



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 3rd – 6:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Present:

Brian Geouge, Chair, Stafford County

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Vice- Chair Adam Lynch, Friends of the
Rappahannock (FOR)

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

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)

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Chris Clarke, King George County

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, National Park Service (NPS)

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

John Summer, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Yamina Jordan, Stafford County Alternate

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

Debra Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Committee Members Not Present:

Joy Himes, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Ben Matters, PRTC

Kirsten Talken-Spaulding, National Park Service (NPS)

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

John Lysher, At-Large Citizen Representative

Brantley Tyndall, Virginia Bicycle Federation (VBF), Alternate

Heather LaBelle, Caroline County Citizen Representative

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Others Present:

Kevin Brown

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner/ Bicycle and
Pedestrian Coordinator

Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager



1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

Chair Geouge called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Barber called the roll.

3. **Approval of March 3rd, 2022, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the January 20th, 2022 BPAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Summer; Second: Mr. Pastwik

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of January 20th, 2022 BPAC Meeting Minutes**

Discussion: Mr. Pastwik mentioned a correction for the header, stating that it should change from Chair Pennington to Chair Geouge. He also stated that Mr. Pennington was missing from the roll. Lastly, he corrected the spelling of sPower and changed his statement about the Ni River Trail to refer to the Po River Trail.

Mr. Jim Lynch mentioned that he had small comments he had emailed in.

Motion was made to approve the January 20th BPAC meeting minutes, as amended.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. **FAMPO Administrator Report-Mr. Ian Ollis**

Mr. Ollis presented a summary of his presentation to the FAMPO Policy Committee on CMAQ/STBG, the Infrastructure Bill, and he stated that the call for projects had closed. He advised BPAC that staff was creating draft allocations for CMAQ, STBG, and HIP funds.

He also commented that there are currently bills for consideration at the State Legislature to cut taxes, and this may adversely affect transportation funding.

Presenting on the Infrastructure Bill, Mr. Ollis reviewed new requirements affecting MPOs, including the need to set aside 2.5% PL funding for Complete Streets Planning, and the need to coordinate transportation planning with housing, including development of a formal plan. He also explained the U.S. Secretary of Transportation must now provide MPOs with data and tools for modeling and other transportation planning needs imposed by the Infrastructure Bill.

Ms. Talken-Spaulling asked how much funding is currently being spent on Complete Streets planning. Mr. Ollis responded that it was unknown, because heretofore it had not been counted.

Ms. LaSut asked what exactly was mandatory. Mr. Ollis responded that he had hoped VDOT could tell them that, as PL funds come from VDOT. He expected that the next round of PL funding would come with instructions.

Chair Geouge asked what “planning” meant for the purpose of this requirement- studies, staff time, etc? Mr. Ollis said that the document from FHWA did not specify. He stated that it would be good for bikes and pedestrians to quantify funding spent, however.



Mr. Clarke asked if the housing coordination requirements were specifically for metro areas or if they would affect the rural areas. Mr. Ollis pointed out that the language refers to MPOs, so the regulations would apply to metro areas, or the counties involved in an MPO. Mr. Clarke clarified that he was asking if the rules would apply to Caroline and King George Counties. Mr. Ollis responded that the instruction was to the MPO, not the counties, also that it would not involve rural counties. He then went on to describe plans to develop scenario planning with the next LRTP consistent with these new guidelines.

Mr. Lynch said that the new multi-use trails initiative might provide opportunity for cooperation. Mr. Ollis clarified that the Complete Streets requirements were intended for street paths, not trails, but agreed that there was always opportunity for cooperation and collaboration.

Mr. Ollis went on to report that FREDTransit was now offering fare-free service due to a DRPT grant and CARES Act funding. Ms. Jackson added that it was going very well, resulting in a 20% to 50% increase in ridership in the first few days.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked if it was an annual program. Ms. Jackson clarified that it was reviewed every year but was a four-year program.

Mr. Ollis then progressed to a report on local vs through traffic on the new I-95 lanes, stating that local traffic was between 30 and 40% and through traffic was 60-70%.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked local vs. through traffic was defined. Mr. Ollis pointed out that the traffic was separated by concrete.

Mr. Littlewood responded that traffic could choose to get off locally even with separated lanes, and that that analysis had a flaw.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding answered that the report was more about lane usage. Mr. Ollis added that Streetlight data counts were also involved in determining local vs. through traffic, and he hoped VDOT would add more traffic counters.

Mr. Ollis also reported that CSX had inspected their bridge over the Rappahannock River and Fredericksburg train station structures. CSX will be making repairs to their bridge, and DRPT will be improving the Fredericksburg Train Station this year.

Mr. Pastwik asked how it is that major infrastructure could be in such a condition that passerby noted the problems, and if there was a regular inspection schedule.

Mr. Ollis said that there are likely regular inspections, but this was a special one due to the report.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked about bicycle parking at the station and if it could be put in the plan. Mr. Ollis said that DRPT was only upgrading the portion it owns. The City technically owns the station.

Ms. Jordan asked if there could be a management agreement between the parties. Mr. Ollis talked about the contractual agreement for use and occupation of the rails and other property and explained some of the provisions and limitations.



Next, Mr. Ollis reported that the Chamber of Commerce is looking to advance a regional transportation authority.

Lastly, Mr. Ollis concluded with announcements about new and promoted staff and an update on the LRTP adoption, the East-West Study and the VCR Trail Study, as well as plans for a Freight Summit in the fall.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked if the summit covered all freight modes. Mr. Ollis explained that yes, it did, except for air travel, since FAMPO has no control over that. He summarized several types of topics that might be considered at the summit.

Mr. Ollis ended his presentation by asking the group to send him their ideas for a “good transportation future.” He explained that FAMPO would like to develop a vision statement summarizing goals and objectives.

Chair Geouge encouraged everyone to formulate their answers and send them to Mr. Ollis to discuss at a future meeting.

6. **Public Comment**

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

7. **Discussion/Action Items**

a. **Approval of the 2050 Active Transportation Plan Draft (ACTION ITEM) -Ms. Kari Barber**

Ms. Barber presented the 2050 Active Transportation Plan Draft, highlighting the three new needs maps added since the last meeting and reminding everyone that they had had a chance to review the document. She explained that she had incorporated the comments she had received and asked if there were any further questions.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked what the document would be used for. Ms. Barber explained that the Long-Range Transportation Plan, of which this Plan was part, served as the document of support for localities wishing to apply for various funding sources. It also serves as the guiding plan for the entire region.

Ms. Jordan stated that maybe the group could facilitate better security measures for the region’s various transportation types. She pointed out that she would like to add a section on security to the document and said that she could talk offline about her ideas.

Ms. Barber reviewed the new maps and asked that any errors found by the group be directed to her for correction.

She also thanked committee members for the comments and corrections she had received.

Chair Geouge commended Ms. Barber and team on the Plan and thanked her for the incorporation of the new maps. He then called for a motion to approve the Plan.

Motion was made to approve the 2050 Active Transportation Plan.

Motion: Mr. Adam Lynch; Second: Ms. Jamie Jackson

Motion passed with unanimous consent.



b. Endorsement of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (ACTION ITEM) -Ms. Kari Barber

Ms. Barber presented the online version of the 2050 LRTP Draft and explained that staff would like an endorsement of the document to pass along to the FAMPO Policy committee.

Chair Geouge called for comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to endorse.

Motion was made to endorse the 2050 LRTP.

Motion: Mr. Craig Pennington; Second: Mr. Jim Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

c. FAMPO Bike and Pedestrian Counter Program: Locations for 2022 (ACTION ITEM) -Ms. Kari Barber

Ms. Barber reviewed historic counter locations throughout FAMPO, showing locations in Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and Stafford.

Ms. Talken-Spaulding asked for clarification on count timing. Ms. Barber explained that the locations were where the counter had been placed for two weeks at a time. The only location that had a longer, more recent count was the Canal Path at the Dog Park, where it had been placed for a year and had been counting until recently when it was removed.

Ms. Barber then asked the group where it should be placed next.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked if the counter could be on a street for considering a bicycle boulevard. Ms. Barber explained that that was tricky, as it tended to pick up car movements. She then posited that it could be used in areas where infrastructure as being considered, such a locations of desire lines, if it could be placed far enough away from the flow of cars.

Mr. Adam Lynch proposed the desire lines along Lafayette. Ms. Barber answered that infrastructure was planned for Lafayette Blvd, right of way allowing, and thought that could be a potential count location.

Mr. Aaron Frank proposed the Chatham Bridge to collect data from users traveling from Pratt Park to downtown. Ms. Barber agreed.

Mr. Rob Maple proposed placing the counter between Motts Run Reservoir and the Quarry Trail as the City hopes to connect the two. Ms. Barber agreed.

Ms. LaSut asked if any other localities were counting. Ms. Barber replied that the localities do not have their own counters, but VDOT was looking to place a permanent counter within the region.

Chair Geouge asked where counters could be mounted. Ms. Barber explained that it was usually mounted to signs. She then asked if the group wished to place the counter at proposed infrastructure locations.



Ms. Talken-Spaulding agreed that it would be a good use.

Chair Geouge was concerned about placement too close to traffic. Ms. Barber said the locations would have to be scouted out for potential placement.

Mr. Pennington pointed out that perhaps the counter could be placed facing away from the roadway to preclude picking up cars.

Mr. Jim Lynch posited that they would like a counter on the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail.

Mr. Summer asked if two-week placement meant that counter sites only provided data for a particular time of year. Ms. Barber responded that sites were counted twice a year, about six months apart, to give a more accurate average. This was in 2019 when there were still two counters.

Ms. Barber summed up that she is researching the possibility of obtaining more counters. She said that she would incorporate the suggestions for locations given by the group; and would like more suggestions for placement to be sent to her.

8. **SMART SCALE Round 5 Update -Ms. Kari Barber**

Ms. Barber reviewed the current set of SMART SCALE candidate projects and summarized the program timeline. She added that almost all of the projects had a bike/ped component. She further explained that one project from each list had to come off before the full application period, and that the TAC would be prioritizing projects.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked about the lack of King George applications. Ms. Barber explained that King George did not use all of their locality application slots so were not in need of any regional slots.

Ms. LaSut let the group know that Metroquest Surveys were currently active for the VDOT Pipeline Studies being used to develop two of the projects on the list.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked for a clarification of the term “pipeline.” Ms. Barber explained that it was a quick, targeted way to develop SMART SCALE projects conducted by VDOT.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked who the TAC comprised. Ms. Barber explained that some of the folks in the room were TAC members. The TAC is staff from the various localities; subject matter experts on transportation. She added that the list of members is on the FAMPO website.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked what the criteria for prioritization would be. Ms. Barber explained that staff would work with the TAC to develop that.

Mr. Pastwik asked how long it would take for funded projects to be built. Ms. Barber answered that it would be many years. Funded projects are added to VDOT’s Six Year Improvement program, so that gives a feel for the timeline.



Mr. Adam Lynch pointed out that the I-95 widening and the VCR Trail projects line up. Ms. Barber answered that his supposition was correct and that the two were originally linked, but that together they made too big a project for SMART SCALE and had to be broken up.

Ms. LaSut added that projects of 3-5 million did well, much larger projects did not.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked if there was potential to take two projects off one list instead. Ms. Barber responded that each list was put forth by a different entity that is allowed four applications: not five.

Mr. Pastwik pointed out that Round 4 had some really good bike/ped projects and that those were coming; these projects would add to that.

Mr. Jim Lynch added that these projects looked good.

9. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

10. Staff Reports

Ms. Barber stated that some committee members had been absent for several meetings in a row and she would send letters to their corresponding localities and organizations.

11. Member reports

Chair Geouge said that Stafford was wrapping up their Rt 17 Multimodal Study and was beginning a study on traffic impact fees.

Mr. Clarke reported that King George was meeting with Ms. Barber the following week to develop the Rural Work Program.

Mr. Pastwik reported that he was continuing work on connecting several trail projects in the county into one large network.

Mr. Pennington reported that Caroline is working on its Comprehensive Plan that will include the bike/ped improvements that Ms. Barber did for them last fall. He hopes to take it to the board this summer. They will be meeting with Ms. Barber soon to work on the Rural Work Program.

Ms. LaSut reported that VDOT is working on SMART SCALE pipeline projects, will be reviewing the Rural Work Program when it is ready, and said that they were working with a lot of bike/ped projects. She added that VDOT would be sending out sketches on the SMART SCALE projects presently.

Ms. Talken-Spalding reported that NPS is doing a lot of storm cleanup. She also reported on the status of the pedestrian crossing at the Lafayette Blvd/Lee Drive intersection. She said that 2027 is the centennial of the NPS and the monument would be at that location. On Rt 3 the park is working with VDOT on adjusting the roadway width across from Old Salem Church. Lastly, the Park is working on its Strategic Plan. She pointed out that circulation among the park units has become an important part of visitor experience.

Mr. Jim Lynch reported that the bill in the General Assembly to add Lake Caledon to the state park system did not make it past committee. Another bill to add the DRHT to the state park system, however, has been approved in the budget. He added that the trail damage from the last storm had been cleared by many volunteers, including a veteran's group. He also reported that the annual half



marathon was held last weekend and Ms. Talken-Spaulding participated and finished the race. Lastly, he said the application period for a new superintendent for the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail had closed and that they were hopeful to have an individual in that position shortly.

He ended with an update on bike/ped amenities at the Harry Nice Bridge, reporting that there was a continuing movement to retain the old bridge for that purpose.

Mr. Summer reported that there are rides scheduled nearly every day with the FCC and those who wish to ride should join them.

Mr. Littlewood apologized for missing the last meeting for family medical matters and called the group's attention to a program with a website called Park Rx, which links parks and medical care providers to get people outside. He proposed that BPAC conduct outreach to help local medical facilities and parks get involved in the program. Ms. Talken-Spaulding added that it's called Healthy Parks, Healthy People, and that it's an international movement, but that locally there wasn't much involvement.

Ms. Jordan added that she had been talking to the COO of Mary Washington hospital and would share the information for that program. She also reported that she was speaking with the newly elected Supervisor for the Aquia District, and the police department's crime prevention unit, on how they can increase security as greater numbers of newcomers enter the area.

Mr. Frank pointed out that with warmer weather paving schedules coming out he hoped that the group would advocate for striping patterns that benefitted active transportation. Mr. Adam Lynch responded that the City is working on that, coordinating with Public Works to provide striping consistent with Complete Streets principles where possible.

12. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting **March 3rd, 2022 at 6:00 pm**

Chair Geouge called for a motion to adjourn at 7:40.

Motion: Mr. Aaron Frank; Second: Mr. Jim Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.