

GROVE UPDATE

1 July 2021



REPORT TO THE TOWN ON Actions Taken by the Town Council in Response to the Shared Use Path Petition

AND

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS to Serve on the Shared Use Path Connection Taskforce

The Washington Grove Town Council held a Special Town Council Meeting on June 30, 2021 where they considered action in response to the Shared Use Bike Path Petition.

The Town Council, acting on the Shared Use Bike Path Petition adopted the following 5 actions. **The complete motion with the petition is attached to this email.**

- I. The Mayor will establish a Task Force to examine potential shared use path connections to the Town of Washington Grove.

A. The Task Force Mission

The Task Force will evaluate options for shared use path connections to the Town and will present its findings in a report to the Town Council and to Town residents. Study of the options by the Task Force should include fact-based evaluation of short-term and long-term effects on the Town of each potential connection using criteria such as:

1. Overall safety
2. Impacts on specific areas of the Town
3. Environmental and historic impact
4. Legal implications of the Town's responsibilities regarding maintenance and liability
5. Ease of access to Metro by Town and neighboring communities
6. Recreational value of a shared use path
7. Social equity implications
8. Potential impact mitigations needed for each connection
9. Projections of 10 year use from MCDOT or other sources for this shared use path connection, considering all available data for similar shared use paths.

B. Task Force Actions

The Task Force will consist of nine members proposed at the July 12, 2021 Town Council meeting by the Mayor with Town Council concurrence. It will:

1. Hold an organizing meeting.
2. Share information with residents about steps that have been taken thus far in the connection planning process.
3. Conduct open meetings to accept input from Town residents
4. Consider all relevant issues
5. Present findings to the Town Council at the Town Council's November 8, 2021 meeting or at a Special Town Council meeting scheduled for presentation of their report.

II. A Special Town Meeting will be scheduled within 60 days of presentation of the Task Force report to the Council. The purpose of the meeting is for the Task Force to present its findings to the Town.

III. The Town Council commits to taking a vote on a shared use path option at a date after the Town Meeting during which the Task Force presents its findings to the Town.

IV. Upon passage, the Mayor will inform the County in writing of this Motion and the process the Town is proceeding with.

V. It is the position of the Town Council that the passage of this motion, in whole or in part, constitutes "act[ing] favorably" under Town Charter section 15(c).

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS!!

The Mayor and Town Council welcome volunteers to serve on the Shared Use Path Connection Taskforce. You may review the charge to this committee above where the *Task Force Mission* and the *Task Force Actions* are described.

Please note you will be committing to complete the work of the Task Force and present the findings to the Town Council within 4 months of starting work (before the November 8, 2021 Town Council meeting).

Interested individuals should contact Mayor John Compton at 240-432-5700 or johncompton@me.com. If so inclined, it will be helpful if you provide a brief statement of your specific interest in the shared use path *connection* issue, and your commitment to the mission of the Task Force.

The Mayor, with concurrence of the Town Council, expects to appoint 9 town residents to the Shared Use Path Connection Taskforce at the July 12th Town Council meeting.