

Rides, local cycling news and more!



Tidewater Bicycle Association

April-May 2017 Newsletter

May is Bike Month!

Good weather has finally arrived and with it lots of bike related events going on all over our area. Check your city website for details.

Be sure to tune up your bike, review your safety skills and understanding of bicycle traffic laws, build the base miles and most of all head out and enjoy the rides!

One event not to miss: Virginia Beach's **Bike to Work Day and Ride with the Mayor** on Friday, May 12th, 8 am at Princess Anne Recreation Center. Come out for an easy paced ride with Mayor Will Sessoms, traveling from the rec. center to City Hall.

Last Chance to Register for Knotts Island Century

The registration deadline for this year's Knotts Island Century ride is Wednesday, May 3rd. For more information and to sign up click [here](#). We hope to see you there!

2017 State Legislative Accomplishments

This year's primary bicycle related objective was to work getting a bill passed that removes penalties to localities for performing "road diets," i.e. converting under utilized roadway travel lanes to bicycle lanes. As things stood, localities took a reduction in their state highway maintenance funds when performing road diets, a significant disincentive for doing so.

The bill that was crafted and passed is [HB 2023](#), sponsored by Del. Ron Villanueva (R, VA-21) of Virginia Beach. It has been signed by the governor and becomes effective on July 1st.

In addition to **Del. Villanueva**, others who were instrumental in getting this passed include Virginia Beach City Council member **Rosemary Wilson**, Virginia Beach bike planner **Wayne Wilcox**, TBA's advocacy director **Kim Whitley**, and Virginia Bicycling Federation's **Bud Vye** and **Champe Burnley**. And not to forget to mention the many other Virginia localities, organizations and individuals who got behind the bill and helped to make it a reality.

Great work everyone, and thank you!

Suffolk Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The City of Suffolk is undertaking it's first bicycle and pedestrian master plan. The first public meeting was held on Mar. 7th.

The next public meeting is expected on May 25th. TBA urges Suffolk residents and other stakeholders to attend and share your views. For more information about the plan, visit the [city's website](#).

Virginia Beach Bikeways and Trails Plan Update

The City of Virginia Beach is undertaking its five yearly update to the Bikeways and Trails Plan. The first public meeting was held on Mar. 30th. The next is tentatively set for the June timeframe.

For more information on how to participate including a citizen survey, visit the [city's website](#).

South Hampton Roads Trail

The latest info, by city:

Suffolk: city staff are working to identify the next phase of the Suffolk Seaboard Coastline Trail to be built. Once decided, the city will apply for design and construction funding.

Chesapeake and Portsmouth: waiting on ownership transfer of the abandoned Commonwealth Rail right of way to their jurisdictions.

Norfolk: seeking a feasibility study for a trail from Waterside eastward to the city line with Virginia Beach.

Virginia Beach: city staff and council are working out what to do next with the abandoned rail corridor, now that light rail is no longer in the works. TBA supports retaining the corridor and building a shared-use path which would form the eastern end of the 42 mile South Hampton Roads Trail.

VBF Jerseys

Virginia Bicycling Federation (VBF) is the premier state level bicycling advocacy organization in the country. And now they have a sharp looking [jersey](#) for sale. Help support their efforts and order one today!

League of American Bicyclists

Advocating for better bicycle facilities, laws and safety takes place on three levels: local, state and national. It's vitally important for cyclists to support organizations doing work in all three arenas.

The [League of American Bicyclists](#) works at the national level with Congress and federal agencies in order to ensure that federal transportation and urban development policies consider and support bicycling including best practices. Please join and support their important work today.

Volunteer Opening for Newsletter Editor

The good work that TBA gets done is entirely by our volunteers. We urgently need a newsletter editor. The time commitment is smaller than you might think and the impact can be substantial (and fun!).

To find out more and to help out, please contact Bruce Drees, president@tbarides.org

2017 TBA Calendar

May 6 41st Annual Knotts Island Century

June 5 General Membership Meeting (topic: Dr. Scott Banks; sports nutrition), 6:30 pm, Central Library, Virginia Beach

August 9 General Membership Meeting (topic: tbd), 6:30 pm, Central Library, Virginia Beach

September TBD Eastern Shore Getaway

October 11 General Membership Meeting (topic: tbd), 6:30 pm, Central Library, Virginia Beach

December TBD Holiday Party

Looking for more rides? Click [here](#).

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