students and their communities.
 - iii. Retailer & Club Events. REI, Trek, Freedom Bike Works, Conte's and others provided classes, clinics, and rides encouraging bicyclists at all levels throughout the month, which were publicized by Parks and Recreation.
 - iv. 31-miles (or 151-miles) in 31-days Challenges. These self-directed events, designed to encourage new riders to begin a healthy habit by bicycling just 1 mile per day while also challenging experienced bicyclists to average 5-miles/day, were available to the public all month. Participants received a sticker and congratulations at the City Rec Center of their choice.

Membership and Attendance

1,948 Volunteer Hours were recorded by ATAC members during FY 2025. This figure understates the actual investment of citizen time; although we remind appointees to submit their hours monthly, many do not do so. As noted elsewhere in this report, 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. This year's level of effort continues a multi-year trend of great enthusiasm and engagement by the residents working on ATAC:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Increase</u>
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2025	1,948	Sustained Participation
2024	2,017	+ 547 hours
2023	1,470	+ 512 hours
2022	958	+ 486 hours
2021	472	(COVID-constrained)

The standard attendance reports for calendar year 2024 and six months of 2025 are attached. They include the names of all persons currently and previously serving on the committee as appointees and as liaisons during any portion of FY 2025.

Goals and Objectives for the Coming Year

City Council's mission for ATAC focuses on implementing the 2021 Active Transportation Plan (ATP). Each of the items listed below as part of ATAC's workplan for the coming year are identified within the Goals section of the ATP, furthering its implementation:

1. **VB Trail.** Continue advancing the ATP's top priority, creating the Virginia Beach Trail
2. **Collaboration, Engagement & Education.** Continue collaborating with others engaged in ATP implementation, including appointive agencies, City departments, elected officials, non-profit agencies, schools, businesses, and the public; continue attendance & input gathering at public meetings; continue providing presentations, site tours, and other forms of education. These efforts align with multiple ATP Goals and ATAC's Council-assigned mission. Also, work to update public-facing active transportation content on the City's website, per ATP Goal #4, Technology.
3. **Funding - Trail Maintenance and TAP Grants.** Inform and advise in support of re-aligning maintenance funding with current infrastructure and costs in the City's FY26 Resource Plan per ATP Goal #2, Safety, and advise on a VB Trail TAP grant application in the next biannual cycle per ATP Goal #1, Connectivity and per Council's mission statement on funding sources.
4. **ITA Implementation Plan.** Support the Plan and subsequent projects in the Comprehensive Plan Update and FY26 CIP.
5. **Comprehensive Plan Update.** Actively contribute to the City's Comprehensive Plan update per ATP Goal #1 and advise the Planning Commission and/or City Council on the draft.
6. **Design Standards.** Assist Staff with updating the [Public Works Design Standards Manual Appendix F](#) (Bicycle Facilities) and related sections, which is based on the City's superseded 2011 Bikeways and Trails Plan. This project was identified by City staff in 2019 but delayed due to repeated staff turnover and the pandemic. It is now actively underway. It is listed under Goals #1 and #4 of the ATP approved by City Council, and it includes incorporation of the ATP's Design Guidelines.
7. **Public Maps & Signage.** Assist with completing Phase III of the City's bikeways & trails mapping project for the public, including proposals for updating on-street bikeway signage per Active Transportation Plan Goal #3, Economic Vitality.
8. **R.A.M.P., Rudee Park & Shore Drive.** Continue support and participation to implement the Resort Area Mobility Plan, planning for the development of Rudee Park that includes the East Coast terminus of the Trans-America Trail and updating the Shore Drive Corridor Study. These key projects and focus areas align with multiple ATP Goals.
9. **Events.** In conjunction with VBCPS and VBPd plan the City's first-ever Fall Bike/Walk/Roll To School Day events. Help plan & promote the 2025 Holiday Lights Ride as the largest annual bicycling event in the City, followed by the second annual First Day Hike on the Boardwalk January 1, 2026. Plan and execute Virginia Crossing Guard Appreciation Day 2026 and coordinate Bike Month 2026 events. These events support ATP Goals #2 Safety, #3 Economic Vitality, and #5 Health.

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.

State Legislative Recommendations -

1. Road Safety Automated Enforcement Bills. ATAC appreciates that City Council adopted our policy recommendation into last year's legislative agenda and recommends its continuation until the State expands local authority to implement road safety camera enforcement tools. The Virginia Bicycling Federation supports increased camera enforcement tools for the safety of all roadway users, especially vulnerable bicyclists, and ATAC assisted the Legislative Director in his work on this aspect of Council's legislative agenda. ATAC recommends Council continue seeking authority from the State Legislature for the tools needed to implement prioritized initiatives identified in the Local Road Safety Action Plan.
2. Micromobility Safety & User Education Bills. ATAC met on August 11, 2025, and approved a policy recommendation related to micromobility (E-Bikes, Scooters, etc.) that ATAC believes is important to participate in statewide legislative solutions to increased problems related to the widespread adoption of these devices. The wording was jointly adopted by a working group convened by Parks & Recreation staff with representatives from VBPD, City Communications, ATAC, RAC, and Public Works: *The City of Virginia Beach supports efforts to promote micromobility options while also improving safety and user education related to e-bikes.*

Funding Recommendations -

3. Virginia Beach Trail – Local Funding Component (CIP PG100644). Tremendous progress has been made in funding this transformative project that will span the entire City. While 2/3 (8 miles) of the future VB Trail now exists or has funding, 1/3 (4.6 miles) does not. The \$1.3T Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is entering its final funding years, signaling a limited number of remaining chances to repatriate federal taxes for local benefit through the largest active transportation grants in a generation. The VB Trail project has successfully competed for federal and state funds, with additional scoring potential now that the remaining phases will connect to earlier segments. The VB Trail is the top priority in the Active Transportation Plan adopted by Council in 2021, and a designated Major Project. ATAC renews its recommendation in support of continuing to seek Federal & State funding for the 4.6 mile gap to complete the VB Trail, including appropriating local matching funds as needed to leverage benefits for the public.
4. Funding for Maintenance of Existing Facilities (CIP PG100040). Maintenance funding for the City's bikeways and trails has remained unchanged since 2014/15 despite significant inflation, increased facility ages, and growth of the network's size. A situation has already occurred where rebuilding a single pathway segment less than one-half mile long consumed three years' appropriations of the entire maintenance budget intended for all trails in the City. Aging wood structures, such as the bridges on the General Booth Blvd shared use path, will also require disproportionately expensive maintenance work. VDOT maintenance funding, while extremely helpful for road-adjacent amenities, is not available for greenways unrelated to roads. ATAC again renews its longstanding recommendation for a significant increase in maintenance funding to regain the purchasing power lost over more than a decade and to adjust for additional trail mileage, in keeping with the City's budget goal of prioritizing preservation of existing taxpayer-funded assets.

5. Be Open to Opportunities to Secure VB Trail Parking Sites. Users of the VB Trail will not all begin their journey at one end or the other. To fulfill the full potential of access and benefits of the project, selected sites along the Trail's 12.6 mile will be needed for user parking. Such facilities may be created on strategic portions of City-owned land along the trail in the right of way, through partnerships, contracts, opportunistic land acquisition, or other mechanisms. ATAC recommends that Parks and Recreation identify likely areas of need and share them with other Departments as well as with the Open Space Advisory Committee.
6. Sustain Current Local Connector Path Funding (CIP PG100119). ATAC commends and thanks Council for sustaining the 2024/25 funding level for this CIP. The most recent statistically-validated surveys of residents' priorities commissioned by Parks & Recreation continue to show various types of bikeways and trails hold 3 of the 4 top positions, as they have for over a decade. The Parks needs and equity analysis study recently briefed to Council also indicates a substantial deficiency in bikeways and trails compared to other similar cities, as well as equitable distribution concerns in certain areas within Virginia Beach. The CIP funding has helped to finally complete long-delayed local connector paths shown in the ATP and approved by City Council as far back as 2016, putting the City back on track to begin competing for TAP grants again. These funds will also allow the City to begin updating its on-street bikeway signage. ATAC recommends sustaining the funding level in the current CIP, with consideration given to future inflationary adjustments.
7. Sustain TSI Funding and Ensure Stakeholder Input on TSI Project Prioritization. The Traffic Safety Improvements (CIP PG100423) enables Public Works to quickly execute prioritized safety projects costing less than \$250,000. TSI is funded from several sources, and priorities are established with input from Public Works, Parks & Recreation, VBPD, VBCPS, ATAC and others. This is one of the City's most responsive programs for addressing safety issues impacting pedestrians, bicyclists, vehicles, and other road system users. With adoption of the Comprehensive Local Road Safety Action Plan these funds can also be targeted toward educational efforts, fulfilling goals approved by Council in the ATP and the RAMP. ATAC supports Public Works' TSI funding requests and looks forward to ongoing input on priorities.
8. Maximizing Grant Funding Prospects for Bike/Pedestrian Projects
 - Continuing applying to major federal BIL grant opportunities while they last, because they represent the best opportunity to obtain funding for the VB Trail,
 - Restoring the City's competitive potential in the TAP grant program by completing all remaining backlogged TAP-funded projects as soon as possible,
 - Continuing efforts by the Legislative Director's Office toward education and securing funding from grant-makers, including State officials, for these popular investments,
 - Fully supporting the Public Works Engineering Support Office as they continue identifying and applying for new grant programs. This office continues to make projects possible that local funding alone cannot pay for.

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@vb.gov, 757-385-4310).



ATAC and Liaisons 2025 – (Left to Right) – Dan Edwards (Liaison) | Walter Camp (Past Chair) | Bryan Hickman (Chair) | Chris Williams | Melissa Chang (Student) | Alison Allred | Ed Hazelwood | Cathie Seebauer | Kathryn Byler (Liaison) | Rob Lindauer | Mike Nerino

Not Pictured – Jennifer Rouse (Council Member Liaison) | Steve Lambert (Staff Liaison) | Trina Harrell (Staff Liaison) | Ysabel Wells (Student) | David Plum



**May Bike Month 2025
Proclamation at City Council – Honoring Past ATAC Chairs and Members
Bike, Walk, Roll to School Events**



Three Oaks Trail Dedication



ATAC Site Tour on VB Trail Phase 1



London Bridge Road Bike path Clean Up Event



Kayak Rental Kiosk at Munden Point Park



City of Virginia Beach
Active Transportation Advisory Committee
2024 Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 8 th	Feb 12 th	Mar 11 th	Apr 8 th	May 13 th	Jun 10 th	Jul 8 th	Aug 12 th	Sept 9 th	Oct 14 th	Nov 18 th	Dec 9 th	Total Present
Camp, Walter T.	6/30/2027	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	10/10
Hickman, Bryan	12/31/2025	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	10/10
Allred, Alison	7/31/2026	P	P	P/V	P	N/A	A	P	P	P	P/V	P	C	9/10
Grier, Robin	11/30/2024	P/V	A	A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	1/4
Hazelwood, Edward B.	11/30/2027	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	A	P/V	P	E	C	4/6
Horton, Mark	6/30/2025	P	P/V	P	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	3/4
Lindauer, Rob	6/30/2027	P	P	P/V	P	N/A	P	A	A	P	P	P	C	8/10
Nerino, Michael	6/30/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	6/6
Plum, David	6/30/2025	P	P	P	P	N/A	P	P	A	P	A	P	C	8/10
Robert, James	6/30/2024	A	P	E	P	N/A	A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	2/5
Seebauer, Catherine	8/31/2027	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	P	P	P	C	3/3
Williams, Christopher	9/30/2025	A	P	P/V	P/V	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	9/10
Chang, Melissa Yae Lin Student Member	6/30/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	E	P	P	P	P	C	4/5
Wells, Ysabel S. Student Member	6/30/2025	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	E	P	A	P	P	C	3/5
Pearson, Yeadley Student Member	6/30/2024	P	E	P	P	N/A	E	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	3/5

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 8 th	Feb 12 th	Mar 11 th	Apr 8 th	May 13 th	Jun 10 th	Jul 8 th	Aug 12 th	Sept 9 th	Oct 14 th	Nov 18 th	Dec 9 th	Total Present
Wilson, Kamar Student Member	6/30/2024	A	P	E	P	N/A	P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	C	3/5
Council Member Liaison Jennifer Rouse	6/30/2027	A	A	P	E	N/A	E	A	P	E	A	E	C	2/10
Planning Commission Liaison Kathryn Byler	4/30/2026	N/A	P	A	P	N/A	P	P	P	A	P	A	C	6/9
P&R Commission Liaison Dan Edwards	8/31/2027	P	P	P	A	N/A	P	P	P	P	P	P	C	9/10
Total Present		7/9	8/9	7/9	7/9	N/A	7/9	7/8	5/8	9/9	8/9	8/9		
Staff Liaison Steve Lambert	N/A	P	P	P		N/A	P	P		P	P	P	C	8
Staff Liaison Trina Harrell	N/A	P	P	P	P	N/A	P		P	P	P	P	C	9

Key: Present (P) Present/ Virtually (P/ V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Cancelled (C)

City Council and Staff Liaisons should be marked either P or P/ V, if not in attendance, the block should be blank

If Commissioners participate P/ V, it must be annotated in the Minutes where they remotely participated from and the reason – does not apply to City Council or Staff Liaisons.

Meetings lacking a quorum of Members attending in-person should be designated with an asterisk (*)

City of Virginia Beach
Active Transportation Advisory Committee
January – December 2025 Attendance Record

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 13 th	Feb 10 th	Mar 10 th	Apr 7 th	Apr 23 rd *	Jun 9 th	Jul 14 th	Aug 11 th	Sept 8 th	Oct 13 th	Nov 17 th	Dec 8 th	Total Present
Allred, Alison	7/31/2026	P	P	P	P		P							5/5
Camp, Walter T.	6/30/2027	P	P	P	P	P	P							5/5
Hazelwood, Edward B.	11/30/2027	P	A	A	P		P							3/5
Hickman, Bryan	12/31/2025	P	P	P	P	P	P							5/5
Lindauer, Rob	6/30/2027	P	P/V	P	P	P	P							5/5
McMahon, Sally	6/30/2028	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							n/a
Nerino, Michael	6/30/2025	P	P	P	P		P							5/5
Plum, David	6/30/2025	P	A	P	A		P	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/5
Seebauer, Catherine	8/31/2027	P	P	P	P	P	P							5/5
Williams, Christopher	9/30/2025	P	P/V	P	E	P	P		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4/5
Chang, Melissa Yae Lin Student Member	6/30/2025	P	P	E	P		P							4/5
Knightes, Collin Student Member	6/30/2026	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A							n/a
Wells, Ysabel S. Student Member	6/30/2025	P	P	P	P		E	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4/5
Total Present		9/9	7/9	8/9	7/9	5 Tour	9/9							

Name	Term Expires on:	Jan 13 th	Feb 10 th	Mar 10 th	Apr 7 th	Apr 23 rd *	Jun 9 th	Jul 14 th	Aug 11 th	Sept 8 th	Oct 13 th	Nov 17 th	Dec 8 th	Total Present
Council Member Liaison Jennifer Rouse	N/ A													
Staff Liaison Steve Lambert	N/ A	P	P	P	P	P								4
Staff Liaison Trina Harrell	N/ A	P	P	P	P		P							5

Key: Present (P) Present/ Virtually (P/ V) Absent (A) Resigned (R) Excused Absence (E) Cancelled (C)

City Council and Staff Liaisons should be marked either P or P/ V, if not in attendance, the block should be blank

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- April 23rd - Tour of VB Trail Phase I – attendance not required or counted towards meeting totals.