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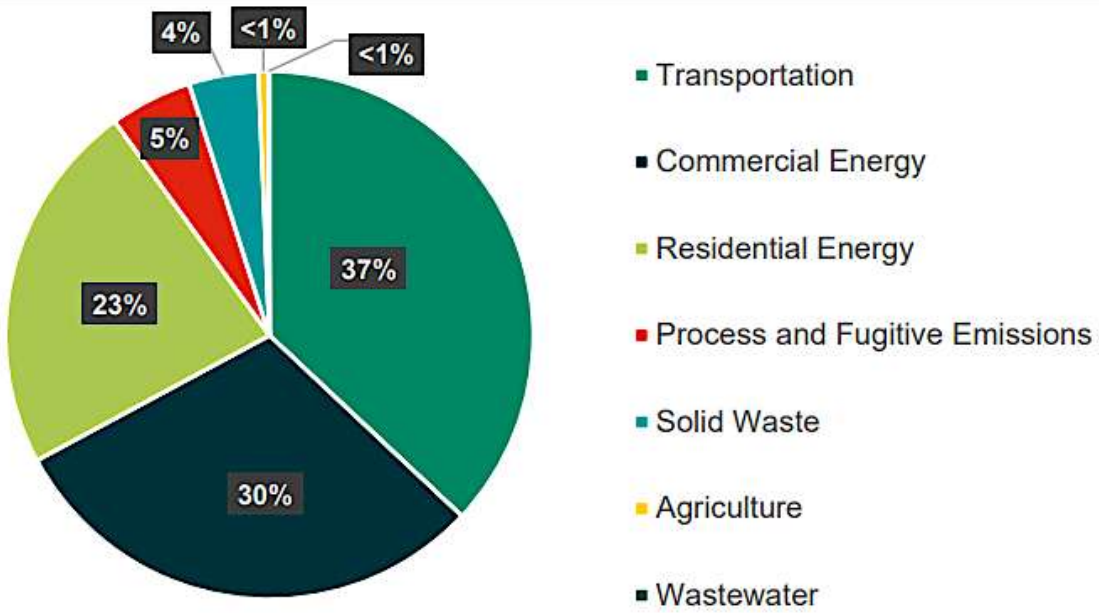
Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION



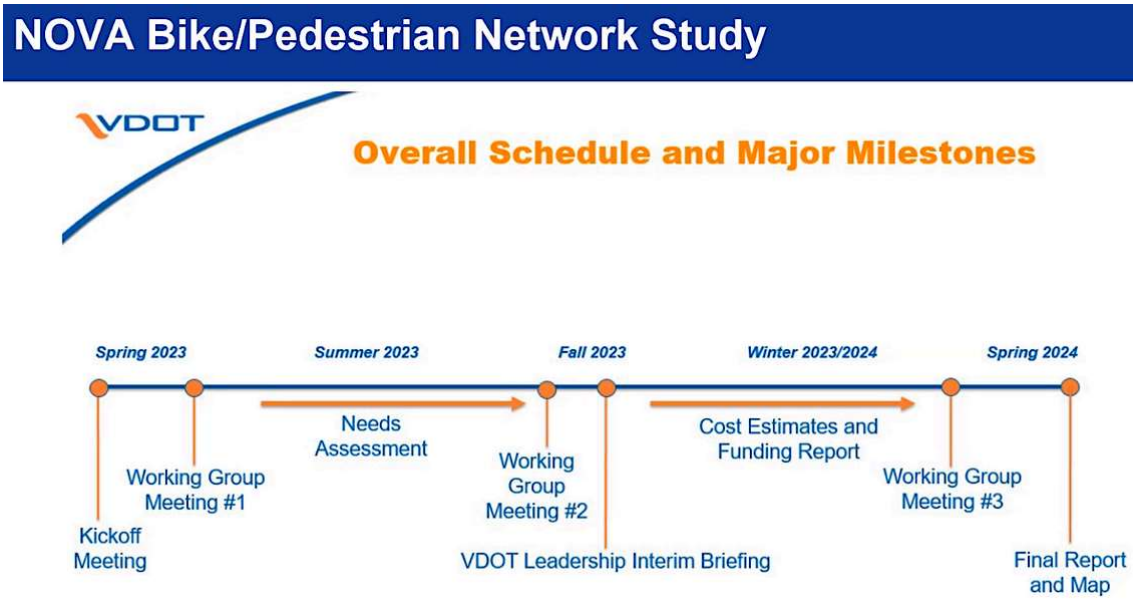
Sustainability Commission Prioritizes Improving Pedestrian and Bicycle Infrastructure

The Prince William County **Sustainability Office** is expected to complete the Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP) this Fall. The plan will identify how the county can reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50% of the 2005 level by 2030.

The **Sustainability Commission** appointed by the Board of County Supervisors is helping to draft the action strategies now. Since transportation generates more emissions than any other sector (*see pie chart, above*), reducing vehicle miles traveled by cars/trucks is a priority.

The **draft CESMP** discussed at the Sustainability Commission's July 27 meeting inlcludes 25 action strategies. #1 for the transportation sector is "Improve Pedestrian

and Bicycle Infrastructure and Enhance Connectivity." That will facilitate a 5% "mode shift" from passenger vehicles to active/public transport, reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled and thus emissions.



Second Sunday Hike - August 13, 1:00-3:00pm

On August 13 we will explore the Broad Run Trail. We had planned to hike this stretch on July 9, but rescheduled to August 13. **Please register** in case weather forces a cancellation, so we can notify you.

Total distance will be about 3.5 miles. The hike will include some sidewalk sections, but the majority will be on trail sections in wooded areas with a variety of surfaces (blacktop path, stone dust, natural surface).

Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Update

- **Virginia State Trails Office website** is now online. Th office's focus is on creating a state map showing trails with an "improved" surface, such as pavement. Staff said at July 25 BPAC meeting that they are willing to travel to different regions to talk about trails…
- Current VDOT inventory indicates Virginia has 1,449 miles of shared use paths and 853 miles of bike lanes.
- VDOT will start to update the **State Bicycle Policy Plan** this Fall. Update might be completed in 1-2 years.
- **Walk and Roll to School Day** is October 4.
- **66 Parallel Trail**: as part of the Transform I-66 project, which built 18 miles of a new 10' wide shared use path in other jurisdictions, short trail segments were built in Prince William County to connect to Gainesville and Balls Ford park-and-ride lots. Protected bike parking was included at those lots.
- **Northern Virginia Bike and Pedestrian Study** will be completed Spring 2024. Look for study to provide cost estimates to build planned trails, so localities can include appropriate funding in their Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- **Fall Line Trail** connecting Ashland to Petersburg (43 miles) will cost over $300 million. About 250,000 people live within one mile of the planned route. Central Virginia Transportation Authority (equivalent of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority in Richmond area) spurred sate funding by **allocating $104 million to the trail**.
- VDOT is updating the **2022-2026 Strategic Highway Safety Plan**. The Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment (VRUSA) will determine the "high risk areas" where investment will be prioritized by November 15. To participate in the Wednesday, August 9 (2:00-4:00pm) VRUSA workshop, **register** in advance. NOTE: A vulnerable road user is someone walking, biking, or rolling and not in a vehicle; motocyclists are not included.

Policies and Plans

Statewide	Safety Strategies	Safety Problems / High Risk Areas	Countermeasures
Pedestrian Crossing Unsignalized Approaches – IIM 384.1	Crosswalk installation guidelines	Speed and Distance to Crossings	Signs/Markings, RRFBs, PHBs, Visibility Enhancements
VHSIP Implementation	Systemic improvements	PSAP	Identified countermeasures
VA Highway Safety Plan (HSP, 2023)	Education/Outreach materials; Enforcement	Drinking/Drugged; Speeding	Safe Systems Approach
VA Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP, 2022-26)	Partnership with other agencies	PSAP	Education materials and training
Road Design Manual	Facility Design; Complete Streets	Road Safety Assessment	Multimodal design
VDRPT Multimodal System Design Guidelines (2020)	Network connectivity; Design Speed by Context	Speed and conflict points	Crosswalks and Intersection Treatments
VDOT SRTS Program	Walk/ Bike to School Days; Mini Grants	K-12 Schools	Sidewalks, Crosswalks, Education
Policy for Integrating Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations (CTB, 2004)	Sidewalk and network improvements	N/A	Sidewalk, Shared Use Paths, Bikeways
VTRANS Plan	Multi-modal needs screening	Safety Studies	Policy application
VDOT Traffic Calming Guide for Neighborhood Streets	Countermeasures; Slow Streets	Arterials	Additional countermeasures for higher speed roads
VDOT SMART Scale Tech Guide	Accommodations; Access; Traffic Control	PSAP, PSI High Crash Locations	Policy application
VDOT PSAP (2018)	PSAP Analysis; Policy Review	PSAP; Clusters	Policy Updates

Fairfax County Park Planning

Fairfax County Park Authority's **Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Access (PROSA) Strategy** project is seeking community feedback befre August 6.

Check out the **draft report** (including the 10-Minute Walk Vision) and the recording of the **July 18 virtual workshop**. You might also be interested in **Fairfax park trails**.
*NOTE: **ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan** will not be completed until 2024.*

Help Improve Your Park System!

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is developing the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Access (PROSA) Strategy which will provide a framework for equitable access to FCPA parks and the park system. The Strategy will provide a path for improved park access and a balance of recreational experiences.

Opportunities to Provide Input

SCAN ME

1. Participate in a virtual public meeting
2. Take the community survey
3. Sign up for project updates

Community Survey

Scan the QR Code to participate in a community survey on the PROSA Strategy.

E-Mail Updates

Would you like to be kept up-to-date about the project? Please scan the QR code or visit https://bit.ly/fcpa-prosa and sign up to receive project updates.

Questions, Feedback, or Ideas?

Comments or questions about PROSA can be sent to PROSA@Publicinput.com.

PROSA

Parks • Recreation • Open Space • Access

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In Other News…

- Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition **reports** that the Hedges Run Bridge project is close to being open for public use... but please wait until the opening is official.
- A pedestrian walking in the intersection of Somerset Crossing Dr. and Forkland Way in Gainesville was **killed by a car** on July 4 around 7:00am. Pedestrians must cross 5 lanes at an intersection designed primarily for cars to move fast.
- **Washington Area Bicyclist Association** report: **Lemons To Lemonade: Converting I-66 From A Bike-Blocking Canyon To A Bike-Boosting Corridor** (and more regarding **trails along I-66**).
- The Virgina Safe Routes to Schools program has scheduled "Walkabouts 101" webinar for conducting safety audits. **Register** online for August 23, 1:00-2:00pm.
- **This Tech Will Help Find Your Next Hike - and Can Save Your Life** (*Wall Street Journal*, July 23)
- Check out the latest **PBIC Messenger** newsletter from the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
- recent *New York Times* articles: **What Is an E-Bike, and How Safe Are They?** and **'A Dangerous Combination': Teenagers' Accidents Expose E-Bike Risks**

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