



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

Thursday, September 7th, – 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

Lynn Faust, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Chris Clarke, King George 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):**

Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

Brian Ogle, Stafford Citizen Alternate

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

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Ben Matters, PRTC

Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Deborah Lately, 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)

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

### **Others Present:**

None

### **Staff Present:**

Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner/ Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator

Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator

Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator



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 September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Matthew Lehane; Second; Mr. Jim Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Pastwik pointed out that Jane Leeds and interpreter had been left off of “Others Present” roster. Correction was noted by staff.

Motion was made to approve the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC meeting minutes with correction.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. **Public Comment**

None

6. **Discussion/Action Items**

- a. E-Bikes on Area Trails, Modifications to Speeds and Other Issues -Lynn Faust and Kari Eaves

Ms. Faust had reported on problems her group, FredTrails, and local riders and pedestrians have been experiencing with speeding e-bikes on local trails and shared-use paths at the July BPAC meeting. The committee requested she research the issue further. Ms. Faust looked into the emerging problem with the assistance of Ms. Eaves, and in this introductory presentation she summarized the different classes of e-bikes, regulations around the country, the different issues raised by standard e-bikes and illegally-modified vehicles, and potential solutions.

Chair Lynch and the committee agree that the problem was worth further action and several members committed to undertaking tasks: Ms. Faust collect Strava application data and would reach out to the City Police to inquire about e-bike-related incidents that may have been reported and if they had any recourse to punitive action. Mr. Clarke agreed to discuss the issue with his colleagues at the upcoming Parks and Recreation Conference he was attending to see how they were dealing with the issue in their jurisdictions. Chair Lynch asked the committee to continue to take the issue into their communities and gather information. Ms. Faust would be collecting everyone’s notes into the existing presentation and streamlining it as an educational tool to begin to raise community awareness on the issue. The group will revisit this topic when there is more information to share.



b. **Bike/Ped Count Program Update- Colie Touzel**

The FAMPO bicycle and pedestrian count program is back in operation after an extended hiatus due to an inoperable counter. Mx. Touzel reported on the placement of the VDOT loaner counter on the Chatham Bridge Shared-Use path and gave the counts for the period between July 1 and August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. There was an event on July 4<sup>th</sup> where the bike counter counted 1073 bicyclists and pedestrians. Without that event, the highest counted day was 424 and the daily average was 199 with a total of 11,129.

Mr. Murray pointed out that the counter is not catching a large number of cyclists using the roadway currently instead of the path because without the continuation of the Belmont-Ferry Farm Trail, the lack of continuity makes it unsafe for them.

Chair Lynch mentioned calibrating the counter counts with data such as Streetlight to catch those riders.

Mr. Lehane asked if this data could be viewed on the statewide bike/ped map, and Ms. Eaves confirmed that yes, and that this was meant to be a permanent VDOT installation. The second counter in the program, FAMPO's, would be moved every two weeks to locations determined by the committee.

The group then reviewed the list of locations determined at a previous meeting and made some changes, agreeing they would determine sites by need as they came up.

c. **Bylaw Amendment to Align Officer Selection with FAMPO Committees (ACTION ITEM)- Chair Lynch**

Action item to amend bylaws to allow for officer selection at the end of the fiscal year as with the rest of the FAMPO committees.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. **Correspondence**

Staff had received previous correspondence from Jane Leeds about the need for audible signals at crossings around the community. Ms. Lately, committee member from DRC, sent an email informing the committee about a survey to the ADA community to gather information about the most beneficial locations for audible pedestrian signal upgrades. Ms. Becky Golden from FAMPO forwarded the letter to Ms. LaSut from VDOT, who inquired about the procedure and gathered a list of current VDOT-maintained audible signal locations and discovered that the department's policy is to use audible signals whenever there is a need for signal replacement or new placement.

8. **Staff Reports**

No staff reports.

9. **Member reports**

Chair Lehane reported on the Stafford County TAP project that is moving forward, the Foreston Woods and Route 1 Crosswalk.

Ms. Faust reported on FredTrails' trail-building efforts at Mott's Run.



Mr. Clarke reported on King George County's TAP project; a sidewalk at King's Highway and Dahlgren Road from the Middle School.

Mr. Pastwik reported on Spotsylvania County's Small Area Plan Initiative as part of its Comprehensive Plan, which is currently in a public outreach phase. The link can be found on the county's main website. The Comp Plan geohub was recognized by ESRI for its excellence and has proven to be an effective tool for public outreach. Mr. Pastwik also reported on the county's two TAP projects, Smith Station Road Shared-Use Path and Chancellor Drive Sidewalk. Chair Lynch added a thank you to Mr. Pastwik for his help in reviewing data center applications and reiterated the important connections members make serving on committees.

Mr. Frank reported the installation of a convex mirror on Fall Hill Ave near the canal path for greater line of sight and safety, facilitated by the Fredericksburg Pathways Committee—especially Mr. Kevin Brown.

Mr. Jim Lynch reported that they'd just recently had the Ultra marathon held on the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail. Additionally, the friends of the trail group has asked the National Park service to have a contractor inspect the condition of the trail to determine any needs for improved surface quality and maintenance deficiencies.

To establish better access to the trail, the group has obtained a grant from the community foundation to pave the entrance apron of Comorn Road to improve conditions.

Also of note, Mr. Lynch reported that his county board had approved a large data center which falls on either side of a Potomac Heritage Trail route. He hoped that there would be an opportunity \ to improve those routes. Lastly, he described a quarter mile stretch of road between the DRHT and Caledon Park which is quite dangerous, that has been submitted for SMART SCALE but was not funded. While it is not advertised as a linkage, cyclists use it all the time, including families. They are looking for funding sources for improving the section and making it safe.

Ms. LaSut reported on VDOT's current studies, including several Pipeline studies, corridor studies, and gearing up for SMART SCALE. She reported that two engineers have left and that Stephen Haynes has announced his retirement.

Chair Lynch reported FOR had sold out their Riverfest tickets, but silent auction tickets were still available. He also wanted to alert the committee to the upcoming river cleanup day, for which they were currently registering groups. More information on [riverfest.org/events](http://riverfest.org/events). Lastly, FOR will be planting a large number of semi-mature trees at schools across the region and is looking for volunteers. Chair Lynch explained that schools are some of the worst heat islands in the community, and trees would help lower the temperature of schoolgrounds.

#### 10. **Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting**

Chair Lynch called for adjournment at 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Lynch; Second: Mr. Pastwik

Motion passed with unanimous consent

**Next meeting November 2, 2023, at 6:00 pm**