



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 20th – 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

Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)

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

John Summer, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Yamina Jordan, Stafford County Alternate

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

Debra Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Deborah Lately, DRC

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Joy Himes, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Ben Matters, PRTC

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, 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

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative

Heather LaBelle, Caroline County Citizen Representative

Others Present:

Mr. Brandon Brown, Stafford County

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

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

Mr. Matthew Lehane, Transportation Planner



1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Barber called the roll.

3. **Approval of January 20th, 2022, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

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

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of November 4th, 2021, BPAC Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made to approve the November 4th, 2021, BPAC meeting minutes, as amended.

Motion: Mr. Maple; Second: Mr. Clarke

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

Mr. Ollis reviewed his presentation to the FAMPO Policy Committee, sharing his vision prompt “What would a good outcome be, 50 years from now?” and encouraging committee members to visualize the steps toward a good transportation future for the region. Mr. Ollis also gave an overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill recently passed in Congress and what it would mean for state transportation funding, as well as covering updates to the FAMPO-administered East-West Mobility Study. He then went on to highlight the Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce’s Legislative Priority for 2022, to create a Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). Mr. Ollis explained that an RTA allows localities and regions to levy taxes to create funding for local transportation improvements. Mr. Ollis concluded by introducing new staff member, Becky Golden.

Mr. Lynch asked if the RTA would cover the whole GWRC Region.

Mr. Ollis answered that it would depend on how the RTA was set up.

Mr. Pastwik asked if the new authority would be a competitor for SMART SCALE dollars. Mr. Lehane and Mr. Ollis explained that the purpose of the RTA was to raise funds to be used by the localities, not to apply for funding itself.

Ms. Jordan asked about attending the FRED Transit meetings. Ms. Jackson gave information about the meetings and said that all are welcome to attend.

6. **Public Comment**

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

7. **Discussion/Action Items**

a. **Presenting the 2050 Active Transportation Plan Draft -Ms. Kari Barber**



Ms. Barber reminded the committee that they had seen the plan and would have until February 17th to submit comments. She then went through each chapter briefly so that committee members could ask questions or make any comments they had ready about that chapter.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked if the plan was incorporating localities' planned paths and trails into the Active Transportation Plan. Ms. Barber affirmed that they were.

Mr. Jim Lynch had a question about the surfacing on the Belmont to Ferry Farm Trail. Mr. Geouge confirmed that the trail is completely paved.

Mr. Geouge asked if there would be needs maps. Ms. Barber responded that there had not been staff time for the maps for this release, but that they would be added at a future date. Mr. Geouge responded that maps would be a good addition and offered to facilitate that data for Stafford County.

Mr. Pastwik commented that the Comprehensive Plan for Spotsylvania County had been approved in December so the date for the adoption of the Trailways Master Plan could be updated. He asked about a project potentially missing from the table for the Constrained Long-Range Plan Projects. Ms. Barber and Mr. Lehane explained that if an active transportation project was combined with a roadway project it would be in the main document CLRP rather than in the Active Transportation Plan.

Ms. Barber concluded with next steps, saying that Active Transportation Plan comments must be received by February 17th. She also noted that the entire Long Range Transportation Plan is up for public comment and showed the committee where they could access the document. She explained that the Active Transportation Plan will be submitted for their approval March 3 and the entire LRTP will be presented to the Policy Committee on March 21st.

b. FAMPO Bike and Pedestrian Counter Program 2021 Yearly Report- Mr. Matthew Lehane

Mr. Lehane presented a year's worth of data on the bike/ped count program site, currently on the Rappahannock River Canal Path at the Fredericksburg Dog Park. He showed how weather, day of the week, time of day, and time of year affects trail usage, giving the committee an idea of what types of information they can get from a count of users. Mr. Lehane asked what the program should look like for the rest of 2022, asking the group where the counter would best be placed.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked the price of the counter. Mr. Lehane explained that the counters come from a company called Eco-Counter and cost about \$4,000 to \$5,000, as well as a monthly fee to use their data dashboard.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked about double counting people who turn around on the trails. Mr. Lehane agreed that it was a possibility. The committee also discussed the use of City trails for transportation/commuting to work as well as recreation.

Mr. John Summer asked if there was a desire for more counters and if so, where would they be placed? Mr. Lehane answered that yes, there is, but it is a decision for BPAC and the local jurisdictions. He explained that in 2018 the two counters FAMPO had at the



time were placed at 21 different locations (moving every two weeks) and it allowed usage comparisons. That is something that could be done again if there were more counters.

Ms. Jordan talked about safety and surveillance on the trails. She stated that it's helpful to have something in case of emergencies or criminal activities. Ms. Barber stated that there have been many studies nationwide over the last 30 years that the presence of trails in a community does not increase crime; it decreases it. The group mentioned that emergency blue light call boxes, like those on the University of Mary Washington campus, might be useful in some cases.

Mr. Geouge concluded the discussion, saying that the committee would make decisions about the count program at a future meeting.

c. Review of State Multi-Use Trails Policy Work Group recommendations to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB)- Ms. Kari Barber

Ms. Barber reviewed a Cambridge Systematics presentation from a recent Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting highlighting the recommendations of a Multi-Use Trails Working Group. The group found that there are substantial obstacles to building trails throughout Virginia and recommended that a new State Office develop a State Trail Plan with dedicated funding in Fiscal Year 23.

Mr. Ollis questioned whether the working group defined "Multi-Use Trails" and whether they had worked out a funding process. Ms. Barber reviewed two slides with this information.

Mr. Summer asked if there was a process through which these projects were rated for success after completion. Mr. Lehane answered that for SMART SCALE, they are monitoring the success of prior round projects and that the state is in general ramping up evaluation efforts.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked if this program would fall under VDOT. There was some discussion; Ms. Barber and Mr. Lehane responded that it looked like a collaboration between VDOT and DCR. Ms. Barber added that it would be great to have more DCR involvement, citing the difficulty for localities to fund trails that are offroad--not part of a roadway project.

Mr. Maple said that this program would be a good complement to Virginia Trails Alliance, an advocacy organization which meets quarterly.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked if this program was in the budget that Gov. Northam proposed. Mr. Lehane responded that he believed that the funding was available and that the CTB just needed to approve it.

d. Elections for Vice Chair-Chair Brian Geouge (ACTION ITEM)

There was some discussion as to whether to postpone the election due to a relatively low turnout, but the committee agreed to move forward with it as planned.



Ms. Barber reminded everyone that the Vice-Chair position was essentially a training position for Chair.

Chair Geouge called for nominations.

Mr. Jim Lynch put forth Mr. Pastwik; Mr. Pastwik said that although he was willing, he had just served and would rather give someone else a chance.

Ms. Jordan asked if there was time to read bios in order to make an informed decision. Mr. Ollis responded that the group is small and works closely together, and as such everyone knows everyone for the most part.

There was some discussion. Ms. Barber confirmed to the members that the position was relatively light duty.

Ms. Jordan volunteered; Chair Geouge recommended that the Chair and Vice Chair not be from the same jurisdiction, and the committee agreed. Mr. Ollis called for volunteers from the other jurisdictions. Ms. Barber added that agencies are also eligible and reported the online attendees to the group for its consideration.

Mr. Adam Lynch asked the term of the office; Ms. Barber responded two years total- one as Vice Chair and the second as Chair. Mr. Lynch responded that he would be willing.

Mr. Jim Lynch nominated Mr. Adam Lynch; Second, Mr. Maple

Motion passed with unanimous consent

8. Correspondence

Ms. Barber reviewed correspondence received from State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator John Bolecek: the agenda for the Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Winter meeting, occurring Tuesday, January 25th, 2022.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Lehane showed the calendar for committee meetings for the rest of the year.

10. Member Reports

Mr. Adam Lynch, speaking for himself and not as a member of FOR, introduced his new Advocacy Organization, Fifteen Minute Fredericksburg, which seeks a “more livable and connected city.” The website is fred15.org. He advised that they would be doing a traffic calming tour on Saturday, starting at Riverfront Park. He encouraged everyone to sign up for the newsletter.

Mr. John Summer gave an update on Fredericksburg Cyclists Club’s Cannonball Century Ride, with the largest number of riders ever. They are considering moving the cannonball ride next year. Mr. Lehane showed the organization’s website, cannonballcentury.com

Ms. Jordan asked what a “cannonball” is. Mr. Summer explained that it was a bike ride fundraiser.

Mr. Jim Lynch gave an update on the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail. State Senator Richard Stuart has introduced a budget amendment to purchase a 400-acre piece of



property that the trail runs through known as Lake Caledon. It would be an addition to Caledon State Park. Delegate Luke Torian has introduced an amendment to evaluate the feasibility of the DRHT becoming part of Caledon State Park. He is hopeful for the future of these amendments.

Mr. Lynch also reminded the group that the state of MD had removed long-promised plans for bike/ped facilities on the Governor Harry Nice bridge replacement and reported that it's been recently discovered that an FHWA loan on the project for \$200 million will not be awarded without those facilities. A grassroots group is advocating that the current bridge be left in place and converted for bicycle and pedestrian use as a replacement. Mr. Lynch described the history of the project and the state of Maryland's plans to replace bicycle and pedestrian facilities on the bridge with a "cyclist on bridge" signal. Lastly, Mr. Lynch reported that the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail still needs help clearing downed trees from the storm.

Mr. Maple reported that there are several miles of new trails being added between the quarry trail and the Mott's Run Reservoir Trail areas. He said that the recent storms had "devastated" much of the 30 miles of trails that Fred Trails maintains, however, over the last two weekends volunteers have spent over 300 collective hours clearing trails, and 16 miles have been cleared of over 200 hundred trees. He was very happy with the volunteer turnout.

Mr. Lehane asked if Smith Run Trail was one of the trails maintained by the group. Mr. Maple responded that currently, although they are responsible for that parcel, that trail is not one that they maintain. He would be meeting with the Fredericksburg Parks and Recreation Director about bringing all natural surface trails under maintenance by the group.

He stated that are many natural surface trails in Fredericksburg that are not manned by anyone.

Mr. Pastwik reported that the Comprehensive Plan and the Trailways Master Plan had been adopted by the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors in December. He said that the County was actively pursuing physical trail infrastructure improvements; a focus at this time was extending the VCR Trail eastward into Fredericksburg from Salem Church Road. He said they had TAP funding on it and were moving forward to close the gap. Another focus is Tidewater Trail widening with a SMART SCALE application, and another SMART SCALE application to bring the East Coast Greenway route out past Shannon Airport and down Benchmark Road in order to connect to the Spotsylvania VRE Station. He reported that they are also trying to pursue recreational trail easements to get the space for the County's planned trail systems in order. He reviewed recent trail easement sections acquired by the County. Currently the easement plat for the sPower solar energy property is under review. Those easements will mean many miles of trails easements for the County out west involving a small portion of the VCR Trail and large sections of the Lake Anna Connector Trail, the Todd's Tavern Spur, and the Po River Trail systems.

Chair Geouge asked if there was anyone online who wished to report.

Mr. Frank reported from online that the pedestrian reflective signs have been removed for snowplows, but the City is reevaluating that policy in order to make safer crossings in the lengthy evening hours. He asked for recommendations on how other localities deal with this issue.

He reported that Fredericksburg hired an environmental sustainability coordinator. He



hoped there was an opportunity for transportation/ bike and pedestrian work with that position.

Mr. Adam Lynch pointed out that the new Coordinator works in the Public Works Division.

Lastly Mr. Frank reported on bills in the General Assembly- one that did not pass was to impound bicycles and fine cyclists who rolled through a stop sign. The second one was to prohibit cyclists from riding two abreast, which is still moving through the Assembly.

Chair Geouge reported that the Stafford County Comprehensive Plan Update was adopted in November and included a minor change to the Bike/Ped Facilities Plan regarding the Shared-Use Path along Celebrate Virginia Parkway and its connection to the area along the Rappahannock River owned by Fredericksburg. The County Transportation Division is currently working with consultants on several projects including a Rt. 17 Multimodal study. Recommendations from that study would be coming out in a week. They will also be working with a consultant on a Transportation Master Plan for the County, which will include comprehensive demand modeling which he expects to leverage for looking at bike/ped improvements. Lastly, they will be working with a consultant to revisit their Transportation Impact Fees. He explained that Stafford is the only county in Virginia to charge impact fees- \$3000 per unit.

Mr. Lehane stated that there were technical problems and those online could not be heard if there were any more who wished to give report.

[Added later, via email due to the technical problems] Ms. Fults reported that the disAbility Resource Center and Healthy Generations are coordinating a Coalition of concerned community members, agencies and people with disabilities including vulnerable seniors, to discuss the need for affordable, accessible transportation in the region. They are looking for folks to join a monthly meeting to provide information and assist in the development of a regional plan. They are currently developing an invitation, including a first meeting date.

11. 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 7:55.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.



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):

Deborah 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

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 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 evaluate the suitability of adding 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-Spauling 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-Spauling 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.



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 5th – 6:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Present:

Brian Geouge, Chair, Stafford County

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

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

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

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

John Summer, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Yamina Jordan, Stafford County Alternate

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

Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Committee Members Not Present:

Joy Himes, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Ben Matters, PRTC

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, National Park Service (NPS)

Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative

Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Chris Clarke, King George County

Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, National Park Service (NPS)

Others Present:

Joe Bonds

Robert Mason

Devyn Bell

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

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

Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager

Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator

Tel: (540) 373-2890 | Fax: (540) 899-4808 | email: fampo@gwregion.org



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 May 5th, 2022, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)

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

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. Approval of March 3rd, 2022 BPAC Meeting Minutes

Discussion: Mr. Pastwik mentioned a space in the minutes that needed deleting.

Ms. Lately had sent in a correction for her name spelling.

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

Motion was made to approve the March 3rd BPAC meeting minutes, as amended.

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

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 the EW Study, Funding, and the upcoming FAMPO Vision Survey.

He summarized the development of Bike/Ped proposals in the study, discussing transit access connections, current SMART SCALE applications, and facility upgrades. He also previewed plans for a BRT route.

Mr. Ollis went on to detail CMAQ/STBG active transportation funding recommendations, reviewed the Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee's proposal for an Outer Connector, and introduced the FAMPO Future Vision Survey, letting members know they will receive the survey by email and that the deadline to submit the survey is May 20th.

Lastly, Mr. Ollis told BPAC that FAMPO would be hosting a Freight Summit in September.

6. Public Comment

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

7. Discussion/Action Items

a. DRAFT FAMPO FY23 Unified Planning Work Program- Mr. Ollis

Mr. Ollis presented the FY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), documenting tasks and projects for the next fiscal year. He stated that the UPWP is available for public comment and the deadline is May 18th.

b. Active Transportation Provisions in the IIJA -Ms. Kari Barber

Ms. Barber summarized the new programs, regulations, and changes in funding affecting active transportation in the IIJA, the large infrastructure bill passed by Congress.

c. Proposal for Bike Counter Locations for 2022 (ACTION ITEM) -Ms. Kari Barber



Ms. Barber presented the suggestions she had received for count locations from the members. Out of the locations, six were voted on in order to have two months of data for each, at opposing times of the year. Mr. Lynch and Mr. Frank asked to hold their two slots until they researched the City's footbridge plans; Chair Geouge chose Furnace Road and Chatham Bridge. Mr. Pastwik chose the junction between Spotsylvania Parkway and Hospital Blvd, and the Courtland Park Frontage Trail.

Motion to approve the Count locations for 2022

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

Ms. Barber gave an update on the revised set of current SMART SCALE candidate projects, noting that the Rt 3 pipeline project had been removed from the FAMPO list. She explained that one project still had to be removed from the GWRC list. She talked about the need to revise the scope of some projects because of high-cost estimates and reminded localities that they needed to compile Economic Development data for each project.

Mr. Bonds asked what role safety had in evaluating SMART SCALE projects. Ms. Barber explained that safety is a major criterion for scoring projects, and one of five metrics. Mr. Ollis explained that safety was a VTrans need, and projects built on VTrans safety corridors scored higher. Ms. Barber added that with VDOT's Pedestrian Safety Action Plan corridors were now assessed for risk, not just prior crashes, as part of a new Safe Systems approach; this figured into the process.

9. **Policy Committee Representation (ACTION ITEM) -Ms. Kari Barber**

Ms. Barber presented a draft letter to be sent to the Policy Committee on behalf of BPAC requesting non-voting representation on their committee. She explained the benefits of such representation and asked the members for their consent.

Motion to send a letter requesting representation to the Policy Committee

Motion: Mr. John Summer; Second: Mr. Adam Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

10. **Correspondence**

Ms. Barber shared an article about an ultra-runner who was beginning a full journey of the East Coast Greenway, noting that he was averaging 40 miles a day to raise money for the trail.

11. **Staff Reports**

Ms. Barber stated that she had attended a site visit of the Hazel Run Bridge Project and that at that visit VDOT had agreed to take over the project from the City and to administer it. There was some discussion on the history of that project.

Mr. Ollis summarized the importance of adding bike/ped facilities to the Falmouth Bridge rehabilitation project and stated that he would be working with VDOT to facilitate that possibility. He also commented on the lack of paint and signage on Cowan Blvd Trail/ multi-use path and added that there must be a connection through Central Park to Spotsylvania Town Centre.



12. Member reports

Mr. Lynch reported that the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail friends' group is trying to reroute the trail so that it no longer passes through a minority cemetery. He is working with King George County to rewrite the zoning ordinance to allow trails through agricultural districts and is looking for help with language examples to use in the rewrite. Mr. Geouge suggested a public use easement. Mr. Pastwik had suggestions on dividing the parcel in question. Mr. Lynch also gave an update on efforts to provide bike/ped facilities at the Nice Bridge rebuild.

Mr. Summer introduced his replacement, Mr. Bonds, and stated that he would take over as representative, and Mr. Summer would remain as an alternate for the Fredericksburg Cyclists Club.

Ms. Jordan proposed the idea of having bike racks on school buses, asking if this has been examined to connect students who have to walk to the school bus stop from distant home sites, since school buses can't go directly to every house.

Mr. Frank pointed out all the new bike racks appearing downtown, giving kudos to the City for these new facilities. He also reported that the City was considering lowering speed limits from 25 to 20 mph. Lastly, he invited everyone to a casual bike ride with 15minuteFredericksburg.

13. **Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting July 7, 2022 at 6:00 pm**

Chair Geouge called for a motion to adjourn at 7:50.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE(BPAC)

Thursday, July 7th – 6:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Present:

Brian Geouge, Chair, Stafford County
Vice- Chair Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)
Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Chris Clarke, King George County
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative
Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative
Yamina Jordan, Stafford County Alternate

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

Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)
Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Joy Himes, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)
Ben Matters, PRTC
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)
Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)
Jim Lynch, Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA) and Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT)
Joe Bonds, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)
Chris Collins, Acting Superintendent, National Park Service (NPS)

Others Present:

Alex Owsiak, Stafford County
Chris Daily, VHB
Cassie Patterson (Online) VHB
Nat Grier (Online) VHB

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator
Ms. Kari Barber, Transportation Planner/ Bicycle & 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.

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Barber called the roll.

3. **Approval of July 7th, 2022, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Chair Geouge requested an amendment to the agenda to add an action item, 7d: Individual to serve as BPAC representative to the Policy Committee.

Motion was made to approve the July 7th, 2022, BPAC agenda as amended.

Motion: Mr. Lynch; Second: Ms. Anderson

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of May 5th, 2022, BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the May 5th BPAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Clarke; Second: Mr. Pennington

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

Mr. Ollis summarized his recent presentation to the Policy Committee. He discussed the FAMPO Vision Survey, which captured the opinions of members of all four FAMPO committees and FAMPO staff and addressed how a Future Vision document could influence policy going forward. He discussed FAMPO's future direction, including opportunities presented by the IJJA funding, a greater focus on transit and TOD, and the challenges of staffing in a volatile employment environment. He also celebrated the increasing spirit of cooperation and regionalism seen among the FAMPO localities in recent years.

6. **Public Comment**

Mx. Touzel read a letter received by Ms. Margaret Mock in support of completing the Belmont- Ferry Farm Trail, which was recently stopped due to funding and the concerns of nearby residents.

7. **Discussion/Action Items**

a. **East-West Mobility Study Update- Mr. Chris Daily, VHB**

Mr. Daily presented multiple choice options for several new bike/ ped connections in Spotsylvania, Fredericksburg, and Stafford. With local knowledge, committee members and staff were able to give extensive comments on each alternative and suggest a preferred route, as well as eliminate any routes that had known insurmountable problems. There was considerable discussion on each location.

b. **FAMPO Vision Survey- Mx. Colie Touzel**



Mx. Touzel presented the results of the FAMPO vision survey, which was sent to all members of FAMPO committees and staff. They pointed out some common themes within the survey results including multimodal options, transit-oriented development, and integrating land use with transportation infrastructure. Mx. Touzel explained that along with the survey results and further transportation planning research, the FAMPO staff will create a Future Vision document to help inform the future of the FAMPO region.

c. **SMART SCALE Update- Ms. Kari Barber**

Ms. Barber gave a brief update on the SMART SCALE projects being submitted by GWRC and FAMPO, touching on those which had changed scope since the committee had last seen them. Mr. Ollis commented that nearly every project has a shared-use path included. The committee discussed the projects. Ms. Barber reminded everyone that the deadline for SMART SCALE is fast approaching.

d. **Representation on the Policy Committee (ACTION ITEM)- Chair Brian Geouge/Ms. Kari Barber**

Chair Geouge reported that the Policy Committee had agreed to allow Ms. Barber to draft a bylaw change allowing non-voting membership for BPAC. BPAC then discussed whom the representative should be: the BPAC Chair, or a different BPAC member.

Ms. Barber explained that the Policy Committee Bylaws need to specify whether the representative will be the Chair, the Vice Chair, or a person appointed or voted on by the committee, as well as the length of the representative's term.

After substantial discussion, the final wording decided upon was the BPAC representative to the Policy Committee shall be the Chair, or Vice Chair (alternate) or the appointment of the Chair (second alternate).

Motion: Mr. Clarke; Second: Vice Chair Lynch
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. **Correspondence**

Vice Chair Lynch called attention to an upcoming VDOT public hearing on the Twin Lakes Drive /Kensington Connector, a SMART-SCALE funded bike/ped path, July 14th at Dorothy Hart Community Center, at 5 pm.

9. **Staff Reports**

Mr. Ollis reported that FAMPO is interviewing new staff.

10. **Member reports**



- Ms. LaSut reported that VDOT is working on SMART SCALE and hiring for a planning position.
- Chair Geouge reported that Stafford recently wrapped up their Warrenton Road Multimodal study and was shifting focus to Garrisonville Rd between US 1 and Joshua Rd.
- Ms. Jordan reported that she may be relocating to Los Angeles and is grateful for her experience with BPAC and what she learned from fellow BPAC members. She said that wherever she lives, she will continue to advocate for bicycle and pedestrian improvements.
- Mr. Lynch reported that Friends of the Rappahannock and the University of Mary Washington are looking for volunteers for concurrent urban heat island studies, and to email him for more information.
- Ms. Anderson reported that GWRideConnect is having a meeting with Van poolers on how to address the new normal of flexible schedules.
- Mr. Clarke reported that King George Parks and Recreation did a recreational needs assessment in the Month of May on thirty different types of needs; the study determined that the top-ranked need is walking and bicycling trails. He said the county is moving forward with its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and that the administration has tasked him with the implementation of the Master Trailway Study. The county will work with GWRC staff to rank projects this year as part of the rural work program (RWP) and will seek funding for priority projects next year.

(Ms. Barber reported for Mr. Maple and Mr. Lynch, reading emails sent in their absence):

- Mr. Maple reported that the Fred trails Alliance had mowed, snipped, and trimmed 24 miles of natural surface trail during their June Prune, and had installed new trail sign kiosks at all three trail heads: the Quarry Canal trail, the Quarry Sunshine trail, and Motts trail. The signs cover the latest maps, trail etiquette, status requirements, and more.
- Mr. Lynch reported that the General Assembly passed a measure calling for a sustainability study for the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT) to join Caledon State Park. The Friends of DRHT are in touch with the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and will work out the logistics of the study and offer their assistance. King George is conducting an update of the zoning ordinance and the Friends' group is working with them to make the ordinance more friendly for trails.

11. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting
September 1, 2022, at 6:00 pm

Chair Geouge called for a motion to adjourn at 8:45.

Motion: Mr. Lynch; Second: Ms. Anderson

Motion passed with unanimous consent.



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE(BPAC)

Thursday, September 1st – 6:00 p.m.

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

Committee Members Present:

Brian Geouge, Chair, Stafford County
Vice- Chair Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)
Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg
Craig Pennington, Caroline County
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect
Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
Joe Bonds, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County
Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

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

Chris Clarke, King George County
Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

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)
Jim Lynch, Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA) and Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT)
Chris Collins, Acting Superintendent, National Park Service (NPS)
Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative
Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Others Present:

Matthew Lehane
Alex Owsiak (Remote)

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator (Remote)
Ms. Kari Eaves Barber, Transportation Planner/ Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator (Remote)
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.

2. **Roll Call**

Mx. Touzel called the roll.

3. **Approval of Sept 1, 2022, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the Sept 1, 2022, BPAC agenda as amended.

Motion: Mr. Pastwik; Second: Ms. LaSut

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of July 7th, 2022, BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the July 7th BPAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Bonds; Second: Ms. Anderson

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

Mr. Ollis summarized his recent presentation to the Policy Committee. He discussed updates to the FAMPO Travel model and stated that new data from jurisdictions and FAMPO records had been sent to VDOT. He also reported on two ongoing studies—the East-West Mobility Study and the VCR Trail Crossing Study. Mr. Ollis summarized concerns with potential delays affecting the upcoming fall Freight summit and gave an overview of new and recent developments for FAMPO, including the hire of Transportation Planner John Ridout.

6. **Public Comment**

Mx. Touzel read a letter received by Ms. Jennifer Little, who was concerned about the lack of pedestrian infrastructure in the southern part of Lafayette Blvd.

7. **Discussion/Action Items**

a. **VCR Crossing Study Introduction- Ms. Kari Eaves Barber**

Ms. Eaves Barber introduced the VCR Crossing Study being done by Michael Baker Int'l to find crossings for the VCR Trail at I-95, and improved crossings at US 1 and RT 3. She surveyed the preliminary alternatives and gave brief descriptions of each. Ms. Eaves Barber mentioned that Baker will present to the TAC and Policy Committee later in the month to get recommendations for preferred alternatives and will update BPAC at the next meeting.

b. **East-West Study Phase 1 Report- Mr. Ian Ollis**

Mr. Ollis briefly discussed the recently completed East-West study Phase 1 Report and told BPAC members that the full report was in their packet for review. The Phase 2 material would soon be released as well and would be available to them this fall.



c. Rural Work Program Suite of Projects

Ms. Eaves Barber gave a brief introduction to the Rural Work Program, projects and planning assistance being conducted for King George and Caroline Counties. She described the budget, nature of the work, and the specific tasks for FY 23.

d. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Bylaws Amendment (ACTION ITEM) – Chair Brian Geouge

Chair Geouge presented the bylaws as rewritten according to wording agreed upon at the last meeting pertaining to BPAC representation on the Policy Committee.

Motion: Mr. Clarke; Second: Mr. Frank
Motion passed with unanimous consent.

8. Correspondence

Ms. Golden drew attention to a letter stating that work will soon begin on the train station adjacent to the GWRC/FAMPO building.

9. Staff Reports

Mr. Ollis reported that FAMPO is working on hiring new staff.

10. Member reports

Ms. Anderson reported on the recent “slugging” count that GWRideConnect performed in early August. They surveyed Rt 3, 17, 630, and 610 on Tuesday and Wednesday, August 9th and 10th. Ms. Anderson reported that slugs and drivers were around 20% female-appearing and 80% male-appearing.

The slugs requested doughnuts next time.

Chair Geouge reported that Stafford County Planning Department had hired Matthew Lehane, former FAMPO planner. The committee and FAMPO staff welcomed Matthew, who was present at the meeting.

(Ms. Eaves Barber reported for Mr. Brown and Mr. Jim Lynch, reading emails sent in their absence):

- Mr. Brown wished to comment that he was strongly in support of a tunnel or bridge to connect the VCR trail through I-95.
- Mr. Lynch wished to report that DCR is conducting a suitability study for the DRHT becoming part of Caledon. Folks from DCR have visited the trail several times and have contacted representatives from many organizations around the state to get their input. A couple of weeks ago, DCR conducted a "listening session" in KG. Representatives from several organizations that have an interest in the trail attended. The study is due to



be completed and given to the General Assembly by October 1st. Mr. Lynch said that he wasn't there due to covid, but Mr. Clarke was present. The King George Board of Supervisors passed a resolution of support for the DRHT becoming part of Caledon. The resolution was drafted and presented by Mr. Clarke. The annual 50K ultra-marathon race was held on August 6th, the 14th running of this event. The start/finish was at the Dahlgren end for the first time, to try and highlight the Dahlgren community as a prospective trail town. We also hold a half-marathon simultaneously with the 50K. Finishers for both races totaled 194, by far our largest number to date. We still have some kinks to work out with the new start and finish, but we were generally pleased with it. Post-race comments by the participants were very positive.

The construction and installation of a new sign kiosk at the end of the railbed on Rt. 301 was completed this week. The kiosk features a new Dahlgren Junction Line history poster. The railroad history was researched by the Dahlgren Museum with a grant from the Community Foundation. The project was led by Will Tolley, the eagle scout candidate. The kiosk is on Sheetz property, so many thanks to the manager, Charlie Albarano, for his support. The Little Ark Baptist Church was awarded a nice grant (\$25K) to do several things with their property including rerouting the railroad from their cemetery and moving it onto adjacent property.

Mr. Pastwik reported in response to the public comment Spotsylvania has several SMART SCALE projects in Rounds 4 and 5 for the Lafayette Corridor that feature sidewalks. The Spotsylvania Comp Plan and Bike/Ped Plan for Lafayette Blvd corridor, call for bike and pedestrian infrastructure all along the corridor. He has also noted interest in a shared-use path connection to the Fredericksburg trail headed up the west side of Lafayette as far as Hudgins Rd as well. Noted new developments on a piece-by-piece basis have required frontage improvements. Recent examples such as Sheetz gas and Spotswood Baptist Church resulted in frontage improvements. We look to close gaps when we have larger scale transportation funds request like SMART SCALE. Lafayette Blvd is a high priority for the county from the City line to Four Mile Fork with efforts underway.

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

Chair Geouge called for a motion to adjourn at 7:15
Motion: Chair Geouge; Second: Ms. Anderson
Motion passed with unanimous consent.



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 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

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

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

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

Joe Bonds, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

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

Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

Committee Members Not Present:

Chris Clarke, King George County

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Joy Himes, Potomac and Rappahannock Transportation Commission (PRTC)

Ben Matters, PRTC

Stephen Littlewood, Stafford County Citizen Representative

Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

Lynn Faust, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

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

Others Present:

Matthew Lehane, Stafford County

Staff Present:

Mr. Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

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

Ms. Becky Golden, Transportation Manager

Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement and Title VI Coordinator

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1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Eaves called the roll.

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

Motion was made to approve the November 3rd, 2022, BPAC agenda.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of September 1st, 2022 BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the September 1st BPAC meeting minutes with corrections.

Motion: Mr. Joe Bonds; Second: Mr. Jacob Pastwik.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

Mr. Ollis gave an overall end-of-year review on travel patterns in the region, updates on current studies, and an overview of the recent FAMPO Freight Summit.

First, he discussed travel patterns in the Fredericksburg region and how Covid-19 has affected freight and commuter traffic volumes. Freight has risen roughly 11%, and while commuter traffic has not yet recovered to pre-covid levels, it is expected to, which will create congestion issues. VRE and FXBGo! ridership continues to increase. Virginia Amtrak had its highest ridership on record this past July.

FAMPO studies continue to progress. Mr. Ollis said that the East-West Study Phase I Report has been accepted and can be accessed on the FAMPO website. The Phase II Transit Report is being revised for adoption, and the Phase II Roadways Report will be available for public comment in November. For the VCR Trail Crossing Study, Michael Baker is beginning work on the preferred alternatives adopted by the Policy Committee.

Mr. Ollis also reviewed the FAMPO Freight Summit, held on September 29th. He described the challenges learned from speaking with local freight companies and urged members to share the truck drivers' survey to help FAMPO get more responses.

Mr. Ollis' closing remarks included noting that FAMPO has assembled a working group to research a potential new river crossing; FAMPO is working with VDOT to try and ensure that the Falmouth Bridge Rehabilitation includes bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Mr. Ollis also reminded locality planners that the call for CMAQ/STBG allocation Call for Projects closes on November 18th. Finally, he announced that FAMPO hired a new GIS Technician and planner, Connor Anderson.

Mr. Frank asked Mr. Ollis to let the Fredericksburg Pathways Committee know if



they could support the effort to add bike/ped infrastructure to the Falmouth Bridge.

Mr. Bonds asked if there was something the group could do formally to support the effort.

Mr. Ollis said that they could send emails to VDOT, and that as Linda LaSut was present, a VDOT representative was hearing the group's wishes. He added that it was technically very difficult given the nature of the current bridge's superstructure.

6. Public Comment

Mx. Touzel read two letters from the public. The first was from Chris Sowers regarding crosswalks perceived as unsafe on Lafayette Blvd. near Blue/Gray Pkwy. The second was a comment from Adam Lynch as a representative of the Friends of the Rappahannock in support of the East-West Mobility Study Transit Report.

There was some discussion on the requirements for a Pedestrian Activated Rapid Flashing Beacon.

7. Discussion/Action Items

- a. VCR Crossing Study Update- Ms. Kari Eaves gave an update on the status of the ongoing VCR Trail Crossing Study which seeks to provide a grade-separated crossing of the trail at US 1 and Rt 3 and a crossing at I-95. The TAC and the Policy Committee made recommendations to Michael Baker for preferred alternatives and engineering has begun. Ms. Eaves described the three planned designs: a bored tunnel under I-95 and two bridges for the other crossings. Mr. Bonds asked where the trail would go on the other side of I-95. Mr. Pastwik described the combination of projects, funding applications, plans and proffers that would make up the trail connection running west of I-95 to connect to the Spotsylvania VCR Trail.

Discussion ensued regarding maintenance and safety issues, and other concerns. Members pointed out that even with potential problems, this was the best option.

Ms. Eaves went on to discuss the US 1 crossing and reported that VDOT performed a turning movement count for that location. The count determined that the signal would be unnecessary for a grade-separated trail crossing and thus could be removed, simplifying the bridge and intersection design. Lastly, Ms. Eaves described the potential design for a ramp and bridge at the crossing of Rt 3, stating that the exact location had not yet been determined and would depend on right-of-way negotiations and working with the gradient of the slope.

Mr. Lynch pointed out that this area is part of the Area 10 Small Area plan which is currently being considered by the City Planning Commission.

Ms. Eaves wrapped up by letting the committee know that Michael Baker will present to BPAC in January with more detailed designs for each of the three options.



b. East-West Mobility Study Phase I and II Transit and Bike/Ped Update- Mr. Ian Ollis

Mr. Ollis presented on transit, bike and pedestrian components from each of the two phases of the East/West Mobility Study. He first detailed the route and characteristics for a proposed high-capacity transit bus system. Running along Cowan Blvd, it would connect downtown to Spotsylvania Town Centre.

Speaking to Bicycle and Pedestrian planning in the new report, he discussed plans for a shared-use path from Fall Hill Avenue to Spotsylvania Town Centre through Central Park along Carl D. Silver Pkwy.

Mr. Pastwik pointed out that the widths depicted in the report are too wide for the available right of way, and 10 feet would be more appropriate.

Mr. Ollis also showed options for a bike/ped connection from the new Chatham Bridge up into Stafford via Chatham Heights Road. The proposal calls for an improved crossing at the intersection and a road diet and access management study to create a shared-use path along Chatham Heights Rd.

Mr. Ollis then discussed bicycle and pedestrian connections to transit; first a shared-use path to Brooke Station. The proposed route begins at Courthouse Road in Stafford and makes use of utility easements to travel south to finally join Mt. Hope Church Road, turning left at Brooke Road to the station.

Chair Geouge pointed out that there were several proffers along the way to join the easements together, and that the ground was fairly level, but there were still some gaps.

Moving on to the Spotsylvania VRE Station, Mr. Ollis showed a route traveling south down Benchmark Road from the City to the station, and east from Germanna Community College to the station. One of the Benchmark Road options routes under a narrow railway bridge and there is some concern about future rail expansion. Mr. Pastwik emphasized that an eastern route needed to be shown continuing down Benchmark Road in case the trail won't fit under the bridge.

Mr. Ollis then reviewed the section of path leading from Germanna Community College to the station along Rt. 17.

Mr. Pastwik pointed out that that section will also connect to the path along Hospital Blvd, crossing the US 1 Corridor and out to Spotsylvania Parkway to Smith Station Road, where a shared-use path is on its way all the way out to the Spotsylvania Courthouse.

Mr. Ollis wrapped up by stating that these are just the bike/ped and transit connection elements from each report. He urged members to go and read the full reports and stressed that comments on the bike/ped transit connection portions must be received the next day in advance of the TAC meeting.

Comments on the shared-use paths through Central Park and Chatham Heights can be sent over the next several weeks.

8. Correspondence



Ms. Eaves asked Mr. Jim Lynch if he'd like to talk about the correspondence, which was a press release about a lawsuit filed against the Maryland Transportation Authority to stop them from demolishing the Governor Harry Nice Bridge and preserve it as a bike/ped facility. Mr. Jim Lynch explained that a judge had thrown out the lawsuit, which had been filed by the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail Association—a group separate from his organization.

9. Staff Reports

- Ms. Eaves reminded the committee that this was Mr. Geouge's last meeting as Chair, and that the group would need to elect a new Vice Chair at the next meeting as current Vice Chair, Mr. Adam Lynch, will be the new Chair.

10. Member reports

- Mr. Jim Lynch reported the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation conducted a suitability study to assess whether the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail should be incorporated into Caledon State Park. The study found it suitable but the price to do so would be \$23 million. Mr. Jim Lynch questioned the amount and said that his group had asked for more information as to why it would require this much funding. He is concerned that the trail will be changed too much and will resemble the High Bridge Trail.
- Mr. Bonds reported that this year's Cannonball Century Ride, held by the Fredericksburg Cyclist Club on September 24, was the largest turnout ever -- 450 riders raised funds for the YMCA and the American Cancer Society. Mr. Bonds then asked if the committee could pass a resolution to support bike/ped infrastructure on the Falmouth Bridge.
- Mr. Pennington explained the Robert's Rules of Order for adding items to the agenda. Ms. Eaves reminded the group that there is no quorum rule. The group determined that two-thirds of the meeting's members were still present and could vote on amending the agenda.
- Mr. Jim Lynch made a motion to amend the agenda to add a resolution to endorse bike and pedestrian facilities being added to the Falmouth Bridge Reconstruction. Mr. Jim Lynch seconded the motion. See agenda items 11 and 12 below for the endorsement.
- Ms. Anderson reported that some GWRC staff joined the last 10-miles of the Tour de VRE 70-mile ride recently. She and Mx. Touzel, along with other staff, participated.
- Mr. Geouge reported that Matthew Lehane would be replacing him on BPAC after this meeting.

11. Agenda Amendment (Action Item)

- Motion: Mr. Jim Lynch; Second: Mr. Bonds
Motion passed with unanimous consent.



12. **Endorsement of Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities on the Falmouth Bridge Rehabilitation (ACTION ITEM)**

- Motion: Mr. Bonds, Second: Mr. Jim Lynch
- Motion passed with Ms. LaSut abstaining.

13. **Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting **January 5th, 2023 at 6:00 pm****

Chair Geouge called for a motion to adjourn at 8:22.
Motion: Mr. Lynch; Second: Mr. Pastwik
Motion passed with unanimous consent.