



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING

Thursday, January 30, 2020

406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg VA 22401

www.fampo.gwregion.org

Approved: [Date approved]

Attendance:

Committee Members:

Erik Nelson
Jacob Pastwik
Stan Huie
Leigh Anderson
Brian Geouge
Craig Pennington
Kirsten Talken-Spaulding
Jim Lynch

Others:

Alex Owsiak
Rupert Farley
Meg Bohmke
Kevin Brown
Kristin Harding

FAMPO/GWRC Staff:

Kari Barber
Stacey Feindt
Matthew Decatur
Adam Hager

1. Call BPAC Meeting to Order – Kari Barber, FAMPO Transportation Planner/Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Approval of January 30, 2020 BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Upon motion by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Lynch, the January 30, 2020 BPAC Meeting Agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval November 21, 2019 BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Upon motion by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Pastwik, the November 21, 2019 BPAC Meeting Minutes were approved by consensus.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Brown, a Fredericksburg resident, introduced himself and said he was interested in bicycle and pedestrian issues and hearing what goes on at this meeting.

5. Discussion / Action Items

a. Discussion and Election of Officers (Chair and Vice-Chair) (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Nelson made a motion to nominate Mr. Pastwik for Chair, seconded by Mr. Pennington. Approved by consensus.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to nominate Mr. Pennington for Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Anderson. Approved by consensus.

Mr. Lynch made a motion to express appreciation to Mr. Pastwik and Mr. Pennington for being willing to participate as Chair and Vice-Chair.

b. Discussion and Vote on BPAC Bylaws (ACTION ITEM)

BPAC Draft Bylaws with Edits

Ms. Anderson recommended putting the GW Bike/Ped plan as link on the BPAC website.

Mr. Lynch asked if there is going to be a formal process by which community interest groups are involved. Mr. Lynch pointed out “groups listed” wording and wonders about the possibility of not having a group listed that otherwise could take part in the committee meeting.

Ms. Anderson suggested the bylaws could say “groups reflect membership” and to have groups listed on website.

Several committee members suggested to remove the word “listed”.

Mr. Lynch wondered how we determine which groups are listed on the website.

Discussion was had regarding the process for having new groups included. Mr. Huie said members of public walking in do not have voting rights.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding suggested clarification on Article II, Section 1, number 5

Mr. Nelson suggested naming new heading “Appointed Members of the Public”

Mr. Lynch asked for clarification on how at-large members are appointed. Ms. Barber indicated the current version of the bylaws spells this out.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked, regarding election of officers, about timing of appointments. Since the committee has been recently revived, she said her understanding was that the vice-chair would serve a two-year term – the first as vice-chair then second as chair.

Mr. Pastwik also asked about public involvement when it comes to responsibilities of members to ask for public involvement. He asked what was meant by public comment solicitation?

Mr. Huie indicated his understanding is that it is an informal responsibility.

Mr. Pastwik asked the group for clarification.

Mr. Lynch responded saying that as members of this group, everyone is continually collecting public input.

Mr. Pastwik asked if there can be public comments through the website.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked if this is an issue we want to solidify with this set of bylaws or if it can be tabled for now as the group evolves.

Ms. Barber indicates there is already a Facebook page for BPAC and also a public comment possibility via the FAMPO website.

Ms. Anderson asked if Ms. Barber can put a Facebook link on BPAC webpage.

Mr. Pastwik asked if we should pare down explicit responsibilities for various members – chairs and staff, for example.

Ms. Barber responded that the ones that are fully spelled out now are necessary in her view.

Mr. Lynch mentioned that if Ms. Barber intends to craft agenda with chair, that it should be mentioned in bylaws.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding suggested adding language about vice-chair taking chairmanship in second year.

Mr. Lynch asked if it is okay to ask people to commit to a two-year term.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding said she believes it is reasonable, especially since meetings are

not extremely frequent.

Mr. Lynch made a motion to approve bylaws as amended, seconded by Mr. Nelson. Approved by consensus.

c. System for the Management and Allocation of Resources for Transportation (SMART SCALE) Regional Projects Update

US 1 City STARS Study Improvements:

Ms. Barber indicated three regional applications have a bike/ped component.

Mr. Nelson mentioned the Augustine Avenue project has a highway cutting through a street grid and that this project can enhance safety. The project is planning-level to date. Basic improvements are not too much of a lift to implement.

Mr. Lynch asked about the elevated crossing near college. Mr. Nelson said there is also a ground-level crossing that gets used a lot (US 1 and College Avenue). Mr. Lynch asked if improvements are at ground-level – Mr. Nelson concurred.

US 17 Bus STARS Study Improvements and Commuter Lot (SMART SCALE Round 3 & potential Exit 133 pedestrian infrastructure option):

Ms. Barber reviewed a map showing the drawing for the commuter lot on 17 from Smart Scale Round 3.

Mr. Huie asked about sidewalk vs. path under I-95.

Mr. Owsiak said it is a question of right-of-way under the bridge.

Mr. Geouge indicated that Stafford County has recommended sidewalks along this stretch.

Lafayette Boulevard Study Multimodal Improvements (City/Spotsylvania):

Ms. Barber introduced Lafayette Multimodal improvements including sidewalks, bus stops, and other pedestrian accommodations.

Mr. Nelson said eventually there will be a shared use path along west side of Lafayette Blvd. Until Lafayette Highway study is complete, there is no plan to implement a shared use path because it may be ripped up.

Mr. Pastwik indicated Spotsylvania County may try to implement sidewalk on east side of Lafayette Blvd from project area to Four Mile Fork.

Mr. Huie reiterated that long stretches of sidewalk get built piecemeal – they are

never built all at once, and he is glad this project is moving forward.

d. Potential Bowling Green Local Projects

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked if “sharrows” (shared lane markings) are proposed where there are existing sidewalks. Ms. Barber said yes.

Mr. Lynch asked about larger regional approach to project.

Mr. Pennington said Bowling Green is its own entity and they are making their own decisions; Caroline is allowing two Bowling Green projects for Smart Scale. There is no intention to extend projects beyond town limits.

Mr. Huie said a lot of cyclists use Routes 2 and 17.

Mr. Lynch encouraged regional collaboration beyond jurisdictional boundaries and mentions that it is an important part of BPAC’s role.

Mr. Pastwik said there has been a great deal of regional collaboration with East Coast Greenway recently.

Mr. Lynch asked why there is no Bowling Green representation or Port Royal at BPAC. Mr. Pastwik said they should be formally invited to this body.

Mr. Pastwik asked if towns (Bowling Green and Port Royal) are part of the regional Bike/Ped plan. Mr. Pennington stated he believed Bowling Green was included while Port Royal was not. Ms. Barber clarified that neither Bowling Green nor Port Royal are singled out, but both are included as part of Caroline County in the Bike/Ped plan.

e. East Coast Greenway (ECG) Summit

Ms. Barber indicated the summit is next Wednesday.

Mr. Pastwik said there have been questions over last few years about alignment through this area. In Central VA, the ECG is road-based and tries to hit tourist attractions along the way. It is inhospitable as a bicycle path. ECG team has been trying to make it more amenable to cyclists.

Mr. Huie asked if Massaponax Church Road is part of new plan. Mr. Pastwik responded saying it is. Mr. Huie said it is dangerous for cyclists right now. Mr. Pastwik says it is not ideal in short term, nor is Benchmark Road, but improvements have been targeted for the future. Mr. Pastwik indicated there is an agreed upon connection point between Spotsylvania and Caroline which has to do with why the proposed alignment falls where it does.

Mr. Pennington said it is likely a few years before there are any off-road improvements on rural roads since it all hinges on new development.

Mr. Nelson said it is ultimately up to ECG to select location but localities are making best effort to help. He also said VDOT will fund some of these improvements over time.

Mr. Pastwik said that the more local and regional planning documents these concepts are in, the better chance of implementation.

6. News of Note

Ms. Barber reviewed the Free Lance-Star article about the intersection improvements in Spotsylvania County. Mr. Pastwik indicated that no one in Spotsylvania knows where the projects came from; no source was identified.

7. Staff Reports

Ms. Barber proposed bimonthly meetings and the group concurred. They will be the first Thursday of every other month, starting March 5, 2020 at 6 p.m.

Ms. Barber indicated that FAMPO would restart the counter program in the coming weeks.

8. Member Reports

Mr. Pastwik discussed updates to VCR trail and Spotsylvania Smart Scale projects. He also mentioned that the solar project in Spotsylvania includes miles of recreational trail easements.

Ms. Talken-Spaulling explained her role in facilitating planning efforts between agencies and the National Park Service

Mr. Geouge provided an update on some of the trails in northern and central Stafford County.

Mr. Lynch mentioned the various community interest groups he represents and the issues he advocates for. He also provided an update on new trails within Caledon State Park. He mentioned a “rails with trails” opportunity from Stafford to King George County along an active rail line. It may be difficult to work with CSX in implementing this effort.

Mr. Huie listed the cycling organizations he plays a role in. He also reinforced the importance of connecting the VCR in the city all the way to western Spotsylvania County.

Mr. Nelson mentioned the Chatham Bridge project in the City of Fredericksburg. It will have a 10-foot wide bike/ped facility that will be a part of the ECG. There is a Smart Scale application to improve Dixon Street/Rt 2 up to a proposed Spotsylvania project at

the city/county line.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m. by consensus. The next Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020 at 6:00pm.

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