



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE(BPAC)

Thursday, March 2, – 6:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Present:

Chair Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)

Matthew Lehane, Vice Chair, Stafford County

Chris Clarke, King George County

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Lynn Faust, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

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

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

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

Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Ben Matters, PRTC

Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

Chris Collins, Acting Superintendent, National Park Service (NPS)

John Summer, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Joe Bonds, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Cassy Lord, (VDOT)

Gregory Goldstein, Stafford Citizen Representative

Others Present:

Clay Murray, proposed At-Large Citizen Representative

Beth Huntzinger, member of the public

Lois Siler, member of the public

Staff Present:

Ms. Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner/ Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator

Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator



1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Eaves called the roll.

Chair Lynch recognized proposed new At -Large member, Clay Murray, who has been approved by the Stafford Board of Supervisors but still needs approval by the Policy Committee.

3. **Approval of March 2, 2023, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Chair Lynch made a recommendation to move correspondence to after Public Comment.

Motion was made to approve the January 12th, 2023, BPAC agenda with change.

Motion: Vice Chair Lehane; Second: Mr. Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of January 12th, 2023, BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the January 12th, 2023 BPAC meeting minutes with corrections.

Motion: Mr. Pennington; Second: Mr. Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. **Public Comment**

Beth Huntzinger, a resident of Hamilton's Crossing Subdivision in Spotsylvania County's Lee Hill District, attended with her mother, Lois Siler, to speak about the importance of pedestrian safety upgrades along Rt 2 in the wake of pedestrian deaths that have recently occurred. She wants the group to prioritize that area for solutions. She also spoke at the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors meeting on the subject and noted that she had received a positive response.

She reported that VDOT has installed emergency safety items in the area - lighting and paint upgrades - and she appreciated the speed with which they had been installed, but that much more was needed.

Chair Lynch thanked her for speaking and asked staff to bring up the two correspondence letters regarding the recent pedestrian deaths in that area so that the committee could discuss them.

Vice Chair Lehane reported his experience driving that road and seeing pedestrians walking there.

Chair Lynch reviewed the incident of Mr. Charles Cuchins, one of the pedestrians recently killed at the site. He was someone Chair Lynch knew personally.

The committee looked at satellite imagery of the intersection, noting that it is a connection between a residential and a commercial area with a grocery store with a crosswalk and a pedestrian-activated beacon.

The group discussed the problems with the intersection and the concept of the safe systems/ Vision Zero approach and how countermeasures could be better applied to prevent future accidents at this location and others like it, regardless of human error.

Mr. Murray asked about the committee's ability to influence regional decision-making on transportation safety projects such as those being discussed.



Ms. Eaves pointed out that there are locality planners on the committee that would hear about the issues. Mr. Lynch, Mr. Lehane, and Mr. Pennington explained funding programs that are used for this purpose and their timelines.

Ms. Eaves then read aloud comments from Mr. Pastwik detailing SMART SCALE improvements planned for the location that include a pedestrian refuge island and other safety features, and talked about the Safe Streets for All Grant, which may provide faster funding for safety improvements.

Chair Lynch wrapped up the discussion by requesting an email summary from Mr. Pastwik on planned improvements and urged the committee to “not forget Charles” and to honor him by taking this matter seriously and working to make the improvements.

6. Discussion/Action Items

a. Review of SMART SCALE CTB Staff- Recommended Projects- Ms. Kari Eaves

Ms. Eaves gave a rundown of the regional FAMPO and GWRC bicycle and pedestrian projects that CTB staff recommended for funding at the January meeting. She described the Layhill Road roadway and bicycle and pedestrian improvements, the VCR Regional Trail project, the Dixon Street widening and multimodal improvement, and the US 1 bicycle and pedestrian improvement. The committee discussed each project at length and how it connects to projects already being built to create a network of trails.

The committee noted the unprecedented number of bicycle and pedestrian projects and reviewed the switch from category A to category B and how the metrics were thus scored differently.

Ms. Eaves went on to explain that while this is only the CTB staff recommended funding scenario and could still change, it was very unlikely to change. The projects would be finalized in June.

b. Falmouth Bridge Bike and Pedestrian Crossing- Vice Chair Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane discussed potential alternatives for bicycle and pedestrian crossings on the U.S. 1 Falmouth Bridge. The bridge will soon be rehabilitated and VDOT has determined that with the cantilever structure of the bridge supports, it is impossible to include a shared-use path. One possibility that has been proposed is a separate bicycle and pedestrian bridge adjacent to the automobile bridge.

Chair Lynch said that as a River Steward he would not be happy to support that alternative because it would add extra piers in the river.

Ms. Eaves stated that FAMPO and VDOT met to try to find a possible solution that included an integrated facility, but it was determined to be impossible from an engineering standpoint.

Ms. Faust wanted to know how other locations along Rt.1 on the east coast deal with repairing bridges..

Mr. Murray pointed out the dangerous and uncomfortable nature of crossing the bridge. Mr. Lynch and Chair Lynch asked if the sidewalks could be expanded at



all.

Ms. Eaves answered that VDOT planned to expand the sidewalks as much as possible.

Chair Lynch added that Friends of the Rappahannock wouldn't object to a separate bridge, but it wouldn't be their first choice.

The committee was interested in knowing how much bike/ped traffic the bridge carries. Ms. Anderson pointed out that if the infrastructure was in place there would be much more, especially with the rise of e-bikes. She added that with e-bikes people could easily perform many of their daily tasks across the bridge. Her comments sparked a discussion about adjacent areas that need safety infrastructure, and what smaller scale development such improvements could bring.

c. King George Courthouse Draft Bike/Ped Plan- Ms. Kari Eaves

Ms. Eaves presented a plan she is developing for the King George Courthouse area for bicycle and pedestrian facilities along King's Highway from Inaugural Drive to Government Center. The plan consists of crossing upgrades at several key intersections and sidewalks, side paths, and buffered bike lanes where appropriate. The plan gives a summary of the relevant demographics, including the percentage of non-drivers, median household income, and car ownership. Developed in consultation with King George County planner Chris Clarke, the plan will be presented to the King George Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 8.

d. Designation of BPAC Representative alternate(s) for Policy Committee- Chair Adam Lynch (**ACTION ITEM**)

Chair Lynch explained that neither he nor Vice Chair Lehane could reliably make it to every Policy Committee meeting, as they both often had prior commitments on the third and fourth Mondays of the month. It was important, however, to have BPAC representation on the Committee.

Ms. Eaves explained that the BPAC representative's purpose on Policy Committee was to speak about BPAC concerns and issues and to give their perspective on anything the Policy Committee was considering.

Ms. Anderson explained that the Committee makes decisions on all transportation policy for FAMPO.

Ms. Eaves suggested that if it was difficult for one person to make all the meetings, then designating a small pool of people might serve the purpose.

Chair Lynch, Mr. Clarke, and Ms. Anderson agreed to be in the pool. Chair Lynch nominated Mr. Frank, who was absent, to head the pool. Chair Lynch also suggested that Ms. Faust be added to the pool later in the year when she has more time.

7. Correspondence (moved to the beginning of the agenda)

Correspondence consisted of two newspaper articles regarding two recent pedestrian deaths in the area of Benchmark Road, one on Lee Hill School Drive, and the other on Tidewater Trail near Briarwood Lane. The committee discussed these two events during the public comment portion of the meeting.



8. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

9. Member reports

Vice Chair Lehane gave an update on Stafford's efforts to develop a Transportation Master Plan, a project that was started last summer. They have completed a survey with approximately 1000 respondents and are considering another survey later this spring. He will keep the group up to date with any further developments.

Mr. Lynch reported that the State Trails Office just hired a new Program Manager, Torsha Bhattacharya, who was recently with Rails to Trails Conservancy. He also reported that for the first time, the Military Academy sent their team to participate in the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail Half Marathon and performed very well, but a local resident won the race.

Lastly, Mr. Lynch reported that the landowner of the last segment of the trail on the eastern end had begun to develop their portion into a storage facility and that the trail would be cut for approximately a year; however, they would be rerouting the trail and preserving it in time for the next big race in the fall. He showed a development plan for the new business which showed the trail reroute.

Ms. Faust reported that FredTrails had had a trail emergency recently. A large tree had fallen at Pole Pass West on the Quarry Trails and had taken a large section of trail surface with it. Her group had to muster volunteers quickly to ensure the safety of cyclists on the trail. She described the resurfacing process and its essential nature for trail user safety. She said that ROTC Cadets from local high schools in Spotsylvania County will be helping to do work on the trail in April, bringing in pavers to stem erosion, cover roots, and do other trail repairs.

Ms. LaSut reported that members of VDOT attended a "Lessons Learned" meeting on SMART SCALE Round 5 in Richmond to discuss what went right and what could have been improved with this round. She said this was the first time that had been done, and the team welcomed it, because toward the end of the process things had been uncommonly busy.

Ms. Anderson reported that GWRideConnect hired a new staff member and is now fully staffed. She also introduced GWRideConnect's mission to the group for the benefit of new members.

Chair Lynch reminded everyone that Friends of the Rappahannock has a variety of events and volunteer opportunities listed on their website, <https://riverfriends.org/>

10. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting
May 4th, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Chair Lynch called for adjournment at 8:12 p.m.

Motion: Vice Chair Lehane; Second: Mr. Clarke

Motion passed with unanimous consent.