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# Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation

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VDOT is committed to accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians, including pedestrians with disabilities, along with motorized transportation modes in the planning, funding, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of Virginia's transportation network to achieve a safe, effective, and balanced multimodal transportation system.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations states that VDOT will initiate all projects with the presumption that the projects shall accommodate bicycling and walking. Project development for bicycle and pedestrian accommodations will follow VDOT's project development process and concurrent engineering process. VDOT will encourage the participation of localities in concurrent engineering activities that guide the project development. All projects funded by VDOT or on VDOT right of way must follow the Commonwealth Transportation Board Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations. Local and regional bicycle and pedestrian plans will be the primary resource for project managers and the starting point for discussions with localities regarding what bicycle and/or pedestrian accommodations are desired

Through the project scoping process, which determines what the project will include, the project manager and local representatives will develop a recommendation on how and whether to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in a project prior to the public hearing. Following scoping, the local government must submit a letter of agreement or disagreement with the recommendation. After the public hearing, public involvement comments will be reviewed and incorporated into project development prior to the preparation of the design approval recommendation. In the event that the locality disagrees with the bicycle and pedestrian design features as proposed, the District Administrator will meet with the locality and make a decision regarding the final direction for the project. Formal appeals by the locality of decisions made by the District Administrator will be made to the Chief Engineer by means of a resolution adopted by the local governing body. The resolution must be submitted to the District Administrator to be reviewed and considered prior to the submission of the design approval recommendation to the Chief Engineer. Local resolutions must be forwarded to the Chief Engineer for consideration during the project design approval or to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for consideration during location and design approval, if needed for a project. The resolution and supporting information related to the recommendation must be included in the project documentation. The decisions made by VDOT and localities for the provision of bicycle and pedestrian travel must be consistent with state and federal laws regarding accommodations and access for bicycling and walking.

As indicated in the Secondary Street Acceptance Requirements, any new subdivision street should ensure the design accommodates anticipated pedestrian and bicycle traffic. If separate facilities are deemed appropriate, they should be included in the initial construction, prior to VDOT acceptance. VDOT will accept the maintenance of sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and shared use paths located within the dedicated right of way when their construction is in compliance with the criteria and standards set out in VDOT's Road Design Manual. Any sidewalks, bicycle facilities or shared use paths located on the right of way but not constructed to VDOT standards may be allowed under a land use permit.