



MEETING MINUTES

DATE September 8, 2025, at 3:30pm

LOCATION Building 19, 2416 Courthouse Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456

Members Present: Bryan Hickman (Chair), Ali Allred, Walter Camp, Ed Hazelwood, Rob Lindauer, Sally McMahon, Mike Nerino, Chris Williams, Melissa Chang (Student Member), and Collin Knightes (Student Member).

Members Absent: Cathie Seebauer

Liaisons Present: Kathryn Byler (Planning Commission) and Dan Edwards (P&R Commission)

City Staff Present: Kenneth Chandler, Michael Kirschman, Chad Morris, Steve Lambert, Trina Harrell, Sgt. Brian Mileski, Bill Kelly, and Brooks Hierstein

Guests Present: Ron Kaufman (VBPRF)

1. WELCOME & ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Chair Bryan Hickman called the meeting to order at 3:30pm and welcomed all present. Recorder Trina Harrell called the roll.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AUGUST 11, 2025

- ✓ August 11, 2025. Upon motion by Bryan Hickman, seconded by Ali Allred, the minutes of the August 11, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved, noting one update.

3. PRESENTATION:

- a. Parks and Recreation – Funding FY27 Requests – Chad Morris and Steve Lambert
Mr. Chad Morris reviewed three CIP projects that are within target and directly related to funding active transportation.
 - ✓ CIP 100119 Bikeways and Trail Implementation funds the construction of improvements to the active mobility network identified in the City Active Transportation Plan.
 - ✓ CIP 100040 Bikeways and Trails Repair/Renovations funds capital maintenance of the bikeways and trails system including repaving and repair of shared-use paths and wide sidewalks. Staff will request an additional \$420K per year above the planned appropriation of \$280K.
 - ✓ CIP 100198 Greenways, Scenic Waterways and Natural Areas funds the public access recreational network of greenways and blueways, outlined in the Virginia Beach Outdoors Plan.
- b. Comprehensive Plan Update – Walter Camp
Mr. Walter Camp gave a brief overview of the new layout of the draft Comprehensive Plan and provided a quick tutorial on how to access the draft plan online. Active Transportation, specifically linear parks and multimodal corridors is incorporated in several of the “Big Ideas”

which are investments and initiatives that will help the City achieve its goals. There are several points throughout the plan that refer to the Active Transportation Plan (AT Plan). Mr. Camp reviewed the draft 2040 Master Transportation Plan, which includes a 14-page section dedicated to active transportation and ATAC. This reiterates how other City documents are built around existing plans such as the AT Plan. Mr. Camp encouraged everyone to read the companion document, Master Transportation Plan, review the draft Comprehensive Plan, and attend the open houses to submit individual comments.

c. ITA Update- Walter Camp

The plan was discussed at the City Council Retreat on August 26th & 27th, but a final decision and direction were not provided. All three options for development/use in the ITA are being reviewed: Sports Tourism Initiative - ITA Master Plan developed by Parks and Recreation; Law Enforcement Training Academy (LETA); and Virginia Beach Development Authority's proposal to expand Innovation Park.

4. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Annual Report FY25 Submitted. Chair Hickman thanked everyone for their input and review of the Annual Report, which was submitted on Sunday, August 31st, 2025.
- b. E-Bike Solution and Safety Working Group. Mr. Steve Lambert advised the Fire Department and a local business have been added to the group. They are creating solutions for the entire City, not just the oceanfront area. Final review of the brochure by the City Attorney's Office, Police Department and Central Communications is complete and is expected to be printed this week. The brochure will include where e-bikes are allowed to ride, parkfinder trails map, etiquette rules of the road, and how to file a complaint. Central Communications Office is generating public service announcements (PSA) for three populations of users. Sharing the message with teenagers and their parents is imperative so Mr. Lambert will send a draft PSA to the student members for their input. Trail etiquette signs (citywide and resort area) are also planned to help educate the public. As an experienced announcer, Mr. Ed Hazelwood volunteered to assist as needed. Mr. Lambert thanked him for offering and will share his contact information with Central Communications.

5. REPORTS

- ✓ Virginia Beach Trail, Other New Greenways, & Maintenance CIP Updates
 - a. Virginia Beach Trail
 - Phase I (Newtown Rd to Town Center to S. Plaza Trail). Still at 60% design. There is potential this will be a design/build or progressive design/build contract. Economic Feasibility Study has been completed and will be available for review once it is ADA compatible. The City will be applying for a TAP Grant for Phase I.
 - Phase II – Still anticipating a status update late fall/winter for the SS4A grant submitted a month ago.
 - Phase III – Potentially including this phase in the SmartScale request in 2027.
 - Phase IV (London Bridge to Birdneck Rd). No change. Design will start in 2027, and construction is expected 2031-2032.
 - b. Rudee Park
 - Mr. Michael Kirschman and Mr. Chad Morris gave an update on Rudee Park to City Council on August 19th, and the project is moving forward.
 - c. Other Greenways in Design or Construction
 - Harris Road – Repair work is expected this fall/winter.
 - Thalia Creek Greenway Phase III. Completion is expected late fall.
 - Violet Bank – Project is out to bid and closes on September 30th.
 - Eco-Counters – Mr. Lambert reminded the members the City purchased two counters to track usage of the trails, analyzing the volume by time of day and day of the week. He shared the first report, FoxFire Trail, which lasted two and a half weeks and documented 21% of users are cyclists and the remaining 79% are walkers. This shows significant pedestrian and bicyclist activity, especially on the weekends. The counters are currently at Three Oaks and Cape Henry Trail but will be relocated to different locations throughout the City to obtain much needed data. Mr. Lambert

reviewed the software and its capabilities, noting how artificial intelligence identifies pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles thereby validating the data. Additional counters will be purchased soon and will be utilized on the VB Trail. Other nearby cities use the counters as well and the data will be shared with VDOT.

✓ **Liaisons**

- City Council – In Councilmember Rouse’s absence, Mr. Walter Camp provided the following update. City Council, especially Vice Mayor Wilson, has mentioned the issue with e-bike usage throughout the City and is interested in the Task Force recommendations when released. The 2026 draft Legislative Agenda will be presented to City Council at the September 23rd meeting and will include State Legislative recommendations in [ATAC’s Annual Report](#) for the Road Safety Automated Enforcement Bills and Micromobility Safety and Users Education Bills that were endorsed by Councilmember Rouse.
- Planning Commission – Ms. Kathryn Byler discussed items seven and eight (VB Trail area), 17 and 18 (Cleveland Road area), and 21 (ITA area) included on the [September 10th Planning Commission Agenda](#) that are in direct conflict with many plans but are recommended for approval. She asked members for their input. Mr. Walter Camp reviewed agenda item 14 located at 2008 Hudome Way proposing to remove the right of way (ROW) reserved for the former Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt (SEPG), which is in direct conflict with the draft Comprehensive Plan received in August. Existing and proposed Comprehensive Plans support a continuous trail in this area. Both the Active Transportation Plan and the Innovation Park design guidelines support a continuous trail in this area as well. Following a presentation to the TA/ITA, a letter was sent not supporting this agenda item since it is in direct conflict with all other documents approved by Council. ATAC members were encouraged to share their concerns, as citizens, with their respective Planning Commissioners, and, upon ATAC’s approval, submit a formal letter from the Committee to City Council. Agenda item 21 will amend the Master Transportation Plan to remove a portion of the Southeastern Parkway and Greenbelt mentioned above. Mr. Rob Lindauer motioned to send a letter to the Planning Commission not supporting the removal of a portion of the SEPG between Princess Anne Road and Hudome Way. Mr. Ed Hazelwood seconded the motion, and Mr. Camp suggested requesting what would be provided if the ROW is removed. All agreed and the revised motion passed, with Mr. Camp abstaining. Mr. Camp reminded members of the upcoming open houses scheduled for September 17th and 18th when Comprehensive Planning staff and the consultant will share the draft and answer questions.
- Parks & Recreation Commission – Primary discussion was regarding the e-bike task force.
- Chair Hickman shared pictures sent to the members today via email regarding a crosswalk at the southwest corner of Columbus Street and Independence Boulevard without a walk signal. This was discovered on a walking tour of the future VB Trail Phase I. Chair Hickman motioned to send a letter requesting a walk signal be installed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Williams, and passed unanimously.

✓ **ATAC Students**

- Both Ms. Melissa Chang and Mr. Collin Knightes stated they would share the draft PSA/video with coworkers and classmates and will provide feedback.

✓ **Bayfront Advisory Commission (BAC)**

- No update.

✓ **Resort Advisory Commission Transportation Parking Ped Committee (TPPC)**

- There was a presentation on the Virginia Beach Resort Area Pedicab Pilot Program Proposal and the TPPC approved sending a letter of support. The Winston Salem Improvement – Phase I project is almost complete. The 17th Street temporary parking, and the Atlantic Park Dome and Surf Park are open. The double-decker bike racks were ordered but have not been received yet. Following Mr. Lambert’s presentation, the TPPC approved sending a letter of support to improve e-bike safety. Mediterranean Avenue received new sharrows and striping to signify sharing the lane.

In collaboration with Cook Elementary, artwork will be part of the new traffic calming curbs on Mediterranean Avenue. The City is in the final stages of updating the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and there are concerns boards/commissions/committees do not have sufficient time to review, meet, and provide meaningful input by the deadlines.

d. **ATAC Member Reports**

- i. Elizabeth River Trail (ERT) Foundation – Ms. Ali Allred advised ERT was awarded its first National Park Service grant for \$150K, which will fund the [Truth-Be-Told Audio Storytelling](#) Project on the ERT. The September 13th kickoff will coincide with Black Storytelling Week, and a Boombox Bike Ride led by DJ Bee along a special route highlighting the trail where the first four stories occur. There will be a total of twelve stories connecting local contemporary history to some of the trail's sights.
- ii. Chair Hickman, Mr. Walter Camp, and Mr. Steve Lambert were invited to speak at the Kings Grant Civic League on October 16th at 7pm regarding the VB Trail and bikeways and trails in general and at the US Naval Academy Alumni Association Meeting in January.

e. **Staff & Other Liaisons**

- i. No report

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. National Bike, Walk, Roll to School – Mr. Lambert is working with school officials to assist in their upcoming event on October 8th, 2025.

7. CLOSING COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE

- a. Mr. Chris Williams' term ends September 30th and he is not renewing his term due to time constraints, but he thanked the committee for their hard work over the last several years. Mr. Camp thanked Mr. Williams for his time invested in the committee, dedication to ATAC initiatives, and wished him well in the future.
- b. Mr. Steve Lambert advised members of the public meeting on Sept 11th, 5:00pm – 7:00pm at John B. Dey Elementary School for the planned HAWK signal at the Cape Henry Trail/Great Neck Road area.

8. NOTE UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS, ADJOURN

- 9/11/2025 – Cape Henry Trail Hawk Signal Public Meeting, 5pm-7pm, John B. Dey
- 9/17/2025 – Comprehensive Plan Open House, 6pm, Convention Center
- 9/18/2025 – Comprehensive Plan Open House, 6pm, Building 19
- 10/8/2025 – National Bike-Walk-Roll to School Day
- 10/13/2025 – ATAC Monthly Meeting
- 11/17/2025 – ATAC Monthly Meeting
- 12/8/2025 – ATAC Monthly Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

Bryan Hickman, Chair

Trina Harrell, Recorder

Distribution:

- Mayor and City Council
- Patrick Duhaney, City Manager
- Kenneth Chandler, Deputy City Manager
- Amanda Jarratt, Deputy City Manager
- Active Transportation Advisory Committee

- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Open Space Advisory Committee
- Resort Advisory Commission, TPPC
- Transition Area/Interfacility Traffic Area Citizens Advisory Committee
- Michael Kirschman, Parks and Recreation Director
- Shirley Deibler, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director
- L.J. Hansen, Public Works Director
- Toni Utterback, Public Works, City Engineer
- David Jarman, Public Works
- William Morgan, Public Works
- Ric Lowman, Public Works
- Mike Shahsiah, Public Works
- Kathy Warren, Planning Director
- Carrie Bookholt, Planning Deputy Director
- Hank Morrison, Planning
- Lt. Bill Chisholm, Virginia Beach Police Department
- Lei Dunn, Virginia Beach City Public Schools
- Parks & Recreation Dept. – Planning, Design and Development
- Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Foundation