



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 7, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Present:

Craig Pennington, Chair, Caroline County
Brian Geouge, Vice Chair, Stafford County
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, National Park Service (NPS)
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
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
Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative
Heather LaBelle, Caroline County Citizen Representative

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

Debra Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)
Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Chris Clarke, King George County

Committee Members Not Present:

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
Kristin Harding, Spotsylvania County Citizen Representative
John Lysher, At-Large Citizen Representative
Brantley Tyndall, Virginia Bicycle Federation (VBF), Alternate
Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)
Yamina Jordan, Stafford County Alternate

Others Present:

Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County

Staff Present:

Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner/ Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Ms. Jordan Chandler, Transportation Planner
Ms. Stacey Feindt, FAMPO Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator



1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

Chair Pennington called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Barber called the roll.

3. **Approval of October 7, 2021 BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

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

Motion: Mr. Pastwik; Second: Mr. Geouge

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of August 26, 2021 BPAC Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Lynch requested several changes to the meeting minutes. Ms. Barber noted the changes and stated she will amend the meeting minutes accordingly.

Motion was made to approve the August 26, 2021 BPAC meeting minutes, as amended.

Motion: Mr. Geouge; Second: Ms. Talken-Spaulding

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. **Public Comment**

No public comments were received. No member of the public spoke.

6.

a. **Approval of Chapter One and Two of the Active Transportation Plan (ACTION ITEM)**

Ms. Barber presented information on chapter one and two of the Active Transportation Plan. She summarized the discussion from the previous BPAC meeting related to the vision statement and goals. Ms. Barber noted that she had received suggested changes from Brandon Brown, Stafford County planner, and made changes to reflect his comments.

Ms. Barber offered a modification to goal three which was to add “encourage localities to design facilities with consideration for storm resiliency. Ms. Talken-Spaulding voiced support for the change.

Mr. Pastwik stated that he forgot to bring his comments, and will send them to Ms. Barber.

Ms. Barber asked for comment on the map of existing conditions. Mr. Geouge remarked that only a few shared use paths in Stafford were on the map. Ms. Barber clarified that the map on the PowerPoint was not the latest map, the correct map was in the Active Transportation Plan. Mr. Lynch commented that the name for the Potomac Heritage Trail was actually the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.

Mr. Lynch commented that the maps were hard to read because the detail was too fine and small. Ms. Barber offered for the committee to review the readability of the maps at the next BPAC meeting. Ms. Talken-Spaulding noted that there are accessibility standards that need to be met for sight and reading.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked why the National Park Service’s trails were not on the map. Ms. Barber replied that the map only shows paved, ADA compliant trails. The park service trails were nature trails by definition.



On the topic of safety, Mr. Lynch asked if the safety figures were based on actual accidents. Ms. Barber clarified that staff used VDOT's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan which predicts where accidents might occur and have occurred. Mr. Summer asked about the color identification system used on the safety map. Ms. Barber answered that the colors indicate priorities. Mr. Pastwik noted that the priority assigned to Leavells Road doesn't seem to reflect existing bike/ped infrastructure. Ms. Barber replied that staff will look into that by reviewing VDOT's standards.

Ms. Barber asked for final comments on the plan. Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked that the description for the Potomac Heritage Trail be updated to clarify that part of it is administered by the National Park Service. Mr. Lynch asked that a sentence be added to page 9 to state that the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail passes through the whole region (at least through Stafford and Fredericksburg). Mr. Lynch also made a final comment on the plan that on page 11 there should be a mention of the importance of employers to support walking and biking to work.

Motion was not made to approve chapter one and two of the Active Transportation Plan pending incorporation of further comments via email after the meeting.

b. Ladysmith Bike and Pedestrian Small Area Plan

Ms. Barber presented information on work being done to create a bike and pedestrian small area plan for Ladysmith. She conveyed that even the farthest housing developments are a short bike ride from the heart of Ladysmith's growing amenities. Ms. Barber summarized the plan's recommendations which included signs for placemaking and wayfinding, shared use paths, sidewalks, well-lit crossings, and pedestrian refuge medians.

Mr. Littlewood asked if developers will be asked to help develop shared use paths. Ms. Barber answered that that could be an option.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked if pedestrian hybrid beacons were different from hawk signals. Ms. Barber replied that the beacons were much more robust.

Ms. Barber said the next step for the plan was for her to present it to the Caroline Planning Commission on October 28, 2021. Mr. Pennington added that after Ms. Barber's presentation, the commission chairs will decide whether to add it to the comprehensive plan. It may take 20 to 30 years to achieve the full plan.

c. Ongoing Bike/Pedestrian Needs and Concerns

Mr. Gouge asked committee members to raise specific bike and pedestrian issues to add to the bicycle and pedestrian needs map.

Mr. Littlewood noted that there is a plan to install lighting to increase pedestrian safety on Onville Road, yet there are not any safe paths to travel. He also expressed the need for a trail on the west side of Stafford County which would connect the Mountain View High School area, the Colonial Forge High School area, Embrey Mills area, and the Rouse Center, running along the powerline easement.

Mr. Littlewood also noted that there needs to be a crosswalk between the Garrisonville



commuter lot and the nearby shopping area. Ms. Barber noted that there had been a Transportation Alternatives Project funding application for such a project.

Mr. Gouge asked if FAMPO staff could add city and county bike and pedestrian plans to the map. Ms. Barber replied that they could once current staff projects wrapped up. Mr. Gouge also discussed the recent decision to not continue work on the Stafford portion of the Belmont to Ferry Farm Trail.

Ms. Anderson asked that the need for a shared use path along Leavells Road and Smith Station Road to Patriot Park be added to the map.

Ms. Barber noted that another bike and pedestrian need is for crosswalks around the Spotsylvania Courthouse/Rt 208/Lake Anna Parkway/Brock Road area. Mr. Pastwick agreed that crossings were needed and would improve safe access to the battlefield area.

Mr. Lynch brought up an issue that trail advocates are facing in King George. A trail that is planned to cross by an industrial park is facing opposition by the industrial park owners. Mr. Lynch asked if committee members could shed light on what the objection might be based on. Ms. Talken-Spaulling suggested looking into how the city negotiated the VCR trail with adjacent industrial park owners. Mr. Clarke added that the King George trail issue is part of a closed session business discussion between the county and a business owner.

7. **Correspondence**

No correspondence.

8. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Barber noted that FAMPO has a new intern, Ms. Lana Bizeau. She also welcomed Heather LaBelle as the new BPAC citizen representative for Caroline County. It was also announced that FAMPO had three staff members currently presenting at a conference in Arizona, which resulted in their absence at the BPAC meeting.

9. **Member Reports**

Mr. Pastwick announced that the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors will meet on October 12, 2021 to take action on the county's proposed comprehensive plan.

Mr. Pastwick stated that he is interested in taking action on the bike and pedestrian needs the committee has identified and placed on the needs map. However, the struggle is to get consistent standards set to achieve correctly connected paths. When development plans go through review, the bike and pedestrian requirements are not consistent or predictable. Mr. Gouge suggested looking at Chesterfield's Code for ideas on possible standards.

Mr. Pastwick said Spotsylvania County is interested in extending the Greenway to Shannon Airport and Benchmark Road, perhaps linking the Spotsylvania VRE station. As the county conducts preliminary planning, they would like to have a conversation with the National Park Service about possible trail touchpoints. Ms. Talken-Spaulling welcomed such a conversation.

Mr. Gouge announced that Stafford County Board of Supervisors would hold a joint public hearing on October 19, 2021 at 7pm before taking action on the county's comprehensive plan.



Ms. Talken-Spaulding reported on chip-sealing progress on Lee Drive. And also, that the entry to Lee Drive will be reconfigured for safer pedestrian access. Finally, she is taking a time-limited job which will require another park service representative to temporarily take her place on BPAC.

Mr. Summer announced record-breaking attendance at the Cannonball Ride.

Mr. Frank expressed concern that the planned improvements to the Fall Hill and Route 1 intersection do not include improvements for bike and pedestrian safety. He wants the city to engage with VDOT on this matter. Ms. Barber stated she will reach out to the city's transportation director, Jamie Jackson, for more information.

Ms. Anderson announced that GWRideConnect has filled an outreach coordinator position.

Mr. Pennington thanked Ms. Barber for her work on the Ladysmith Plan. Additionally, he stated that Caroline is needing to reroute their planned East Coast Greenway route due to the negative impact the planned route would have on farm land. The county is exploring options and wants to complete the route in 7 to 10 years.

Mr. Clarke thanked Ms. Barber for assistance in working out an alternative route for the Regional Greenway in King George County.

10. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion: Ms. Talken-Spaulding; Second: Mr. Lynch

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.