

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL
 Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

Meeting Minutes
 August 27, 2024; 6:30 PM
 Approved by the T&BC on September 24, 2024

Attendance

District	Appointee	Present (in person)	Present (virtual)	Absent
At Large	Amy Latalladi-Fulton	✓		
	Bill McCarty	✓		
Brentsville	Liz Cronauer	✓		
	Catherine O'Connor	✓		
Coles	Mike DePue	✓		
	Joe Marshall	✓		
Gainesville	Duane Martin			✓
	Ken Johnson	✓		
Neabsco	Jason Williams	✓		
	Rich Wilson	✓		
Occoquan	Eileen Sheridan		✓	
	Neil Nelson	✓		
Potomac	Steven Cover	✓		
	VACANT			
Woodbridge	David Brickley		✓	
	Lynda Silverstrand			✓

Staff persons David Kroeger, Patti Pakkala, Bryce Barrett and DPR Deputy Director Janet Bartnik were present. Eugene Loew and Robert Boyd attended virtually.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Liz Cronauer at 6:31 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administrative:

- Resolution 24-16 allowing virtual attendance by Eileen Sheridan was approved through a motion by Liz and seconded by Rich.
- Resolution 24-17 allowing virtual attendance by David Brickley was approved through a motion by Steven and seconded by Jason.
- July 23 T&BC minutes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Ken.
- August 20 PHNST Subcommittee Notes were approved through a motion by Neil and seconded by Steven.
- A letter about a Proposed Trail Connection Under CSX Rail Line at Pohick Creek from the Virginia Passenger Rail Association was distributed at the meeting for review and reference. (attached)

Citizen's Time.

- There were no citizens present at the meeting.

County Agency Representatives

PWC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Janet Bartnik, Patti Pakkala, David Kroeger

- David reported that the FLAP grant gap studies are moving forward in earnest. There would be stakeholder meetings in September.
- Patti reported that the Discovery trail at the landfill still needed rebuilding. There was some concerns about location with the new staff at the landfill. Patti will work with them to resolve.
- Patti reported that the Dove's Landing plans are still in pre-data collection. Conservation existing easements are being worked.
- Patti reported that the bridge plans for the Rocky Branch Bridge replacement were approved.
- Patti noted that Robert Boyd was back in the DPR group.
- When asked about progress at Preserve at Long Branch and Sinclair Mill, it was disclosed that these areas are no longer being maintained by the person who used to live on the property and that they were severely overgrown. We should expect public meetings on improvements to both sections in the Fall.
- Patti distributed printouts of the comprehensive plan trail maps to one member of each district.

PWC Transportation. Bryce Barrett

- Bryce reported that public works is independent of transportation and thus not a reviewer of designs of the Gas Line along Hoadly Road Project. Public works was asked not to do anything that would preclude a shared use path along the sections where the gas line would be under a planned shared use path. More transparency on this project is needed.
- Bryce reported that Car Free Day is September 23rd and that a proclamation from the BOCS will occur in the afternoon of September 17th with Eileen accepting and other members welcome. This is not as big as Bike to Work Day but it does promote multimodal transportation options.
- Bryce reported that there would be a work session with the Planning Commission on the Yorkshire TLC study on September 11th.
- Bryce described an 8-mile segment of the Capitals Trail (between Richmond, Jamestown and Williamsburg) that he rode as part of a Virginia APA conference that he and Yolanda attended. He also talked about Blueways in Yorktown.

PWC Planning, Yolanda Hipski

- Yolanda reported that reviews of Belmont Bay and Vint Hill applications are on hold awaiting the next submission.
- She also reported that she took part in a Citizen Plan Advanced Team Tour as part of the APA convention.

Community Development Applications, Patti Pakkala

- Thomas Farm Update – The developer has submitted a new map for the development yet has only acknowledged concerns without taking actions to address them. There are two parcels in play that need connection or exchange. The application does not meet buffer requirements. Though strongly deficient this application is moving forward to the planning commission.

Presentations/Reports.

Broad Run Greenway Presentation, David Kroeger, Patti Pakkala

- David and Patti presented a set of charts (not provided for minutes) with the latest diagrams of the Broad Run Greenway. From Lake Manassas to Doves Landing. There were many problems reported such as steep slopes and the need for easements in certain sections. There are easements in place along Rocky Branch to Broad Run Linear Park. They recommended focusing on the north side of Broad Run with rezonings and easements in place with a trail good to go for trail building.
- The section from Victory Lake to the backside of Target will need a bridge on the North End. There is significant Mill history here.
- They are aiming for two-sided trails along Broad Run from Vint Hill to Route 28 thanks to an easement being provided by a data center.
- South of Route 28, the trail is planned first for the south side of Broad Run.

Capital Improvement Funding for FY 25, Janel Bartnik

- Janet provided a list of the currently funded projects from the 2019 Bond package as background. She then also provided a list of potential projects for funding (see attachment) that had mobility content. Janet asked the TBC to help decide what were the best priorities for the \$1M in trail funding that was added to the budget by the board earlier in the year.
- Potential Items on the list that were discussed included:
 - PHNST Neabsco Regional Park (Metz) Wetland Preserve Boardwalk
 - River Heritage Boulevard Trail Improvement
 - Veterans Park Connection
 - Country Club Drive Shared Use Path
 - Dawson Beach Road Shared Use Path
 - Aden Road Joplin Bike/Ped Facilities
 - Kahns Road Path/Sidewalk
 - Maplewood Drive Gap
- The following additional items were brought up by TBC members:
 - Broad Run Greenway section that is ready to build.
 - Flat Branch trail parallel to Flat Branch with connections north and south to communities
 - Bridges over drainage ditches near Mayhew Park that enable a Ben Lomond to Battlefield trail.
 - Enhancements to the Catharpin Trail.

- - boat launch at Neabsco Boardwalk
- - boat launch at Sinclair Mill / Doves Landing
- TBC members informally voted and the following received top votes.
 - Broad Run Greenway section that is ready to build.
 - PHNST Neabsco Regional Park (Metz) Wetland Preserve Boardwalk
 - Bridges over drainage dishes near Mayhew Park
 - Enhancements to the Catharpin Trail.
- After some discussion, the bridge over Mayhew edged out Catharpin Greenway improvements. DPR staff will use these priorities in their discussion with transportation on what to fund immediately.

Capital Improvement Project Priorities, Janet Bartnik

- Janet asked each pair of TBC members to meet and then discuss with their supervisor priorities for future Capital Improvement Projects. This would be a list of Shared Use Paths/Active Transportation and a list of recreational paths. The top one in each list would be the requested focus. It was requested that the list be drawn from the Comprehensive Plan's planned trails and not include others that were not in plan. This would be discussed in detail at the September meeting.

Organization Representatives' Time

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition (GPWTC). Eileen Sheridan

- The NVRC Fall Trails Summit will be spread over two days in September. A virtual half-day meeting will take place on September 5th from 10 AM to 1 PM and an in-person half-day meeting will take place on September 9th at Lubber Run Community Center in Arlington from 9:30 AM to 1 PM. One can register at www.novaregion.org/1595/2024-Recreational-Trails-Summit.
- The second Sunday hike in September will be at Doves Landing on September 8th.
- An Occoquan cleanup will take place on September 21st.
- The next GPWTC quarterly meeting will be on October 24th.

Prince William Trails & Streams Coalition (PWTSC). Neil Nelson

- Second Sunday hike in August explored Dean Park and the Winter's Branch Trail in Manassas.

Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE). Jason Williams

- On September 15th MORE will host a Jump Fest featuring organized rides at Locust Shade Park.
- SMORES rides continue to attract more participants. They have started acquiring bikes for kids.

Trails Keepers. Catherine O'Connor

- They will have an event at Leopold's Preserve on September 21st.
- They will participate in Brentsville Day on September 28th.
- Trails Keepers are now a steward to Keep America Beautiful.

Members' Time:

- Amy:
 - Amy thanked the staff for the CIP list.
- Bill:
 - Bill talked about the Occoquan Cleanup and how to make kayaks available.

- Catherine:
 - Catherine talked about culvert maintenance.
- David:
 - No comments.
- Duane:
 - Not present.
- Eileen:
 - Eileen discussed a meeting she and Neil had with Supervisor Bode.
- Jason:
 - No comments.
- Joe:
 - Joe had prepared a short presentation on some recent hikes. Due to time constraints, he did not present this at the August meeting.
- Liz:
 - No comments.
- Lynda:
 - Not present.
- Mike:
 - Mike congratulated Patti on Broad Run trail progress.
- Neil:
 - Neil talked about the Hoadley Development and how the latest version took out multi-use trails. He asked for help to get them put back in.
- Rich:
 - No comments.
- Steven:
 - No comments.
- Bill S.:
 - No comments.
- Ken:
 - Ken recently walked trails in Silver Lake Park and had challenges following the trails. He also encountered someone driving on the trail that appeared to be lost.

Meeting Recap:

- None

Next meeting agenda items:

- Amy will run the September meeting as Liz will be absent.
- Janet will be on vacation until September 9th. September meeting agenda items should be forwarded to Liz, Amy, or Joe by September 12th.
- Having prioritized lists by districts will enable pulling together CIP funding requests at the meeting.

Next meetings:

- At Hellwig: Powell's Creek Crossing Stakeholders – September 16th at 6:30 PM
- At Hellwig: Gap1 (Occoquan) Study Stakeholder Meeting – September 18th at 2 PM
- Park Commission Bus Tour – September 21st at 10 AM
- At Hellwig: Full T&BC – September 24th at 6:30 PM.

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- At Hellwig: Gaps 2 and 3 (Dumfries) Study Stakeholder Meeting – September 25th at 2 PM
- At Hellwig: PHNST S/C – October 23rd at 2 PM.
- At Fairmont Park - KABOOM Project Build October 23rd to 26th.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM based on motion by Amy, seconded by Jason.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

DJ Stadtler
Executive Director

919 East Main Street, Suite 2400
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 303-8700
www.vpra.virginia.gov

July 30, 2024

Mr. William Niedringhaus
President
Potomac Heritage Trail Association

Re: Proposed Trail Connection Under CSX Rail Line at Pohick Creek

Dear Mr. Niedringhaus,

Thank you for contacting Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) regarding Fairfax County's proposed trail connection under the CSX rail line at Pohick Creek, just south of VRE's Lorton Station.

According to VPRA's agreements with CSX, VPRA does not have the legal rights to unilaterally authorize recreational trails within the rail corridor. This specifically includes hiking or biking trails. You may read more about this topic on our website:

<https://vapassengerrailauthority.org/trail-recreational-use-in-vpra-owned-rail-corridors/>

We understand that this trail connection is a priority for the Potomac Heritage Trail Association. If you wish to pursue permission from CSX and other stakeholders, the Commonwealth of Virginia has a designated process that you may use, which is described within the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) HB2800 Report (2009). The process described in this report designates the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) as the appropriate contact for navigating approval from CSX and other necessary stakeholders.

We encourage you to carefully review the fact sheet on the VPRA trails website noted above. This fact sheet will link you to DRPT's 2009 report. For further information, we recommend contacting Samantha Wangsgard, DCR's Chief Environmental Planner: samantha.wangsgard@dcr.virginia.gov or (804) 401-6088.

Please feel free to e-mail or call Meredith Judy, VPRA Community Affairs Manager, if you have any additional questions: meredith.judy@vpra.virginia.gov or (804) 513-6427.

Sincerely,

Gerica R. Goodman

Gerica Goodman

Director, External Affairs and Communications
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

cc:

Congressman Gerry Connolly

Congressman Don Beyer

Senator Scott Surovell

Delegate Kathy Tran

Delegate Rozia Henson

Supervisor Dan Storck, Fairfax County

Randy Selleck, DRPT

Randy Marcus, CSX Transportation

Samantha Wangsgard, VA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Jill Kaneff, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Aimee Vosper, Fairfax County Parks

Brendon Hanafin, Fairfax County Parks

Martha Coello, Fairfax County DOT

Jeri DeYoung, National Park Service

Kevin Stanfield, National Park Service

Kacie Dean, National Park Service

Jennifer Wampler, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Charlie Grymes, Prince William Conservation Alliance

David Brickley, National Memorial Trail Alliance

Jim Klein, Trails, Sidewalks, and Bikeways (TSB) Committee, Fairfax County



Meeting Date:	August 27, 2024
Agenda Title:	FY25 CIP Project
Requested Action:	Consider possible CIP projects and provide feedback to staff
Staff Lead:	Janet Bartnik, Deputy Director

BACKGROUND

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been afforded capital / park system expansion support via voter support of a 2019 bond issue that included funding for:

- Occoquan Greenway \$ 5,000,000
- Neabsco Greenway \$ 3,500,000
- Trails and Open Space Acquisition \$ 2,000,000
- Howison Homestead Soccer Complex \$ 6,000,000
- George Hellwig Turfed Soccer Fields \$ 3,000,000
- Powell’s Creek Crossing \$ 9,500,000
- Fuller Heights Park \$ 6,000,000
- Neabsco District New Park \$ 6,000,000

In recent years, DPR has received increased funding for maintenance improvements through the Capital Maintenance Program (an operating expense line) and the Building and Facilities Program. Dedicated capital funding for park system expansionary projects has not been available to the Department.

At its April 2024 FY25 budget meetings, the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) approved the allocation of \$1,000,000 in capital project funding to trails projects for FY25. The Departments of Transportation and Parks & Recreation have planned to work together to identify the best project for implementation. Staff desires your input and feedback on the listed projects below to assist in project selection.

Projects funded since the TBC’s last review of capital improvement projects include:

- Neabsco Creek ADA Parking to the Boardwalk
- Lake Ridge Cotton Mill Trail Development – an alternate design is anticipated to meet budget constraints

PROJECTS

Staff has been asked to ensure that projects are associated with mobility goals for the County. The following projects are presented for discussion and feedback.

1. PHNST Neabsco Regional Park (Metz) Wetland Preserve Boardwalk

This project has been planned to connect the Neabsco Creek Boardwalk to Leesylvania Park and is a key segment of the PHNST. The project is shovel-ready and is underfunded due to structural changes made to the boardwalk during design. An LWCF grant was awarded and is awaiting BOCS

acceptance that will enable the County to complete a portion of the trail. Because the design allows for a step-down at any point, the project can be extended as funding allows. The current funding gaps have been projected to be roughly \$4M.

2. River Heritage Boulevard Trail Improvement

The project would provide improved bike facilities along River Heritage Boulevard from Route 1 to River Ridge Boulevard. River Heritage. The project will complete the final gap providing dedicated bike facilities from Route 1 to Potomac Shores.

3. Veterans Park Connection

This project will create a trail connection between Veteran's Park and Route 1 through Jefferson Park. The proposed trail is part of the Planned Marumscro Creek Greenway and would provide increased access from planned mixed use areas of the North Woodbridge Small Area Plan to regional park amenities.

4. Country Club Drive Shared Use Path

This project will close the gap between the Montclair community and the existing trail network along Waterway Drive to the Route 234 shared use path. The path would be from Waterway Drive to Route 234.

5. Dawson Beach Road Shared Use Path

This project would be built from Course View Way to the Entrance to Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge with the goal of providing the first segment of bike/ped facilities along Dawson Beach Road and connecting Belmont Bay residents to the refuge (and the future PHNST section) and Veterans Park.

6. Aden Road Joplin Bike/Ped Facilities

Facilities from Bristow Road to Joplin Road/Future PW Forest Park Trailhead. The project would evaluate potential bike/pedestrian facilities that could provide a connection to the Independence Nontraditional School and a proposed future PWFP trailhead.

7. Kahns Road Path/Sidewalk

This is a potential Safe Routes to Schools opportunity from Black Forest Drive to Marshall Elementary. The trail would connect to existing sidewalk north of Black Forest Drive.

8. Maplewood Drive Gap

This Project would evaluate the opportunity to fill existing gaps in the pedestrian network between Joseph Reading Park and Route 28 and coincides with recommendations from the Yorkshire Multimodal Corridor Study.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

For Council information and discussion.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

Janet Bartnik | (703) 792-3918
JBartnik@pwcgov.org

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL
Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Liz Cronauer

August 27, 2024
Regular Meeting

SECOND: Rich Wilson

Res. No. 24-16

RE: APPROVE MEMBER EILEEN SHERIDAN'S REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY THROUGH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MEANS

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council adopted a policy pursuant to Section 2.2-3708.2, VA Code Ann., to allow for remote participation by Members of the Council, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Council's policy, Eileen Sheridan notified the Chair that she is requesting permission from the Council to electronically participate at the Council's August 27, 2024, Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the member certified (Check A or B);

- A. X the Member is unable to attend the meeting due to (i) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the Member's physical attendance or (ii) a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance; OR
- B. _____ the Member is unable to attend the meeting due to the following specifically identified personal matter: (specify)

AND the Member has not already participated electronically due to a personal reason in excess of two meetings this calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, the remote location from which the Member plans to electronically participate is her residence; and this remote location will/will not (*underline one*) be open to the public; and

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WHEREAS the Member verifies that the Member's participation in any closed session of the meeting shall remain confidential and not be disclosed to any unauthorized persons or entities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Council's policy, a request for electronic participation from a remote location shall be approved unless participation violates the Council's policy or any provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council does approve the request to participate in the meeting through electronic communication means in accordance with the Council's policy; a quorum of the Council was physically assembled at one primary or central meeting location; and arrangements were made for the voice of the Member to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

Votes:

Ayes: 10

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote: 2

Absent from Meeting: 4

SIGNED:



Prince William Trails and Blueways Council chair

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL
Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Steven Cover **August 27, 2024**
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 24-17

SECOND: Jason Williams

RE: **APPROVE MEMBER DAVID BRICKLEY'S REQUEST TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY THROUGH ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION MEANS**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council adopted a policy pursuant to Section 2.2-3708.2, VA Code Ann., to allow for remote participation by Members of the Council, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Council's policy, David Brickley notified the Chair that he is requesting permission from the Council to electronically participate at the Council's August 27, 2024 Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the member certified (Check A or B);

- A. _____ the Member is unable to attend the meeting due to (i) a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the Member's physical attendance or (ii) a family member's medical condition that requires the member to provide care for such family member, thereby preventing the member's physical attendance, OR
- B. X the Member is unable to attend the meeting due to the following specifically identified personal matter: (specify) Out of town

AND the Member has not already participated electronically due to a personal reason in excess of two meetings this calendar year or 25 percent of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater; and

WHEREAS, the remote location from which the Member plans to electronically participate is his hotel; and this remote location will will not (*underline one*) be open to the public; and

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WHEREAS the Member verifies that the Member's participation in any closed session of the meeting shall remain confidential and not be disclosed to any unauthorized persons or entities; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Council's policy, a request for electronic participation from a remote location shall be approved unless participation violates the Council's policy or any provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council does approve the request to participate in the meeting through electronic communication means in accordance with the Council's policy; a quorum of the Council was physically assembled at one primary or central meeting location; and arrangements were made for the voice of the Member to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

Votes:

Ayes: 11

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote: 1

Absent from Meeting: 4

SIGNED: 
Prince William Trails and Blueways Council chair