



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

Thursday, January 12th – 6:00 p.m.

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

### **Committee Members Present:**

Brian Geouge, Former Chair, Stafford County  
Chair Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)  
Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg  
Craig Pennington, Caroline County  
Joe Bonds, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)  
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County  
Lynn Faust, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)  
Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative  
Jim Lynch, Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA) and Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT)  
Cassy Lord, (VDOT)  
Matthew Lehane, Stafford County

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

Chris Clarke, King George County  
Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative  
Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

### **Committee Members Not Present:**

Joy Himes, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)  
Ben Matters, PRTC  
Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)  
Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)  
Chris Collins, Acting Superintendent, National Park Service (NPS)  
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect  
Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative  
Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
John Summer, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

### **Others Present:**

Melvin Cosely, PE and Paul Prideaux, PE, Michael Baker International  
Alan Mindlin

### **Staff Present:**

Ms. Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner/ Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator  
Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager  
Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator



**1. Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

Chair Geouge called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He then handed the gavel to incoming Chair Adam Lynch, who, on behalf of the group, presented Chair Geouge with a Certificate of Recognition for his service to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Chair Lynch greeted the committee, saying that he was happy to be part of it, and reminding them that although he is representing Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR), he is also part of the governing of the City of Fredericksburg and brings that experience with him, and so will do his best to give that perspective.

Regarding the mission of FOR, it's important to build a river-friendly community. "To do so," he said, "we can't keep building these large parking lots and low density. We must look for alternatives. That's why I wanted to be part of BPAC and why I'm excited to be helping us move forward."

**2. Roll Call**

Mx. Touzel called the roll.

**3. Approval of January 12th, 2023, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Pennington; Second: Mr. Lehane

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**4. Approval of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 BPAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Bonds; Second: Mr. Pennington

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**5. Public Comment**

Alan Mindlin spoke about balancing the transportation system via incorporating e-bikes, traditional bikes and other non-motorized modes. He stressed the need for building safe bike lanes on every major route and how it would help all users of the transportation system, as well as attract tourists from outside our region and boost the local economy.

**6. Discussion/Action Items**

- a. VCR Crossing Study Preliminary Engineering Review- Mr. Paul Prideaux

Mr. Prideaux presented the latest update in the ongoing VCR Trail Crossing Study, providing a review for those members new to the committee. He then presented the engineering sketches for proposed solutions at each of the three crossing sites: the tunnel at I-95, the bridge at US 1, and the ramp and bridge at Rt 3 and Lafayette, describing the challenges and benefits of each.

Members discussed the tunnel design, including a potential for natural light in the median.

Mr. Lynch mentioned the tunnel under I-81 between the two James Madison University campuses.

More discussion centered on how these projects would tie into current SMART



SCALE projects, and how best to coordinate them. At US 1, for example, there is an existing project to build a shared-use path down the west side from Idlewild to Kings Mill Drive. That project will need to be modified to properly tie into the bridge.

Mr. Geouge asked about maintenance of these facilities.

Mr. Prideaux answered that those within VDOT right of way are often maintained by VDOT, but this could be discussed at the upcoming stakeholder meeting with VDOT in a couple weeks.

When Mr. Prideaux discussed the crossing at Rt. 3, Chair Lynch pointed out that the City is working on designing the area through which the crossing will be built for mixed-use development, and that siting the trail in the new location would allow for more store frontage; a benefit to local businesses.

For next steps, Mr. Prideaux discussed presenting technical briefings to VDOT, County and City later in January, and ultimately developing these projects into SMART SCALE applications if asked to proceed.

After the presentation there was much discussion about developments around the rest of the VCR Trail, which is being planned, funded and built through a variety of sources.

Mr. Pastwik gave an update on developments on the Spotsylvania side of the trail and discussed the auxiliary route along Harrison Road and up Rt 1 to Kings Mill Drive, which was awarded SMART SCALE funding in Round 5. This is a significant regional win for bike/ped and a major section of the VCR Auxiliary Trail per the Spotsylvania Comprehensive Plan.

b. Urban Heat Islands Study Presentation- Chair Adam Lynch

Chair Lynch presented a study conducted by FOR on the difference in ambient temperature between environments with high concentrations of impervious surfaces and more natural environments. The study used a combination of remote sensing analysis and field data collected on a hot summer day to compare temperatures on 20 different sites throughout the 5 different municipalities in GWRC. The study found that sites with impervious surfaces were 17 degrees hotter than sites with a natural forest setting. Chair Lynch said that this finding agreed with similar studies.

Using a map of GWRC, he showed that the US 17 corridor, Garrisonville, the Spotsylvania Town Center, Four Mile Fork, and Cosner's Corner were some of the region's largest urban heat islands, with Garrisonville being the worst.

Fort A.P. Hill and Quantico, with their large, forested tracts, are conversely heat sinks.

Downtown Fredericksburg's heat island effect is likely mitigated, he proposed, by its large, mature trees and the proximity of the river, as well as the relatively small size of its parking lots.

Chair Lynch discussed the concept of thermal pollution; the problem of hot runoff raising stream temperature and killing the plants and animals that live in them. His group will be researching that problem more in the future.

Moving forward, this research is meant to inform local planning and building regulations to encourage more tree canopy and reduction in impervious surface, as well as a push to provide more alternatives to car-centric development, such as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

The committee discussed growing regulations to retain tree canopy in new developments and to plant more street trees, and how those could be expanded and



supported.

Mr. Littlewood suggested expanding on the study with nighttime, winter-solstice temperature data collection, commenting that comparing temperatures at the coolest time of the year would provide useful information.

Chair Lynch agreed and added that he would confer further with Mr. Littlewood.

Mr. Lehane asked about the granularity of the study and whether certain neighborhoods had different temperatures.

He used the map to discuss the age of different neighborhoods, the maturity of their trees, and their resulting temperatures. A discussion on tree removal, stormwater regulations, and residential development ensued.

Mr. Pastwik asked how best to improve regulations for canopy requirements, from species to diameter.

Chair Lynch commented on Fredericksburg's group, Tree Fredericksburg, which monitors trees all throughout the City, and suggested they might have useful information.

Ms. Faust discussed concerns with new parking lots being built, specifically one by the river.

Chair Lynch discussed the small size and tree canopy cover of that parking lot and its proximity to the river and the importance of river access.

Mr. Pennington pointed out that Caroline County uses permeable paving on parking lots over the minimum parking requirement.

Mr. Frank pointed out that Urban Heat Islands have a significant impact on cyclists and pedestrians, making non-motorized travel physically difficult, and thus this was an important presentation to bring to BPAC.

c. Election of Vice Chair (**ACTION ITEM**)- Chair Adam Lynch

Chair Lynch explained the position and asked who was eligible.

Ms. Eaves explained that any full voting member was eligible, alternates were not. Once this was established, Chair Lynch called for nominations.

Motion was made to nominate Mr. Lehane.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Correspondence

Ms. Eaves drew attention to a newly-released federal funding program matrix for trail and other bike/ped infrastructure projects, and said that it was in the committee members' agenda packets should they wish to review it further. Vice Chair Lehane suggested having a guest from FHWA come to explain these various sources.

Mr. Pastwik asked if there was such a matrix for state funding. Mr. Bonds asked about the new state trails office.

Ms. Eaves responded that she had planned to speak to that in staff reports.

8. Staff Reports

Ms. Eaves reported that the General Assembly had created a State Trails Office which was currently hiring two positions. The General Assembly had also chosen five priority trails around the state for funding separate from Transportation Alternatives. FAMPO staff would be monitoring these developments and finding



out how the region's trails could benefit.

She reminded everyone, especially locality staff, that a new Transportation Alternatives funding cycle had begun. The biennial 80/20 reimbursement program for bike/ped projects was open to all GWRC localities. The pre-application portal would open around May 17<sup>th</sup> with a deadline of July 1. Full applications would be due October 1. She stated that FAMPO staff was available, as always, to assist.

## 9. Member reports

Vice Chair Lehane reported on the Butler Road study and the ongoing multimodal survey, encouraging everyone to take it. He also discussed the Transportation Master Plan that started in August. He announced that public comment opportunities would be taking place later this spring.

Mr. Geouge reported that Stafford received a site plan for high school number six, which will be located between Rt 17 and Truslow Rd. A new 2 lane road for the school from Summer Breeze Lane to Rt 17 will include a shared-use path.

Mr. Pennington reported that the Planning Commission will have a work session next week, hopefully incorporating the Ladysmith Bike and Pedestrian plan done by Ms. Eaves into their Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Faust introduced herself as the new head of FredTrails and talked about some of the other members. She said they were working with JROTC students to help reroute trails at Motts Run to improve user conflicts.

Mr. Bonds commented on the East-West Mobility study and the Rappahannock River Crossing Bridge. He reported on a public meeting on the crossing that was well-attended, including Ian Ollis, Colie Touzel, and Supervisor Tom Coen.

Mr. Jim Lynch gave an update on the State Park feasibility study for the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail, reporting on the Friends' group's response to the state's \$23 million cost estimate. They've written letters proposing a much lower cost alternative.

Ms. Lord reported on the upcoming meeting with FAMPO and Michael Baker on the VCR Trail Crossing meeting.

Mr. Pastwik stressed again the need to tie the US 1 bridge to current SMART SCALE designs, and that Spotsylvania is currently working on a number of shared-use path projects and making real progress down Rt 1, including portions of the East Coast Greenway (south of Massaponax Church Road).

Mr. Clarke reported on the Ready, Set Go! Grant King George won from VDOT to prepare for the upcoming Transportation Alternatives funding cycle.

Chair Lynch mentioned 15-minute Fredericksburg, the advocacy group dedicated to help promote walking, biking, public transit and sustainable development. He is currently working on a Facebook group to promote the organization.



10. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 pm**

Chair Lynch called for adjournment at 8:07 p.m.