



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

Thursday, January 12th – 6:00 p.m.

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

### **Committee Members Present:**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Others Present:**

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

### **Staff Present:**

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



**1. Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

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

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

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

**2. Roll Call**

Mx. Touzel called the roll.

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

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

Motion: Mr. Pennington; Second: Mr. Lehane

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

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

Motion: Mr. Bonds; Second: Mr. Pennington

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**5. Public Comment**

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

**6. Discussion/Action Items**

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

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

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

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

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



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

Mr. Geouge asked about maintenance of these facilities.

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

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

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

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

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

b. Urban Heat Islands Study Presentation- Chair Adam Lynch

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

Using a map of GWRC, he showed that the US 17 corridor, Garrisonville, the Spotsylvania Town Center, Four Mile Fork, and Cosner's Corner were some of the region's largest urban heat islands, with Garrisonville being the worst. Fort A.P. Hill and Quantico, with their large, forested tracts, are conversely heat sinks.

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

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

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

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



supported.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chair Lynch explained the position and asked who was eligible.

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

Motion was made to nominate Mr. Lehane.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

7. Correspondence

Ms. Eaves drew attention to a newly-released federal funding program matrix for trail and other bike/ped infrastructure projects, and said that it was in the committee members' agenda packets should they wish to review it further.

Vice Chair Lehane suggested having a guest from FHWA come to explain these various sources.

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

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

8. Staff Reports

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



out how the region's trails could benefit.

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

## 9. Member reports

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

Thursday, March 2, – 6:00 p.m.

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

### **Committee Members Present:**

Chair Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)

Matthew Lehane, Vice Chair, Stafford County

Chris Clarke, King George County

Craig Pennington, Caroline County

Lynn Faust, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

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

Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect

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

Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg

Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

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

Ben Matters, PRTC

Debe Fults, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)

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

John Summer, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Joe Bonds, Fredericksburg Cyclist Club (FCC)

Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County

Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative

Cassy Lord, (VDOT)

Gregory Goldstein, Stafford Citizen Representative

### **Others Present:**

Clay Murray, proposed At-Large Citizen Representative

Beth Huntzinger, member of the public

Lois Siler, member of the public

### **Staff Present:**

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

Mx. Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator





1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Eaves called the roll.

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

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

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

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

Motion: Vice Chair Lehane; Second: Mr. Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

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

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

Motion: Mr. Pennington; Second: Mr. Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

5. **Public Comment**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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

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

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

## 6. Discussion/Action Items

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



all.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



8. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

9. Member reports

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion: Vice Chair Lehane; Second: Mr. Clarke

Motion passed with unanimous consent.



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

Thursday, May 4th, – 6:00 p.m.

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

### **Committee Members Present:**

Chair Adam Lynch, Friends of the Rappahannock (FOR)  
Matthew Lehane, Vice Chair, Stafford County  
Chris Clarke, King George County  
Craig Pennington, Caroline County  
Lynn Faust, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance (FredTrails)  
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect  
Jacob Pastwik, Spotsylvania County  
Aaron Frank, City of Fredericksburg Citizen Representative  
Clay Murray, At-Large Citizen Representative  
Cassy Lord, (VDOT)

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

Deborah Lately, disAbility Resource Center (DRC)

### **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)  
Gregory Goldstein, Stafford Citizen Representative  
Jim Lynch, Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA) and Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT)  
Linda LaSut, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg  
Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative

### **Others Present:**

Bob Johnson, member of the public

### **Staff Present:**

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



1. **Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Roll Call**

Ms. Eaves called the roll.

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

Chair Lynch made a request to amend the agenda to add item 7d, discussion of the July meeting date.

Motion was made to approve the May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC agenda with change.

Motion: Ms. Leigh Anderson; Second: Vice Chair Lehane

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, BPAC meeting minutes.

Motion: Vice Chair Lehane; Second: Mr. Clarke

Motion passed; Mr. Pastwik abstained due to absence.

5. **Public Comment**

a. *Notification of public comment period for the Draft Fiscal Year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program*

- Mx. Touzel advised the committee that the public comment period was open for the FY24 UPWP, the planning document that governs FAMPO's work tasks for the next fiscal year. They then showed where comments could be submitted on the website.

b. *Public Comment:*

- *No member of the public spoke at this time.*

6. **Discussion/Action Items**

a. **Fredericksburg Downtown Traffic Study (Action Item) -Chair Adam Lynch**

Chair Lynch introduced the study by discussing the links between river protection and alternatives to car-dependency such as cohesive bike/ped networks and strong transit services. To illustrate the possibilities, he presented a map of existing and planned city bike/ped paths, emphasizing the important connections and missing links.

The committee discussed which trails had since been funded and were likely to be funded, as well as those planned but not yet funded. Chair Lynch pointed out that a central link in the entire system connects the Rappahannock River Heritage Trail with the Chatham Bridge, where there is currently no infrastructure for bicyclists, but a facility is planned, and an engineering design is funded as part of the City's upcoming Traffic Study. The proposed location is on-street along Caroline Street, Pitt Street and Sophia Street.

Chair Lynch added that the proposed project is in the City's Comprehensive Plan and the Pathways Plan, but there is some "NIMBY" resistance and some right-of-way (ROW) challenges. He asked the committee for a letter of



support for the project to help overcome these challenges.

Motion was made to approve a letter of support for a bike facility connecting the Rappahannock River Heritage Trail and the Chatham Bridge.

Motion: Mr. Frank; Second: Mr. Pastwik

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

At this time, Bob Johnson, a member of the public, arrived and spoke about the proposed connection and other bike/ped paths in the city. He reported on his experience of cyclists moving too quickly on shared-use paths, and that he felt safer on sidewalks and even on quiet city streets. He said that cyclists come up behind him rapidly without warning and it can be dangerous. He would like some way to educate local cyclists on better, safer behavior.

Chair Lynch thanked him for his comment and explained that the benefit of this facility would be to separate pedestrians and cyclists, putting cyclists on this facility and pedestrians on sidewalks.

Mr. Frank agreed that the bicycle and pedestrian conflict problem is a perennial one, and he would pass along Mr. Johnson's comment to the Pathways Committee.

Ms. Faust added that the FredTrails group is working with the Spotsylvania Sheriff's Office to develop a cyclist safety program, but it was in the early stages. She said they would also be interested in reaching out to the city when it was ready.

b. VHB Regional Transportation Safety Study Findings- Ms. Becky Golden

Ms. Golden presented the findings of the VHB safety study done as part of the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Safety Action Plan, which analyzed the five localities of the George Washington Region for high injury network (HIN) ranking and areas of potential pedestrian injury as part of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP).

Ms. Golden showed the PSAP map of the region over a map of the Health Opportunity Index, a statewide index recently developed that has proven to help predict pedestrian outcomes using socioeconomic, environmental and demographic data. Together, the HIN, HOI, and PSAP findings lay the groundwork for prioritizing the location of safety projects across the region. Ms. Golden then discussed actual crash reports with a breakdown table of different severities and causes, explaining the findings and their implications, and the importance of training safety behavior as part of the SS4A grant.

c. FAMPO Vision 2075 Discussion- Mx. Colie Touzel

Mx. Touzel presented an update on the FAMPO Vision document development, which is ongoing. The vision is a guiding document that directs FAMPO toward initiatives that benefit the entire region, not just one locality, and sets a course for the future. They described each goal under the vision and listed the proposed projects to support that goal, explaining that these were simply examples to begin the discussion, and that the committees, principally the Policy Committee, would be refining the projects and the





Vision.

The next steps would be to continue refining and circulating the document to all of the committees.

Chair Lynch stressed the need for better regional collaboration and land use policy.

The committee discussed the Policy Committee's response to the Vision Plan, the request for a regional land use map, and the next iteration of the Vision document.

d. July BPAC Meeting Date-Chair Adam Lynch

Chair Lynch informed the committee that the next meeting would fall on the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>. The group discussed when best to reschedule the meeting and decided to move it to the 13<sup>th</sup>, the following Thursday.

7. Correspondence

Ms. Faust showed some photos and reported on successful workdays held at Motts Run and the Quarry Trail system with FredTrails volunteers and Jr. ROTC Cadets. The volunteers worked hard to repair the trails where they were damaged and unsafe, paving eroded sections and reconditioning the surfaces. In total, volunteers clocked over 480 hours.

Mr. Pastwik asked about progress on connecting Motts Run trails to Quarry Trails.

Ms. Faust reported that there is nothing official to report yet, but she would appreciate any help available from the County.

8. Staff Reports

Ms. Eaves reported on speaking at the Virginia Land Conservation and Greenways Conference on the 2021 Greenway Study, its process, and its outcome. She added that the Greenway plan needs to be amended to reflect changes since its adoption, and that can be done at the next BPAC meeting. Ms. Eaves also reported that the State BPAC office is offering to put up a permanent bike/ped counter in a location chosen by the committee and will let FAMPO borrow a second counter while the Eco-Counter battery is being replaced. After some discussion, the committee decided to place the permanent counter on Chatham Bridge, Stafford end.

Lastly, she reported that the East Coast Greenway representative, Elliot Caldwell, would like to meet with Jacob Pastwik and Craig Pennington to finalize the trail reroute through Spotsylvania and Caroline counties.

9. Member reports

Vice Chair Lehane reported progress on the Transportation Master Plan. Currently, Stafford is working on a prioritization tool for projects and will hold a stakeholder meeting in a few weeks. He will have a larger update in late summer or early fall.

Mr. Frank reported on new crosswalks near Charles St and other locations. Chair Lynch added that they had been working on improving crossings all over the City as part of routine resurfacing.

Ms. Lord reported that VDOT is holding project pipeline study kickoff meetings next week and that she is happy to learn more about the East Coast





Greenway and other trail plans that will be affecting the areas covered by the upcoming studies.

Mr. Clarke reported on the Ready, Set, Go! Grant meeting he attended with VDOT and announced that King George had adopted the King George Courthouse Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan produced by GWRC staff, as well as the Rural Work Program. He explained that he is encouraging the county to set aside funding for local match.

Mr. Murray reported that the Belmont Trail has been returned to status as the “Belmont-Ferry-Farm Trail” and placed on the Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Pastwik discussed the problem of planning bicycle facilities on roadways designated as limited access and explained that this regulation is proving to be a roadblock in getting shared-use paths built in Spotsylvania. He has contacted VDOT and has received inconsistent responses and is seeking a definitive solution to the problem.

Ms. Eaves emphasized the scope of the issue and suggested that it was probably a regulation about curb cuts that was being misinterpreted.

Chair Lynch reported that Friends of the Rappahannock had a couple of upcoming events, including a benefit concert by the bluegrass band Hazel Run. The Fredericksburg Planning Commission was wrapping up a 90-day Public Comment period on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and making the final vote on Wednesday. He encouraged folks to tune in or attend the meeting at City Hall.

10. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting / Next meeting  
**July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 pm**

Chair Lynch called for adjournment at 7:50 p.m.

Motion: Ms. Anderson; Second: Ms. Faust.

Motion passed with unanimous consent.



## **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 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC agenda.

Motion: Mr. Jacob Pastwik; Second: Chair Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

4. **Approval of May 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.



## **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 and hikers use it occasionally, 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**



Matthew Lehane Chair  
Ian Ollis Administrator



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

Thursday, November 2, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

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

### **Committee Members Present:**

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  
Linda LaSut, (VDOT)  
Jim Lynch, Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA) and Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail (DRHT)  
Gregory Goldstein, Stafford Citizen Representative  
Cassy Lord, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)  
Kim Mitchell, GWRideConnect

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

Kevin Brown, At-Large Citizen Representative  
Brian Ogle, Stafford Citizen Alternate  
Deborah Lately, disability Resource Center (DRC)

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

Jamie Jackson, City of Fredericksburg  
Ben Matters, PRTC  
Debra 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)  
Craig Pennington, Caroline County  
Leigh Anderson, GWRideConnect  
Clay Murray, At-Large Citizen Representative  
Matthew Decatur, Spotsylvania Alternate

### **Others Present:**

Paul Agnello (remote)

**Staff Present:**

Kari Eaves, Transportation Planner/ Bike & Pedestrian Coordinator  
Connor Anderson, GIS Technician/Transportation Planner  
Colie Touzel, Public Involvement & Title VI Coordinator  
Ian Ollis, FAMPO Administrator

**1. Call BPAC Meeting to Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

Mx. Touzel called the roll.

**3. Approval of November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, BPAC Meeting Agenda (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, BPAC agenda.

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**4. Approval of September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC Meeting Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**

Motion was made to approve the September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, BPAC meeting minutes with correction.

Motion: Mr. Chris Clarke; Second: Mr. Jim Lynch

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

**5. Administrator's Report**

Mr. Ollis gave a summary of two current FAMPO work efforts, the River Crossing Study and the Regional Transportation Authority.

He updated the committee on the River Crossing Study first, informing them of the upcoming public outreach process and the steps that would be necessary to analyze the best location for the project.

Mr. Lynch asked how the public could be assured that bike/ped facilities would be included in the final design and construction.

Mr. Ollis answered that while he was involved with the project bike/ped facilities would remain. Bike/ped features are included in every sketch and in every part of the study, in the purpose and need for the project, and in every discussion with stakeholders. Mr. Ollis cautioned, however, that there must be bike/ped network linkages on either end of the project for it to connect to. This sparked discussion among the committee members about planned linkages on the north and south, the challenges of providing logical termini for larger projects, and the frustration with bicycle and pedestrian features being removed from projects due to budgetary concerns.

Mr. Ollis then summarized the proposal to establish a Regional Transportation Authority, which would raise funds for regional projects. He introduced several issues the region would need to consider were it to decide to implement the Authority, such as what types of tax to levy, how to distribute the funds raised, and developing an initial set of projects to fund.

## 6. Public Comment

Colie Touzel summarized a phone call:

Max Steinbaum, college student, called to relay comments and concerns about trail improvements to the VCR Trail and the Smith Run Trail. He hopes that the small section of the trail off River Road will be developed and added to the existing trail network.

## 7. Discussion/Action Items

### a) BPAC Officers Update- Vice Chair Matthew Lehane

Vice-Chair Lehane announced that Chair Lynch had been offered a position in Dahlgren and had left Friends of the Rappahannock, thereby also making it necessary to leave BPAC. He had sent a letter to that effect. Therefore, according to the BPAC Bylaws, Vice Chair Lehane is now Chair Lehane.

### b) Vice Chair Nominations and Election (ACTION ITEM)- Chair Lehane

Chair Lehane called for nominations for Vice Chair. Ms. Eaves explained the duties of Vice-Chair and Mx. Touzel pulled up the applicable section of the bylaws.

Mr. Jim Lynch asked about the length of this term since Mr. Adam Lynch had left early. Ms. Eaves explained that it would be a longer than normal term, running from the present until June 2025.

Chair Lehane nominated **Mr. Chris Clarke as Vice Chair**

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

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

### c) Recognizing the Dedicated Service of Adam Lynch (Action Item)- Chair Lehane

Motion was made to recognize Mr. Adam Lynch's service to BPAC through a certificate of appreciation.

Motion: Vice Chair Chris Clarke; Second: Mr. Aaron Frank

Motion passed with unanimous consent.

### d) SMART SCALE Round 6 Update- Kari Eaves

Ms. Eaves recapped the Commonwealth Transportation Board's SMART SCALE Review process that's been taking place over the last several months and the significant changes that have been recommended for Round 6. She reviewed the success the region experienced with bicycle and pedestrian projects in Round 5, stating that, had the current recommendations been in place, several of those projects might not have been eligible.

She then went on to explain the recommendations that would most affect potential bicycle and pedestrian projects and how the region would need to adapt to be successful in the upcoming round. Ms. Eaves stressed that CTB's final decision on these recommendations would not be handed down until their next meeting in December, at which time candidate project concepts would also start being submitted to the VDOT portal.

Afterward the Committee discussed several aspects of SMART SCALE, including the safety of funding for past projects, the number of applications allowed, the new project definitions for HPP projects, and other changes coming to the funding program.

e) Bike Count Program Update- Colie Touzel

Mx. Touzel gave a report on bicycle and pedestrian activity on the Chatham Bridge path. The total users for the period between August 30<sup>th</sup> and October 24 were 5,870, the daily average was 235, and the peak count was 378 on Sunday, October 8. They also reported placing FAMPO's counter to the intersection of Lafayette Blvd and the Blue-Gray Parkway. There is no data to report on that counter yet, as there was a technical problem collecting it. It is still counting users, however, and will be reported on when possible.

f) StreetlightData Analysis Counts on the Chatham Bridge- Connor Anderson

Mr. Anderson presented an analysis he performed to answer a committee member's question: how many cyclists use the Chatham Bridge roadway instead of the shared use path?

Mr. Anderson explained that StreetlightData has several limitations when trying to answer the question: the most problematic of these being the timing of the available data. The only data available for the location was from the months of November 2021 to April 2022, coinciding both with Winter and early Spring, low times for cycling, and with the opening of the bridge, when local cyclists were not yet aware of or habituated with using it.

After explaining the limitations which made the data less than optimal, he reported that the bicycle traffic traveling from Stafford into Fredericksburg peaked on the weekends with an estimated volume of 48 compared to an estimated weekday volume of 16.

Chair Lehane asked if it would be possible to do a yearly StreetlightData Report for the bike counter program sites to compare the counter with StreetlightData as had been done some years past. Ms. Eaves replied that would be something to explore doing again. Mr. Anderson commented that while Streetlight has its place, it still has accuracy limitations.

Mr. Ollis remarked that the region needed more counters and that they could be requested by localities in the SS4A Implementation Plan.

The committee asked questions about potential analyses that could be carried out using the tool, and Mr. Anderson explained how they might work.

8. **2024 Calendar- Colie Touzel**

9. **Correspondence**

Ms. Eaves presented a Free Lance Star article about a new multi-use trail opening at Motts Run built by FredTrails. She asked Ms. Faust to speak about the work her group had done and to describe the new facility.

## 10. Staff Reports

No staff reports.

## 11. Member reports

Chair Lehane welcomed Kim Mitchell, GWRideConnect alternate to the committee.

Mr. Lynch reported on his attendance at the Statewide Trails Committee Meeting. He also reported completion of an improvement project on the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail at one of the parking areas with the funding assistance of the Community Foundation. Additionally, the Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail recently submitted documents referencing the Trail Suitability Study for the trail completed about a year ago challenging the acquisition cost. They also submitted comments on a landowner's position paper concerning the study.

Ms. Faust told the committee that they are working on spreading gravel to fill in holes on several trails in the area on November 4 and will be looking for help from high school students seeking volunteer hours. They are also looking into developing a physical "skills area" at Motts Run and are looking forward to that project.

Ms. Lord reported that VDOT is diving headlong into SMART SCALE, reminding everyone that December 1<sup>st</sup> is when projects that need VDOT assistance will need to be in the Pre-scoping portal and that VDOT will provide support on one new project and two previously existing projects.

Mr. Pastwik reported that the Small Area Plan survey website is still up for comment for several areas of the county. He had three questions to be answered after the meeting: he wanted an update on the Motts Run connection between the City and the County-

Ms. Faust answered that he needed to check with Wanda Parrish.

His next question was on the VCR Trail Crossing Study as to whether there was a tie-in on US 1 with the existing SMART SCALE project. Ms. Eaves made a note to send the materials to him.

His final question was regarding a letter of endorsement for Spotsylvania County's TAP project. Ms. Eaves replied that that had been given to Mr. Agnello in late September.

Mr. Pastwik finished his report by announcing some new path development; a resolution to the "limited access highway" problem with shared-use paths on US 17, with a large proffer for a path built for much of the needed distance from Cosner Drive to Hospital Blvd, and some proffered path built by the Cosner Tech Campus along Massaponax Church Road as well as a new Hospital Blvd extension which will include a shared-use path. There are also two rezonings, one near the VRE Station which will include significant shared-use path construction along Crossroads parkway to Thornton Rolling Road and South Roxbury Mill Road with more shared-use path which will connect to a network being built in pieces around the county.



Mr. Clarke revisited the e-bike issue (which will be continued at a future meeting) to report that he spoke to northern Virginia colleagues about their policies. He also reported that trucks would now be prohibited on rt 206, sending them down rt 3 through downtown King George, an area for which Ms. Eaves had completed a bicycle and pedestrian plan. Mr. Clarke expected further issues with this new policy and hoped something would be done to deal with the truck traffic.

Chair Lehane reported that Stafford County presented their Master Plan to their Board at a transportation work session last week and are working on SMART SCALE.

**12. Adjourn Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Meeting**

Chair Lehane called for adjournment at 8:06 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Lynch; Second: Mr. Pastwik

Motion passed with unanimous consent

**Next meeting January 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm**