



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 26, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Present:

Brian Geouge, Vice Chair, Stafford County

Chris Clarke, King George County

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, National Park Service (NPS)

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)

Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

Jim Lynch, Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA) and Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT)

John Summer, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Committee Members Present (remotely, with virtual participation request):

Debra Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Yamina Jordan, Stafford County Alternate Citizen Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Craig Pennington, Chair, Caroline County

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Joy Himes, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Ben Matters, PRTC

Deborah Lately, DRC

Stan Huie, FCC, Virginia Bicycle Federation (VBF), and Spotsylvania Greenways Initiative

Kevin Wightman, Caroline County Citizen Representative

Kristin Harding, Spotsylvania County Citizen Representative

Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative

John Lysher, At-Large Citizen Representative

Brantley Tyndall, Virginia Bicycle Federation (VBF), Alternate

Others Present:

Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County

Hector Campos

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner

Ms. Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner (remote)

Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner

Mr. Adam Hager, Transportation Planner



1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

Vice Chair Geouge called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Barber called the roll.

3. **Approval of August 26, 2021 BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the August 26, 2021 BPAC agenda.

Motion: Ms. Talken-Spaulling; Second: Mr. Pastwik

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of June 3, 2021 BPAC Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve the June 3, 2021 BPAC meeting minutes, as amended.

Motion: Mr. Clarke; Second: Mr. Adam Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

Mr. Clarke noted his last name was misspelled in the minutes and proposed correction.

5. **Public Comment**

Staff shared one public comment from Mr. David Lee Gayle. The comment was included in the meeting packet and read aloud for members of the committee.

6. **Administrator Report**

Mr. Ollis gave a report focused on the recently conducted FAMPO Transportation Improvements Survey and the recently commenced FAMPO East-West Mobility Study. He summarized results from the survey and explained some of the maps produced by staff.

Regarding the East-West Mobility Study, he noted that the first stakeholder group meeting took place earlier in August and the effort is well underway.

7. **Discussion / Action Items**

- a. FAMPO 2050 Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan Active Transportation Plan Projects List

Mr. Hager showed a presentation on progress staff are making on the 2050 LRTP. 149 new projects were submitted by localities and agencies for consideration on the draft list of fiscally constrained projects. Mr. Hager showed the breakdown of projects by locality and agency. He stated that committees and the public will review the draft list through September and committees will consider the adoption of the list during September meetings. He also provided a summary of modifications proposed by staff to account for forthcoming Transportation Alternatives applications and ensuring project costs are not double counted.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked why such a relatively small percentage of Active Transportation Candidate projects were selected. Mr. Hager noted the total pot of funding was based on multiple sources. He mentioned that several of the AT candidate projects covered an extensive area which equated to higher costs.



Mr. Pastwik questioned if some of the highway candidate projects selected have AT elements. Hr. Hager confirmed Mr. Pastwik's statement and added that staff has to score the project based on the most applicable mode to the overall project, which might be highway although the project could have other improvements across multiple modes.

Ms. Barber gave as an example the Harrison Road Widening project which has a combination of highway and AT elements; specifically, the construction of a shared-use path.

Mr. Jim Lynch noted that BPAC understands that staff has to categorize projects by mode but said it might be helpful to separate out the highway projects that have AT vs those without AT. Mr. Hager noted that a lot of the projects at the time of application time are largely conceptual, especially with horizon years in 2045 and beyond. He also noted that some of the project descriptions mention bike and pedestrian accommodations. Mr. Ollis added that the suggestion was well taken and in the next iteration of the list staff can make a delineation of highway applications that have bike and pedestrian elements.

Ms. Anderson noted that when projects begin construction the first elements that are cut, based on cost, are AT elements. She asked how many projects will be constructed with the proposed AT elements that are listed in the plan now and if there was a way to keep track of this. Mr. Hager noted that this list has a broad scope and that the projected revenues do not link directly to allocations of funds. He mentioned that if an AT element(s) is removed it would be at the time that the project is programmed with the decisions being made with VDOT and the locality. He noted that an example for tracking this could be the past round of SMART SCALE applications.

b. FAMPO 2050 Active Transportation Plan Update and Meeting Frequency (ACTION ITEM)

Ms. Barber provided a summary overview of the 2050 Active Transportation plan and requested the committee meet on a more frequent basis to assist in developing the plan.

Motion was made for the BPAC to meet in both October and November.

Motion: Mr. Adam Lynch; Second: Mr. Jim Lynch.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

MS. Barber provided an overview of the scope for the Active Transportation Plan including the goals and objectives, next steps for the plan, and solicited questions and comments.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked about including sustainability and climate change issues in the plan. Ms. Barber indicated she would work on including resiliency into the plan.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked about the order of the goals presented and suggested Goal 2 was a higher priority than Goal 1. Ms. Barber concurred.

Mr. Frank asked about the wording for connecting users to activity centers. The group discussed ideas and Ms. Barber said she would workshop some improvements to the



language.

Ms. Jordan noted the number of users who use active transportation facilities over long distances and commended staff for including this idea in the approach.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked about the last objective listed under Goal 2. Ms. Barber said the idea was to provide a system that is widely accessible.

Mr. Adam Lynch suggested using photographs of bicycle users commuting rather than just recreational users.

Mr. Pastwik, Mr. Ollis, and others discussed the fact that there is no entity tasked with developing regional greenways, especially on the engineering side. Mr. Pastwik added that there are outdated legislative requirements that make it difficult to fund and implement many active transportation projects. He added that in Spotsylvania, there is no staff available to focus exclusively on greenway improvements within transportation planning.

Mr. Campos, a member of the public, spoke to the importance of providing more opportunities for the community to bike and walk in order to help conservation efforts.

c. GWRC Regional Greenway Study Wrap Up

Ms. Barber shared an update on the regional greenway study, providing an overview of the purpose of the grant and the work undertaken to date. She presented a map that had been developed with prioritized trails.

Ms. LaSut asked for a GIS data set with the information contained in the map which Ms. Barber said she would provide.

Ms. Barber summarized the next steps and indicated the study was a launching point for funding and implementation.

Mr. Jim Lynch, Mr. Clarke, and Ms. Barber discussed the implications for project funding.

Mr. Ollis suggested that when the report goes back to the GWRC board that staff propose each jurisdiction adopt the greenway map.

d. Transportation Alternatives Candidate Projects

Ms. Barber summarized the TA program and provided an overview of the tentative applications from each jurisdiction within FAMPO. Mr. Pastwik and Mr. Geouge provided additional information on projects in Spotsylvania County and Stafford County, respectively.

e. Bike/Ped Counter and StreetLight Data Report

Mr. Lehane summarized the bike/ped counter program and planned expansion to the program for FY22. He discussed the use of StreetLight to supplement current hard counts. Mr. Lehane went over index counts from the past year for comparison and provided a



snapshot of counts at various locations throughout the region.

- f. **Ongoing Bike/Ped needs and concerns from the group**
Mr. Geouge reminded members of the purpose of the online map and asked the group if there were any areas of concern to be added. Ms. Barber and Mr. Lehane described how the map works and showed a few examples.

Mr. Adam Lynch and Mr. Summer asked about access to the web map. Mr. Lehane suggested staff could add GIS layers for existing locality plans for users to view on the map.

8. **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence shared with the committee.

9. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Barber shared that some BPAC citizen representatives had not attended in some time. She asked for guidance from the committees. Mr. Jim Lynch and Mr. Geouge suggested Ms. Barber send a reminder email.

Ms. Barber also shared that FAMPO is hiring a transportation planning intern.

10. **Member Reports**

Mr. Clarke noted that King George is hiring for multiple positions.

Mr. Pastwik shared that the Spotsylvania County board will be taking up a comprehensive plan amendment on September 14.

Ms. LaSut added that VDOT is advancing the Pipeline Studies – a total of four – in the FAMPO region. She asked if the committee was aware of any planned large green spaces in the region and the committee discussed some ongoing efforts. She also requested GIS layers for trails in the Regional Greenway Study.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding noted that the new traffic circle at Lafayette Blvd/Lee Drive takes a little while to get used to and discussed some of the improvements planned in the area.

Ms. Anderson noted the difficulty of the traffic circle referenced by Ms. Talken-Spaulding and said GWRideConnect is also hiring.

Mr. Adam Lynch noted that the City of Fredericksburg is undertaking a new plan for Small Area 1 (west of I-95). He said the plan would go to public hearing this fall.

Mr. Maple shared news about recent grants awarded to the Fredericksburg Trails Alliance and plans for a crossing on River Road in Spotsylvania County that was recently approved by VDOT.

Mr. Jim Lynch shared the news of a recently appointed National Park Service Acting Superintendent assisting with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.



Mr. Summer shared news of an upcoming gravel ride and invited members to attend.

Mr. Frank introduced himself and shared his excitement for being part of the group.

Ms. Jordan shared about some forthcoming projects with Ms. Barber and noted her interest in developing land preserves.

Ms. Fults shared comments related to the long-range plan and ensuring that residents with disabilities have proper accessibility. She also noted that she had seen news that the City of Fredericksburg may convert some one-way streets to two-way and wondered how this might impact traffic. Mr. Adam Lynch and Mr. Frank offered to speak with Ms. Fults offline.

11. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting TBD (Sept), 2021 at 6:00pm

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Motion was made by Ms. Anderson and seconded by Mr. Jim Lynch. The motion passed unanimously. The next meeting will be held October 7, 2021.

DRAFT