

Agenda Item 3

Submitted Public Comments

Supplemental Information

Transportation Technical
Advisory Committee (TTAC)
July 2, 2014



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**HRTPO Public Comment**  
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RE: Bike and Pedestrian Commuters

Name: Mr. Pat Benish
Date: June 25, 2014
Subject: Bike and Pedestrian Commuters

Public Comment Input (Via E-Mail):

I am not an engineer. However, I was recently made aware of how to get my ideas in front of people who do our planning. This is why I have submitted a suggestion to for a Mount Trashmore flyover of I-264 to route bike and pedestrian commuters away from the Independence Blvd crossing of I-264. Perhaps this has already been proposed, as it seems to be an ideal way to connect the two areas for bike and foot traffic.

I am a resident of Chesapeake who works in the Town Center Virginia Beach area. I have run and rode all over our area. This has provided me a broad perspective of bike and pedestrian commuters. I interact with them daily. I have adapted to our environment. However, I recognized our need for continued focus on more than roadways. Rather, as we grow into an urban area, pathways are much more than roads. If we are not careful to project our needs 50 to 100 years from now, our current major project improvements will become major obstacles. I find it incredible that we would build any major crossing without considering these needs. Daily I find examples of failed planning which reveal how difficult a task we face.

To see the issue first hand, try this simple exercise. Go from the fountain at Town Center Virginia Beach to the Michael's across Virginia Beach Blvd. I recommend you first walk there and back, then try an automobile. If you want the advanced exercise go from Tripps's to Mount Trashmore YMCA. That is really interesting and will make my point for the need of the above project. For safety reasons, use your car but notice the foot pathways that do not exist. You may even notice people transiting as you drive.

If we wish to promote alternative transportation options for all the benefits of such options, we must cause a change in commuter behavior. Thus, we must consider what influences behavioral change in transportation. My view, which I am quick to point out is opinion based and not supported by any multimillion dollar study. People like to feel in control and will generally prefer personal transport over mass transport. People value transportation that saves resources like time and money. Lastly, they must feel safe.

As you consider improvements for our region, please remember that the primary mode of transport for most is our own two feet. A growing population use the mechanical advantage provided by bicycles to get from place to place when it is safe and saves resources. Please stop the practice of building infrastructure where the only transport option is the automobile, light rail or a bus. Thank you for your time and service to our region.