

Bikecentennial: A Podcast Narrating 500+ Years of American History Along 500+ Miles of Bicycle Route 76 in Virginia

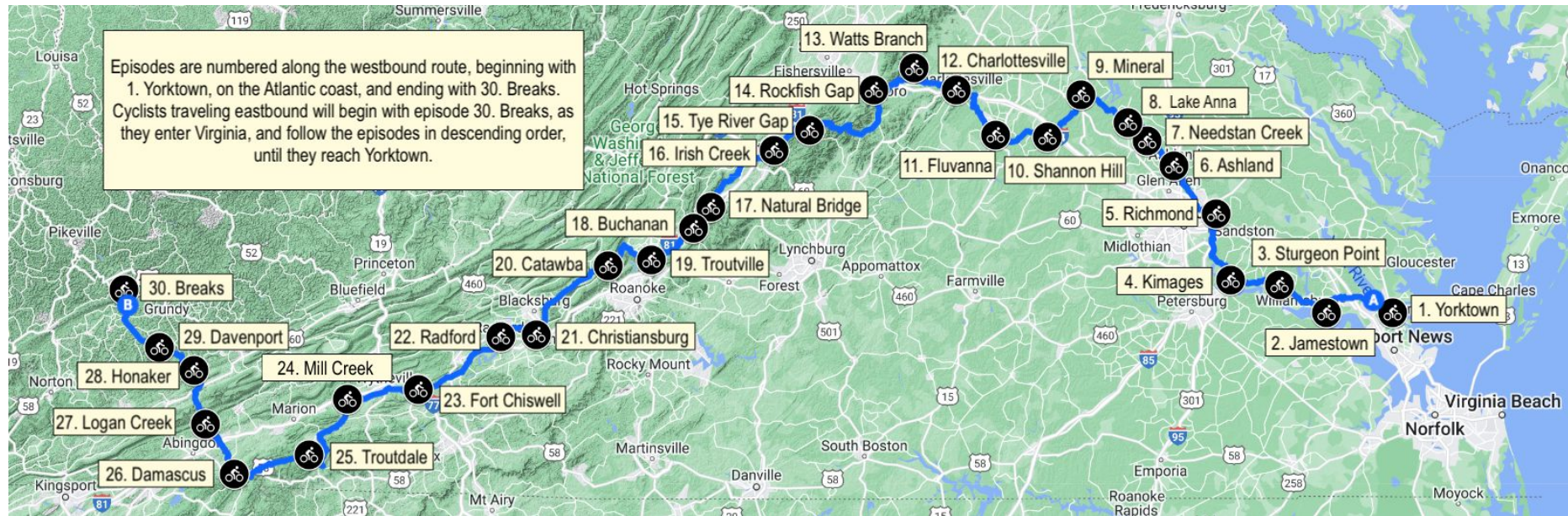
Final Report, Virginia Tech University Libraries Collaboration Grant
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Bike 76 VA

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This project explores 500+ years of history along the 555 miles of Route 76 in Virginia, from Yorktown in the east to Breaks Interstate Park in the west.



546 minutes of podcasts (9+ hours)

1000+ downloads or streams across platforms since January 2025

Summary of Project Outcomes:

- 30 episodes of podcast researched, written, recorded, and posted online, August 2024 to January 2025
- Introductory episode recorded and posted, January 2026
- Weekly blog essays published since January 2025 (60+ essays)
- 15 essays published in national and regional newspapers, magazines, and academic blogs
- 10+ presentations to regional partners, Virginia Association of Museums, and at Virginia Tech
- Poster exhibition on display in six regional museums
- 10 Proposals funded for regional partners to establish Public Exhibitions, Displays, Art, and Logos along Route 76 in Damascus, Pulaski, Newbern, Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Daleville, Lexington, Mechanicsville, Charles City, and Jamestown

All information posted on project website

Adjustments in Project Outcomes

- Schedule adjusted, as research and writing took longer than expected, so production was delayed beyond funding window (hence some funds were returned)
- Cost-sharing contribution by History Department meant that no grant funds were used for research assistance until late spring 2024, so less was needed for this contribution than expected
- Project expanded beyond the proposal: weekly blog essays, poster exhibition, publication, partnerships with regional organizations
- America 250 isn't developing as expected a few years ago
- Research assistance by Grace Kostrzebski (began May 2024)
- Partnerships with regional organizations as basis for future research