

Prince William County
TRAILS AND BLUEWAYS COUNCIL

Advisors to the Board of County Supervisors

MOTION: Eileen Sheridan

January 28, 2025

SECOND: Catherine O'Connor

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 25-2

RE: FUNDING FOR THE FLAT BRANCH TRAIL FROM SUDLEY ROAD TO SPLASH DOWN WATERPARK AND BULL RUN.

ACTION:

WHEREAS, The Trails and Blueways Council passed Resolution No. 23-3 in May of 2023 with recommendations for improvements to the design of the proposed shared use path included in the proposed Route 28 Bypass in Flat Branch Stream Valley between Sudley Road and Bull Run, and

WHEREAS, The Prince William County Department of Transportation has been requested to draft a motion to cancel the Route 28 Bypass project which is scheduled to receive \$200,000,000 in funding in FY26 which could be made available to other projects, and

WHEREAS, The Prince William County Trails Plan, which was adopted by the Board in the Mobility Chapter of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan, includes a Greenway with a trail in the Flat Branch Stream Valley in the area where the road was to be built, and

WHEREAS, The City of Manassas plans to construct a bike trail along Godwin Drive ending at Sudley Road (its boundary with Prince William County) providing connectivity to many city destinations, and

WHEREAS, The construction of a stream valley trail in Flat Branch between Sudley Road and Bull Run Regional Park would provide numerous benefits to the people who live in the nearby neighborhoods, which include equity emphasis areas, and

WHEREAS, Those benefits include access to healthful passive recreation opportunities for hiking and cycling in wooded and open spaces, for residents in the vicinity and,

WHEREAS, Those benefits also include bike and pedestrian access between the various neighborhoods as well as access to the athletic fields and trails at Ben Lomond Regional Park, Fairmont Park, Manassas and Manassas Park destinations, the facilities at Splash Down Water Park, and the Bull Run Trail, which will connect from Ben Lomond to the Manassas Battlefield Park as well as future connections to trails on the Fairfax county side of Bull Run, and

WHEREAS, Some social trails already exist in the area and these could be opened quickly until a larger, more complete project can go through design and construction,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, in the event that the Board chooses to cancel the Route 28 Bypass project, the Trails and Blueways Council recommends that the Board allocate an estimated \$5,000,000 in funding from the Route 28 Bypass budget for planning, design, and construction of the Flat Branch Trail and all necessary supporting infrastructure to provide connections to adjacent neighborhoods and park facilities between Sudley Road and Bull Run, and ultimately transfer affected State-owned right of way property currently targeting the Route 28 Bypass to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Votes:

Ayes: 13

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote (virtual only): 1

Absent from Vote: 1

Absent from Meeting: 1

SIGNED:



Prince William Trails and Blueways Council chair

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

MOTION: Eileen Sheridan

May 23, 2023
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 23-3

SECOND: Bill McCarty

**RE: RECOMMEND MODIFICATIONS TO ROUTE 28 BYPASS PROJECT
SHARED USE PATH DESIGN**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation held a public meeting to review the latest design version of the Route 28 Bypass project on April 20, 2023 that includes a shared use path; and

WHEREAS, the proposed design of the shared use path precludes a number of potential, convenient access points from adjacent neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the proposed design of the shared use path does not provide pedestrian/bicycle connections to either Ben Lomond Regional Park or Fairmont Park, both of which are parks owned and operated by the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism; and

WHEREAS, the proposed design of the shared use path does not provide access to Ordway Road which would provide connection to a planned shared use path on Compton Road and access to the I-66 shared use path that will connect to Washington D.C.; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed design does not consider bicycle and pedestrian access to the recreational trails in Ben Lomond Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, the proposed design should also include provisions for parking along Bull Run whereby residents of Prince William County could have hand-carried launch access for paddling along Bull Run;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William County Trails and Blueways Council recommends to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors that the following items be considered before accepting a final design for the Route 28 Bypass:

- Move the proposed shared use path to the westerly side of the right-of-way to improve access to Fairmont Park and Ben Lomond Regional Park, or at a minimum, provide a sidewalk along the westerly side in addition to the shared use path on the easterly side, to make this roadway a “complete street”. The goal

is to ensure additional pedestrian and bicycle access from the neighborhoods adjoining the right-of-way.

- Include bicycle and pedestrian access to both Fairmont Park and Ben Lomond Regional Park, utilizing County-owned land as feasible.
- Include access to Ordway Road, so that cyclists and pedestrians can proceed to Compton Road for access to the I-66 shared use path, which presently ends at the Compton Road/I-66 interchange.
- Provide vehicular/bicycle/pedestrian access to any parking areas constructed along Bull Run in the Yorkshire area, such that the County can consider development of a future hand-carried boat launch, thereby providing land and blueway connectivity.

Votes:

Ayes: 10

Nays: 0

Absent from Vote (virtual only): 2

Absent from Meeting: 2

ATTEST:



Elizabeth Cronauer, Chair, Prince William Trails and Blueways Council