

SECTION A-5-BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITY GUIDELINES

VDOT POLICY TO IMPROVE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) approved a new policy aimed at providing bicyclists and pedestrian's greater access to safe transportation on roadways across the state. The policy became effective upon its adoption by the CTB on March 18, 2004, and will apply to projects that reach the scoping phase after its adoption. This policy shall supersede all current department policies and procedures related to bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

Highlights from the policy include:

- A framework through which VDOT will accommodate 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.
- Sidewalks, bike lanes, shared-use paths or other accommodations will be considered in the design of all new highway and major reconstruction projects, depending on safety issues and the need.

Project Managers should be familiar with the policy prior to starting the Project Development Process. The entire policy can be obtained at http://www.viriniadot.org/programs/resources/bike_ped_policy.pdf

The following are a few excerpts from the policy:

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will initiate all highway construction projects with the presumption that the projects shall accommodate bicycling and walking. VDOT will provide the leadership to implement this policy. During the decision process, the project manager and local representatives will, based on the factors listed in the policy, develop a recommendation on how and whether to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians in a construction project prior to the public hearing. VDOT will promote the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations in transportation planning activities at local, regional, and statewide levels. There are exceptions to the provision of accommodations.