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Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

January 25 Quarterly Meeting, 10:00am

We will get updates on priorities and plans for specific **trail projects** in Prince William County, proposals for closing gaps in the **Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail**, likely revisions in the **National Capital Trail Network**, and discuss the top priorities and FY25 budget requests being made by various advocacy groups.

We will also demonstrate a new app developed by Prince William County so volunteers can identify bike/pedestrian safety improvements needed at intersections and near schools, libraries and parks. Recommendations by volunteers will be incorporated in the Prince William County Safety Action Plan, funded in part by a Safe Streets and Roads for All ("SS4A") Grant.

And we'll schmooze, co-alish, and coordinate between 10:00-11:30am on January 25. Join us, make connections, and strengthen the links between trail supporters and local officials making plans/decisions.

Reminder: please **register** so we know who plans to meet in-person at GMU's **Potomac Science Center** *(yes, there will be coffee and donuts…)* or join via Zoom:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81213420809?pwd=akhUaXZiQ0JlcmhuSGVIZXI6Q0hWZz09
Meeting ID: 812 1342 0809
Passcode: 062383

January 13: Walk Around the Future Davis Ford Park, 10:00am

The **Mid County Civic Association of Prince William** (MIDCO) has arranged for an exploration of the site of the future Davis Ford Park. Meet at 10:00am at 5901 Davis Ford Road, near the Occoquan Reservoir. Occoquan District Supervisor Kenny Boddye will be on the tour.

Funding for developing the Master Plan for the park was approved at the end of 2023. The passive-use park will feature trails to enjoy lots of beautiful mature trees and natural features, and possibly even a historic home site.

January 14: Second Sunday Hike, 1:00pm

Rain in December caused us to postpone the exploration of Preserve at Long Branch until January. We will see trails that are not yet open to the public. Join us at 1:00pm - **register online** to get the details.

January 16: Opportunity to Ask for FY25 Trails Funding

Trails advocates will be speaking at Citizen Time to the Board of County Supervisors on January 16 at 2:00pm. That day is the best opportunity in FY25 budget cycle to make an in-person request to the elected officials, asking them to start funding completion of the 400 miles of trails in the 2040 Mobility Chapter by funding an Active Transportation Plan and dedicating General Fund $$ for trail construction.

In the past, trails have been funded only through proffers, state/regional/Federal grants, and special bond projects. Without funding, the lines on the 2040 Trails Plan map will not become real-world trails.

Can't make it on January 16? Speak out via e-mail and share your perspective to **bocs@pwcgov.org**

Grant Avenue Streetscape

City of Manassas is **"streetscaping" Grant Avenue** between Prince William Street and Wellington Road. Reducing the road from four to two lanes, as proposed in 2017 when the city adopted the Old Town Sector Plan, will create a multi-modal boulevard that is more suitable for bike and pedestrian use.

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
Summary of FY2024-2029 Six Year Program Candidate Projects

Updated on 12/15/2023

#	Project ID#	Jurisdiction / Agency	Project	Fund request	Previous NVTA funds	Other committed funds	Total project cost	Funding gap excluding NVTA request	Phases for which funds are requested	Phases for which there is still a funding gap	Primary and supporting modal components	Local Priority
10	PWC-040	Prince William County	Route 234 and Sudley Manor Drive Interchange	$ 115,000,000		$ -	$ 115,000,000	$ -	PE, ROW, CN			1
11	PWC-041	Prince William County	Route 234 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Over I-95	$ 12,000,000		$ -	$ 12,000,000	$ -	PE, ROW, CN			2
12	PWC-043	Prince William County	The Landing at Prince William Transit Center	$ 25,000,000		$ -	$ 25,000,000	$ -	PE, ROW, CN			3
13	PWC-044	Prince William County	Triangle Mobility Hub and First/Last Mile Connection Improvements	$ 10,000,000		$ -	$ 10,000,000	$ -	PE, ROW, CN			4
14	PWC-042	Prince William County	Route 234 Operational Improvements	$ 10,000,000		$ -	$ 10,000,000	$ -	PE, CN, Asset			5

Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA): FY2024-2029 Six Year Program Candidate Projects

Prince William County has requested $172 million for projects to be funded by the 70% regional allocation of gas tax revenues. Included in the list is a $12 million project for a "Route 234 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Over I-95." A map with links to the projects included in the **2022 TransAction update** can be **viewed online**.

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Active Transportation in Virginia

Mark Your Calendar: 2024 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meetings

All meetings of this Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) advisory committee willl be hybrid.
Winter 2024: Tuesday, January 23, 10:00m-1:00pm
Spring 2024: Tuesday, April 23, 10:00m-1:00pm
Summer 2024: Tuesday, July 23, 10:00m-1:00pm
Fall 2024: Tuesday, October 22, 10:00m-1:00pm

Check out the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) **Bicycle and Pedestrian Program website** for minutes of previous meetings, and to **sign up** to receive the VDOT Active Transportation Newsletter.

Climate Action Dashboard

Fairfax County now has a public dashboard showing progress towards implementing its Climate Action Plan - check out the **Transportation Metrics**.

The Office of Sustainability in Prince William County in planning to develop a similar dashboard.

Obviously a more-complete bike/pedestrian network could minimize Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and reduce car-generated greenhouse gas emissions. How much? Wait for the dashboard…

In Other News…

- American Trails has launched "Foundations of Sustainable Trails, A Trail From Start to Finish." The free, short, self-directed **online training courses** discuss trail planning, design, maintenance, construction, and management.
- The new **State Trails Office website** has bare-bones links at the moment.
- The December 12 pedestrian fatality on Hoadly Road occurred near the Dar Alnoor Islamic Community Center. According to the **news story**, the victim was "*was not walking in a crosswalk*." However, there are no crosswalks for nearly two miles on Hoadly Road between Dale Boulevard and Ridgefield Village Drive. On Route 28/Centreville Road, there are no crosswalks for one mile between Liberia Avenue-Manassas Drive. Inadequate pedestrian infrastructure is a problem, not just behavior of drivers and pedestrians.
- **This artist paints on streets to make them safer places to walk** (*Washington Post*, December 27, 2023)
- **Alexandria is exploring e-bike incentives. Could a statewide program be next?** (*Virginia Mercury*, January 3)
- The January meeting of the **MWCOG Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee** has been rescheduled to January 30, 1:00-3:00pm. The meeting will be livestreamed on Youtube.
- **Long-Awaited MUTCD Update Sets New Road Safety Standards** (*Strong Towns*, January 8)

- First meeting of the Outdoor Recreation Caucus in the General Assembly will be January 16, 8:30 - 9:30am in Richmond. **Register** if you plan to attend.
- Thanks to efforts by the Virginia Bicycling Federation, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles has updated its **Bicycle Safety** page. *Bicycles may be ridden on sidewalks, paths, and trails (except when prohibited by signs or local ordinance) as well as on roadways…*
- Del. Josh Thomas has introduced an Electric Power-Assisted Bicycle Rebate Program bill (**HB 748**) in the House of Delegates.

All 25 who started the First Day hike on January 1 at Silver Lake Regional Park made it back safe and sound. Missing a turn and getting lost, plus the snowflakes, added some spice to the day as well as an extra mile. (Those who took the shortcut back missed the horses…)

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The Greater Price William Trails Coalition is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN: 92-3087298).
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