



## Waynesboro City Council Agenda Briefing

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	September 9, 2019	<b>Staff/Council Member(s):</b> D. James Shaw II, Deputy City Manager/ Dwayne Jones Director of Parks and Recreation
<b>Agenda Item #</b>	11	
<b>Resolution#</b>		
<b>Department:</b>	Waynesboro Department of Parks and Recreation	
<b>Subject:</b>	Summary of Greenway Phase 3 – Public Meeting	

**Background:** In January of 2018, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) executed an Administrative Agreement for a Transportation Alternative (TA) project which awarded the City \$1,092,000. This award is intended for the design, engineering, and construction of an extension of the South River Greenway from Loth Springs to Ridgeview Park. The funding source does not require a City match. Any additional cost in excess of \$1,092,000, however, would be borne entirely by the City.

The City has hosted a number of public forums to consider the specific route for this section of the greenway. The most recent occurred on June 19, 2019. At the meeting, five alternative routes were presented for consideration. One route follows the river from the vicinity of Arch Avenue to Ridgeview Park (the “Blue Route”) and another route follows 14<sup>th</sup> Street (the “Red Route”). Three routes (the “Orange, Yellow and Green Routes”) are interior to the Tree Streets lying between 14<sup>th</sup> Street and the South River. The public was asked to provide comment and a survey has been conducted to assess route preference.

112 citizens responded to the route preference survey. 54 respondents identify themselves as living in the Tree Streets Historic District and 58 identify themselves as living outside the district. The strongest preference (46 total votes) was expressed for the Red Route (14<sup>th</sup> Street). 17 respondents identified this as their least preferred route. The Blue Route (the River) was identified as the preferred route by 41 respondents. Support for the interior routes (the “Orange, Yellow and Green Routes”) as a preferred route was quite weak. 6 respondents most prefer the Green Route, none prefer the Yellow or Orange Route.

While a number of individuals express the desire to keep the greenway along the riverbank, it is not a realistic option within the constraint of current funding. The topography is quite steep along portions of the river which would necessitate exceptional earthwork and the installation of retaining walls and/or elevated walkways. In addition, private landownership property rights would complicate the feasibility of the project as would potential environmental permitting. It is not certain that for those respondents who selected the Blue (river) Route as the preferred route what route they selected as their second choice, although, a fair number of total respondents (17) selected the Red Route as their second most preferred route.

**City Manager’s Recommendation:** The City entered into a grant agreement to pursue this project more than a year and a half ago and little real progress has been made in its pursuit primarily due to public disagreement about the route location. The City could certainly abandon the project altogether. It seems, however, that a worthwhile project can be pursued and there is sufficient support to install pedestrian and bicycle improvements along 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

Every design project calls for balancing and, generally, compromise and this project will be no different. Absent specific direction otherwise from the City Council, the City staff will initiate the design of bicycle and pedestrian improvements along 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Suggested Motion(s):** N/A

**Attachments:** Summary sheet of findings

## South River Greenway Trail - Phase III

UPC#: 111425

### Summary Results of Public Input Meeting, held June 19, 2019

Total Number of Respondents	112
Number Living in Historic District	54
Number Living outside Historic District	58

Trail Use					
Daily	Regularly	Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never
9	27	34	20	11	8
8%	25%	31%	18%	10%	7%

*Regularly*   several times a week  
*Often*   a few times a month  
*Occasionally*   once every few months  
*Seldom*   a couple times a year

Rank Preference	Route				
	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
1	46	0	0	6	41
2	17	5	5	26	14
3	4	17	19	17	1
4	0	23	21	3	6
5	21	15	16	11	13

# GREENWAY TRAIL PHASE III

## Proposed Route Options



Not To Scale