



## **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC) MEETING AGENDA**

Thursday, April 1, 2021 – 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.

A recording of this virtual meeting has been posted to the FAMPO Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee webpage: <https://www.fampo.gwregion.org/bicycle-and-pedestrian-advisory-committee/>

### **Attendance:**

#### **Committee Members Present:**

Brian Geouge, Vice Chair, Stafford County

Chris Clarke, King George County

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, National Park Service

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock

Debra Fults, disAbility Resource Center

Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance

Jim Lynch, Potomac Heritage Trail Association and Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail

John Summer, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club

Kristin Harding, Spotsylvania County

Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County

Yamina Jordan, Stafford County

John Lysher, At-Large

#### **Others Present:**

Ms. Vivek Hariharan

Mr. Brian Roberts

#### **Staff Present:**

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner

Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner

Mr. Adam Hager, Transportation Planner



1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order – Vice Chair Brian Geouge**

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

2. **Roll Call – Matthew Lehane**

Mr. Lehane called the roll.

3. **Approval of April 1, 2021 BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the April 1, 2021 BPAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Clarke; Second: Mr. Pastwik

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval February 4, 2021 BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Jim Lynch suggested updating the affiliations of “other attendees” to add their affiliations and he suggested that in the DRHT Report, first sentence “races” should be “fun run”.

Motion was made to approve the February 4, 2021 BPAC meeting minutes, as amended.

Motion: Ms. Talken-Spaulding; Second: Ms. Anderson

Motion passed with unanimous consent; Ms. Jackson abstains.

5. **Public Comment**

No public comments were made.

6. **Administrator Report – Mr. Ian Ollis**

Mr. Ollis presented the FAMPO Administrator report with items from the February and March policy committee administrator report.

His report detailed items related to federal transportation funding, forthcoming U.S. Census data releases, potential changes to urbanized areas, regional road crossings and safety issues, passenger rail developments between Maryland and Virginia, freight corridor updates, FRED Transit service enhancements, and a summary of potential studies in the future.

Vice Chair Geouge commented on crosswalks at Leeland Road and a future project for a shared-use path.

7. **Discussion / Action Items**

a. **Member Introductions- Vice Chair Brian Geouge**

Vice Chair Geouge asked all members to give an introduction. Mr. Lehane went through the roll call for each member to give an introduction.



b. Draft 2050 LRTP Bicycle and Pedestrian Project Prioritization- Ms. Kari Barber

Ms. Barber presented the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) bicycle and pedestrian project prioritization methodology. She presented details on the draft scoring measures which cover: safety, congestion mitigation, accessibility, environmental quality, economic development, local land use, statewide coordination, and project benefit which is a more qualitative factor.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked if VDOT sets our prioritization processes and how our system aligns with SMART SCALE.

Ms. Barber responded that these prioritization processes are set by FAMPO for inclusion into our 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan and that our system does generally align with SMART SCALE and coordinates with the state long-range plan.

Mr. Adam Lynch also asked about the East-West Bike Boulevard project that was scored and for clarification if it is the project running along Sophia Street.

Mr. Lehane responded that the project running along Sophia Street is the Riverfront Corridor project and clarified that the East-West Bike Boulevard runs from FRED Central, down William Street into downtown Fredericksburg.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked for clarification on how projects are scored.

Mr. Lehane responded that the projects are generally scored based upon their location using GIS tools to analyze data surrounding the project.

Ms. Jordan asked how a project would be scored if for instance there are 30 pedestrian crashes along the project corridor, and how our scoring scale would account for that, as the current scale scores 10+ crashes as 10/10.

Mr. Lehane responded that the project would still receive a 10/10; however, the project will likely score well under other scoring criteria.

Mr. Roberts asked about how a project would be scored for systemic safety. Where a project in a rural environment does not have the volume to account for pedestrian crashes; however, the project is still an unsafe corridor.

Ms. Barber responded that the FAMPO weightings show that crashes are only 15%; however, we have included PSAP corridors, which are weighted 35% and consider risk. The PSAP would address a systemic approach.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked a question about using pedestrian counts in the



scoring metrics.

Ms. Barber responded that pedestrian counts have not been taken into account specifically; however, there are measures such as project benefit that will take into account higher trafficked areas.

- c. Update on StreetLight Data use in the Bike/Ped Counter Program- Mr. Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane gave an update on the use of StreetLight data in the FAMPO Bike/Ped counting program. He covered developments over the past couple months, which involved using counts from FAMPO's hard counter to calibrate StreetLight count data. The data was presented, and Mr. Lehane asked BPAC members to follow up with locations they would like to see tested.

Vice Chair Geouge asked how much setup is involved in creating locations for study in the StreetLight platform.

Mr. Lehane responded that it is a pretty simple task to setup a location in StreetLight.

Ms. Jordan asked whether StreetLight uses cameras to recording traffic counts.

Mr. Lehane responded that, no, StreetLight does not use cameras to record traffic counts, rather FAMPO has two ways of recording Bike/Ped counts, one is through FAMPO's Eco Counter physical counter which can be placed at a location to attain hard counts of how many people pass by. While the second is through StreetLight which uses GPS data to understand how many people are passing through a specific zone.

Mr. Littlewood asked how easy it is for the data to be manipulated through high traffic events such as a half marathon.

Mr. Lehane responded that StreetLight is able to sift through the data with their algorithm to account for one-time events such as half marathons.

- d. Update on the George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) Greenway Feasibility Study - Ms. Kari Barber

Ms. Barber gave an update on George Washington Regional Commission (GWRC) Greenway Feasibility Study. This update entailed an understanding of the plans for the feasibility study over the next few months. There will be three scheduled meetings:

- April 29<sup>th</sup> with BPAC and trail advocates
- May 19<sup>th</sup> with BPAC, trail advocates VDOT and localities
- June 24<sup>th</sup> with those mentioned above plus other departments and interested officials.



Mr. Pastwik asked a question in regard to off-road vs roadway corridors and what constitutes a greenway,

Ms. Barber responded that on-road (shared-use paths) and off-road (natural surface) trails both qualify as greenways.

Mr. Clarke asked if individuals from the Potomac Heritage Scenic trail have been asked to join.

Ms. Barber responded that she would follow up with them.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked about adding the Potomac Heritage Trail into all the discussions.

Ms. Barber responded that that can be done.

Ms. Jordan asked about a possible path between the Stafford Hospital and Brooke VRE station and a conversation she had with Ms. Cindy Shelton and would be happy to talk more offline.

Ms. Barber responded that she could do that.

Vice Chair Geouge responded that he is helping to lead that project on the Stafford County side, and that this is being worked on.

#### **8. Correspondence**

Ms. Barber shared a news article on potential lower residential speed limits in Virginia and encouraged members to read it.

#### **9. Staff Reports**

Mr. Ollis reported that FAMPO is advertising for a new full time planner position.

#### **10. Member Reports**

Mr. Clarke reported that on March 16h the King George Board of Supervisors formally adopted the trailways feasibility study that had been completed in 2018. He also reported that in partnering with the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail they met and toured the heritage trail with individuals from the National Park Service who are helping the trail work on a master plan.

Mr. Pastwik reported that Spotsylvania County is discussing a transportation alternatives project to extend the Virginia Central Railway trail from its termination at Salem Church Road up to the intersection at Harrison Road where there is a SMART SCALE project to upgrade crosswalks, landings, and sidewalks at the intersection.

Ms. LaSut reported that VDOT has a spring transportation meeting coming up. She



also mentioned that VDOT is looking to host locality days to educate counties about SMART SCALE.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding reported that along Lee Drive and Lafayette Boulevard they have had an increase in traffic because of the ongoing construction and issues with commercial traffic along Lee Drive. She thanked VDOT for their help in putting new signs up to alert commercial vehicle users that Lee Drive is not open to commercial vehicles.

Ms. Anderson reported that she wanted to give a shoutout to FRED Transit for the ongoing changes they are currently completed. Further she mentioned an interest in GWRideConnect participating in bike to work day.

Mr. Adam Lynch reported that Governor Northam signed into law a bill that designated the lower Rappahannock River from Ferry Farm bridge to the Chesapeake as a state scenic river.

Mr. Rob Maple reported that the Quarry trail has new signs with QR codes that can give information on the trails. Further, that they are now able to build a new trail in Motts Run this summer. Lastly, they are purchasing two new bike repair stations for Motts reservoir and another in the Quarry area.

Mr. Jim Lynch reported on the alignment of the Belmont-Ferry Farm trail as it is a part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST), the visit of individuals from National Park Service, the review of the MOU between King George County and the PHNST in which expires in 2021. Further discussions on the East Coast Greenway and routes through Stafford County. Work with Caledon State Park to designate PHNST trails through the park. Annual Sheetz Fun Run on March 25<sup>th</sup> had 225 runners including wheelchair teams. They completed a board walk project along the trail to accommodate the wheelchair teams. Lastly, they are planning to work with the county to submit a Smart Scale application for safety improvements along 218, the section that connects Caledon State Park to the Dahlgren Heritage Trail.

Mr. Littlewood reported on his work to connect many of the different paths and trails in Stafford County between the new Stafford Town Center being built.

Vice Chair Gouge reported on the Stafford County Boards adoption of new density requirements in rural areas of the County. These zoning changes will likely drive more traffic in urban areas of the county.

**11. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 6:00pm**



Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm. Motion was made by Mr. Jim Lynch and seconded by Ms. Anderson. Motion passed unanimously.

DRAFT