



BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE(BPAC)

Thursday, July 13th, – 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)

Lynn Faust, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Clay Murray, At-Large Citizen Representative

Linda LaSut, (VDOT)

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

Gregory Goldstein, Stafford Citizen Representative

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

Chris Clarke, King George County

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)

Cassy Lord, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

Matthew Lehane, Vice Chair

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Others Present:

Jane Leeds (remote)

Lori Stavropoulos, Transcriptionist (remote)

Staff Present:

Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner/ Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator

Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator

John Ridout, Transportation Planner



1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Roll Call**

Mx. Touzel called the roll.

3. **Approval of July 13th, 2023, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the July 13th, 2023, BPAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Jacob Pastwik; Second: Chair Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

Mr. Pastwik requested typographic corrections to the minutes and that a letter sent to Mr. Baroody be included with the minutes for the record. Committee and staff agreed.

Motion was made to approve the May 4th, 2023, BPAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Mr. Lynch; Second: Mr. Pastwik

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. **Public Comment**

Mx. Touzel read a letter from Ms. Jane Leeds requesting better crossing facilities and better transportation options for the ADA community throughout our region.

6. **Discussion/Action Items**

a. River Crossing Report-Dr. John Ridout

Dr. Ridout gave a presentation on the FAMPO River Crossing study to date, including how the purpose, need and general area for the crossing was determined and how modeling shows it will affect traffic flows in the Fredericksburg region.

He pointed out that currently any disturbance in I-95 brings the entire region to a standstill and stated that alternatives are necessary.

He added that any new river crossing must include multimodal infrastructure with a bicycle and pedestrian path such as that on Chatham Bridge, linking to a greater bicycle and pedestrian regional network.

The next steps in the process are to proceed with an environmental analysis using outside expertise working closely with VDOT and a consultant in preparation for a future NEPA process.

b. SMART SCALE Update- Ms. Kari Eaves

Ms. Eaves discussed the ongoing SMART SCALE review process being conducted by the State Secretary of Transportation's Office, particularly around scoring metrics and the use of High Priority Project Funds. She reviewed the Commonwealth Transportation Board's findings of bias toward small projects in recent SMART SCALE rounds due to an outsized reliance on the Land Use metric and presented the CTB's proposals for changing the process. Together with a suggested new policy for defining HPP eligibility, Ms. Eaves explained, these changes may bring about a dramatic decrease in number of bicycle and pedestrian projects funded through SMART SCALE.

c. E-Bike Battery discussion- Ms. Leigh Anderson



Ms. Anderson alerted the committee to reports of some models of E-bike batteries exploding and starting fires in peoples' homes and stated that e-bikes are being banned in some apartment buildings in larger cities.

She explained that the market for these batteries is unregulated, but there are some companies that follow rigorous manufacturing standards and produce safer batteries- the regulations just haven't caught up to the industry yet.

d. Transportation Alternatives Project Submissions – Ms. Kari Eaves and Locality Planning Staff

Ms. Eaves presented an overview of the Transportation Alternatives Funding Process calendar and gave each locality a chance to discuss their project submissions. Jacob Pastwik for Spotsylvania discussed Chancellor Park Drive Sidewalk and Smith Station Road Shared Use Path, Chris Clarke for King George County discussed a sidewalk and crosswalk from the Middle School to the Dahlgren Road/Kings Highway intersection, and Ms. Eaves discussed Stafford's projects on behalf of Matthew Lehane, who was absent: Foreston Woods Sidewalk, Chatham Heights/Kings Highway Crosswalk and Sidewalk, and Greenspring Road/Mine Road Sidewalk. She then explained the projects would be presented to TAC and the Policy Committee in August for endorsement.

e. Bicycle and Pedestrian Counter Update- Mx. Colie Touzel

Mx. Touzel gave an update on the bike/ped counter program, which had been inactive due to a broken counter. Staff has worked with VDOT to secure a permanent counter on Chatham Bridge and will be collecting data from it weekly; the broken counter (dead battery) has been sent to France for repair and will be added to the program once it has been restored. It will be placed in rotation at the places agreed to last year by the committee. A third counter may be loaned by VDOT when it comes available.

7. Correspondence

Ms. Eaves summarized a letter from the FAMPO Policy Committee expressing concerns over the proposed decrease in applications allowable being considered by the State Secretary of Transportation for SMART SCALE Round 6. The letter states that such a reduction would have negative impacts on the region for generations to come.

8. Staff Reports

No staff reports.

9. Member reports

Mr. Greg Goldstein introduced himself as the Stafford citizen representative and was welcomed by the committee.

Mr. Aaron Frank reported that the City's new detour signage was up for trail maintenance, and there was a new apron up on Washington Ave.

Mr. Clay Murray noted that he was a member of the Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail citizens' group and the bike/ped counter was a real need for that trail.

Mr. Jim Lynch gave an update on a private landowner on the western end of



the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail who fulfilled the detail of his site plan and moved the trail to make up for having to build over part of it. He also reported that he'd had a letter by a mobility-challenged volunteer who'd not been able to use the trail. He'd recently gotten a scooter and was asking permission to use it on the trail. Because the DRHT is part of the Potomac National heritage Scenic Trail, Mr. Lynch checked with the National Park Service and confirmed that it was allowed. He wanted to report that he received an "amazing" letter from the NPS and he was pleased because the trail was always intended to be used by the mobility-challenged.

Ms. Lynn Faust reported that FredTrails had a long and successful "June Prune," with many long days of volunteers working with mowers and weed whackers to cut back vegetation on the trails. They clocked well over 300 volunteer hours and spent over \$500 on gasoline and equipment rental. They increased sight lines around corners, greatly reduced ticks, and made it possible for cyclists to see snakes crossing the trails.

At the quarry they had gravel donations delivered and will be repairing trails with the stones.

Lastly Ms. Faust reported that she needs to add an item to the agenda for next month regarding problematic e-bike riders. There are people modifying their bikes with kits so they go dangerously fast on the trails.

Ms. Leigh Anderson reported that GWRideConnect had the grand opening for the Commonwealth Park and Ride Lot on US 1. It has a shared-use path along US 1 which is amazing, she said. She has hopes for a bus route to begin from the lot next year.

10. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting
September 7, 2023, at 6:00 pm

Chair Lynch called for adjournment at 8:08 p.m.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.