



FREDERICKSBURG AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING

Thursday, August 6, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Remote Format (No in-person attendance in light of COVID-19)

<https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/> ♦ 406 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg VA 22401

Due to the nature of the Declaration of a State of Emergency Due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pursuant to Code § 2.2-3708.2 this meeting is to be held by electronic communications, via the web platform GoToMeeting. The catastrophic nature of this declared emergency makes it impracticable and unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location and the purpose of this meeting is to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operations of the public body.

Meeting Minutes

Draft

Attendance:

Remote connection by phone or internet for all attendants per Virginia COVID-19 legislation as noted above.

Committee Members:

Jacob Pastwik, Chair, Spotsylvania County

Craig Pennington, Vice Chair, Caroline County

Erik Nelson, City of Fredericksburg

Brian Geouge, Stafford County

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, National Park Service

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Stan Huie, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club, Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative, and Virginia Bicycle Federation

Debe Fults, DisAbility Resource Center

Others:

Linda Millsaps, George Washington Regional Commission

Bryan Hoffman, Friends of the Rappahannock

Brandon Brown, Stafford County

Alex Owsiak, Stafford County

A Griffin

Jay Jarrell

FAMPO/GWRC Staff:

Kari Barber, Transportation Planner/Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner

Leah Vigil, Administrative Assistant

Adam Hager, Transportation Planner

Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner

BPAC Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2020

1. Call BPAC Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Vigil called the roll.

3. Approval of the August 6, 2020 BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Pastwik proposed to add an item to the agenda as Item 6.a – Friends of the Rappahannock & George Washington Regional Commission Greenway Feasibility Study – Department of Forestry Grant Application. Motion was made to approve the agenda as amended by Mr. Pennington, seconded by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of the March 5, 2020 BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Pastwik proposed one change to Item 6 regarding planned roadway improvements. Motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Ms. Talken-Spaulding, seconded by Mr. Pennington. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment

No public comments were made during the meeting.

Ms. Barber read two letters from members of the public, one submitted via email from a Facebook discussion and one that was received by the former FAMPO Public Involvement Coordinator, Ms. Feindt. The first letter related to concerns about e-bikes, runners, and other fast-moving trail users and the second related to the recently held public comment period on various transportation planning documents specifically related to pedestrian access.

6. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR) & George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) Greenway Feasibility Study – Department of Forestry Grant Application

Mr. Hoffman provided background information on the grant opportunity and indicated this funding is federal pass-through money that makes its way through the state Department of Forestry. The grant application will focus on two priorities: tree planting and greenways planning and development. For the greenways component of the project idea, the focus will be to improve regional connectivity. The grant may be able to provide funding for outside facilitation.

Mr. Pastwik asked Ms. Barber what the committee is being requested to take action on. Ms. Barber indicated that the idea is to receive letters of support from the many organizations that are represented on the BPAC.

Dr. Millsaps added that letters of support from the BPAC would enhance the grant application. She also noted that comments and feedback are welcome.

Mr. Nelson asked for more detail related to what the grant application is trying to achieve such as parameters of the project, which Mr. Pastwik concurred with. Mr. Pastwik also asked how much work would be required of localities.

Dr. Millsaps relayed that some of the details are still being worked out as the team is working on a short timeframe. She noted that there would be an outside facilitator to coordinate meetings between interested parties to figure out where the gaps are in the regional trails and greenways framework. There is no ask for additional funding from localities. Dr. Millsaps indicated that she and Ms. Barber would get finer points to the BPAC once available.

Other committee members indicated there is a timing sensitivity as far as getting letters of support. The group discussed getting signatures from department heads rather than administrators and the like.

b. Update on System of the Management for the Allocation of Resources for Transportation (SMART SCALE) Active Transportation Projects

Mr. Pastwik noted that Mr. Agnello was out of town, so Mr. Pastwik would present for Spotsylvania County. Mr. Pastwik reviewed projects from Spotsylvania County that include bicycle and pedestrian improvements. Projects are located on Tidewater Trail near the Shannon Airport, Harrison Road between I-95 and Salem Church Road, the Four Mile Fork area, US 1 south of the Four Mile Fork intersection, and Lafayette Blvd northeast of the Four Mile Fork intersection.

Mr. Pennington highlighted projects in Caroline County. Projects include a crosswalk near Caroline Middle School and Caroline High School.

Mr. Owsiak presented projects in Stafford County. First was Garrisonville Road improvements which include sidewalks on both sides. The second and third projects Mr. Owsiak highlighted were on Mountain View Road which includes paved shoulders for bicycles and pedestrians. Next was a project on Shelton Shop Road which will include a 10-foot shared use path between Mountain View Road and Garrisonville Road. The fifth project was US 1 Turn Lane Extension and Shared Use Path at the intersection of Austin Park Drive and Foreston Woods Drive. Next was a project on Onville Road which includes 5-foot sidewalks on both sides of the roadway. Lastly, Mr. Owsiak presented the US-17B Intersection and Pedestrian Improvements which will include a 5-foot sidewalk along the south side of US-17B from Short Street to Olde Forge Drive. This final project will tie into pedestrian improvements

VDOT is making at the Exit 133 intersection.

Mr. Nelson went over projects in the City of Fredericksburg. Projects included the Gateway Blvd Extension and the Idlewild Blvd/VCR Trail.

c. BPAC Endorsement of SMART SCALE Projects (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Barber presented the idea of having BPAC endorse the region's Smart Scale projects that have bicycle/pedestrian improvements. Members were generally supportive of the idea and asked that projects go before the committee before asking for action.

Mr. Pennington made a motion for the committee to look at Smart Scale projects in consideration of endorsement, seconded by Mr. Geouge. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Active Transportation Survey Discussion

Ms. Barber initiated a discussion regarding a regional "trouble spot" survey. Ms. Barber reviewed the proposed questions and noted this would be the first of a handful of surveys that would gather data for the BPAC to consider.

Mr. Geouge noted that the second question could be used to replace the first question to cut out redundancy.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked how the results would be reported and used. Ms. Barber responded by saying it would be included in the bike/ped update in the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and shared on FAMPO's website and social outlets. It could also be shared with BPAC members to give out to their organizations.

Mr. Huie asked if this would open up the opportunity for respondents to ask for roadway projects to include bike/ped components.

Ms. Barber said she would send the survey out to the BPAC as amended during the discussion.

Mr. Nelson asked about differentiating between transportation and recreation as far as types of users. He and other members discussed the idea and talked about how distance traveled can indicate the type of user they are.

Mr. Brown called the committee's attention to a Transportation Planning Board document related to alternative modes for commuting.

e. 2050 Rural Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Ms. Barber asked members to review the report and highlighted some of its primary elements.

f. Bike Counter Locations (ACTION ITEM)

Mr. Lehane presented a list of locations for the bike/pedestrian counters in fiscal year 2021. He requested the committee weigh in on proposed counter locations.

Mr. Huie asked if the staff still has access to the Streetlight platform. Mr. Lehane responded that yes, the staff does have access and will be looking to utilize its data in the annual report if time allows.

Ms. Talken-Spaulling pointed out a new connection that will be opening at Lee Drive and that it would be useful to get counts at that location which Mr. Nelson concurred with.

Mr. Pastwik asked if the staff would coordinate with localities and VDOT as appropriate when moving the counters.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to approve the submitted list with the modification that one of the Fredericksburg sites be removed in favor of putting one on Lee Drive seconded by Ms. Talken-Spaulling. Motion carried unanimously.

g. 2050 Active Transportation Plan Update

Ms. Barber presented an update on the 2050 Active Transportation update.

i. Scooter and ebike Discussion

Ms. Barber provided background information on e-scooters including common concerns.

Mr. Huie said a speed limit needs to be considered for shared use paths in addition to a potential category limitation. He noted that category 3 e-bikes should not be allowed on paths, but categories 1 and 2 could.

Mr. Nelson noted that the City is working through what may and may not be allowed on paths. Ms. Talken-Spaulling noted that the National Park Service (NPS) is also working through similar issues; she added that NPS has created a set of classifications and rationales for each.

Mr. Pastwik asked how this ties into the 2050 Active Transportation

Plan update and asked if there would be a set of recommendations for the region.

h. Bylaws Amendment Discussion: Remote Attendance

Ms. Barber relayed to the committee the need to update bylaws to account for remote meeting participation. She asked members to review a resolution passed by the Policy Committee as an example.

i. Calendar Update

Ms. Vigil presented a calendar update.

7. Correspondence

Mr. Huie presented the Annual Cannonball Ride with the Fredericksburg Cyclists and said between 250 and 350 cyclists would be coming to the area.

8. Staff Reports

Ms. Barber presented a staffing update for FAMPO. She noted that Ms. Feindt left the organization to work in the Governor's office and her position will be filled as soon as possible. She added that Jordan Chandler has been hired as a full-time planner. Lastly, she added that the team is looking for an intern.

9. Member Reports

9a. Spotsylvania Courthouse Sidewalk Project Update

Chair Pastwik provided an overview of the sidewalk project at Spotsylvania Courthouse. He showed recent photographs of the improvements. He also added that Spotsylvania County has adopted an update to the transportation element of its comprehensive plan.

Mr. Pennington noted that he has identified a citizen who would like to participate on the committee. To do so, the BPAC bylaws would need to be amended because the County Administrator in Caroline County does not approve committee appointments, but the Board of Supervisors would.

Mr. Huie made a motion to amend the bylaws per Mr. Pennington's request. Ms. Anderson asked if the bylaws could be amended at the start of the next meeting to allow the new participant to attend and participate.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding noted that NPS is working on updates to a trail near Lafayette Boulevard due to substantial changes in traffic patterns in the area.

10. Adjourn

Mr. Pennington made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Anderson. Motion

carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee will next meet on October 1, 2020 at 6:00pm.

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