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Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION

Did You Miss Schmoozing at the June 15 Quarterly Meeting?

We had over 30 people engaged and coordinating and co-alishing. A few of us biked on the **Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail** afterwards.

You can see a **recording of the meeting** on Zoom. Passcode is .^KGe6jE

The October Quarterly Meeting of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition will be consolidated with the 2023 Trails Summit, which **Northern Virginia Regional Commission** will organize again this October - but **check our calendar** soon for the date of another bike trip/schmooze opportunity in eastern Prince William County

“Second Sunday” Hike on July 9

On July 9, we will explore the **Broad Run Greenway**. 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).
Please register so we can notify you if the hike is postponed or cancelled because of weather conditions.

It’s A-Coming, It’s A-Coming: New Bike/Pedestrian Bridge at Route 234/Brentsville Road Interchange

The original design for the new interchange included only at-grade crossings for bikers and pedestrians. Active Prince William proposed safer alternatives, the Transportation Department held a public meeting in December 2021, the local supervisor spoke out, and **the design** was revised to include a bike/pedestrian bridge across Route 234.

That bridge is now under construction (see above).

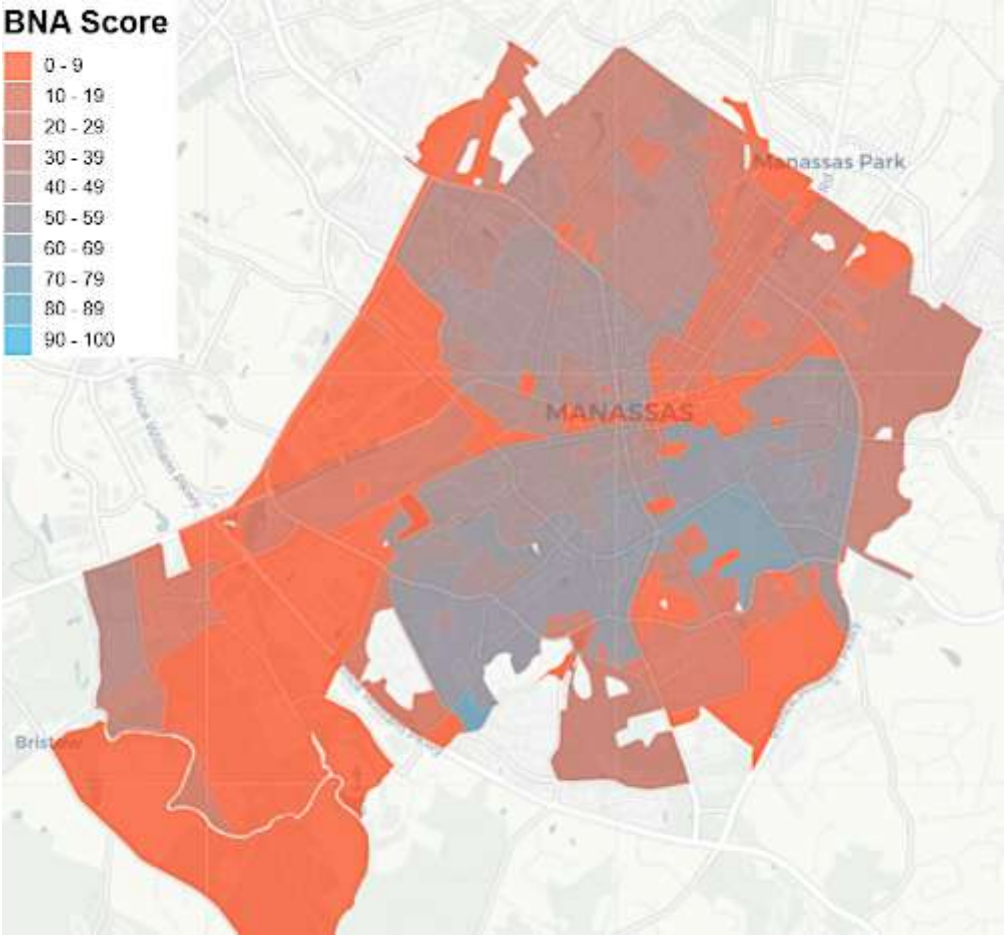
S'More Rides at Andrew Leitch Park

Rides are scheduled for second and third Tuesdays in July. Sign up for **July 11** and **July 18**.

Environmental Events Calendar

Keep Prince William Beautiful (KPWB) and GMU's **Potomac Environmental Research & Education Center** have collaboratively created an environmental and sustainability **events calendar**. It is available to all schools, families, communities etc.

Eventually, the calendar is expected to use technology to "scrub" events from calendars of Greater Prince William Trail Coalition members. In the meantime, submit your events, hike, bike rides, meetups, etc. at **https://kpwb.org/contact/event-content-submission/**



Just Out: “People For Bikes” Ratings

Manassas received a Bicycle Network Analysis (BNA) score of 33 from **People for Bikes**. The city ranked as #210 out of 946 "small cities." Average score for all cities was 27. (Manassas Park and Prince William County were not rated.)
The ratings program is designed to recognize cities making progress towards building better bike networks. Naturally, People for Bikes offers **recommendations to improve bike networks** so a community will earn a higher BNA score.

Coming Soon
BIKE MAP 2023
DOWNTOWN BIKE FRIENDLY STATION
TAKE YOUR BIKE ON THE VRE
OMNI RACK-N-RIDE
BIKE SAFELY
TYPES OF BIKE FACILITIES
BIKE MAP 2023
Manassas
PARKS, CULTURE & RECREATION
BIKE MAP 2023
BIKE FACILITIES
Signed Shared Road, Existing
Bike Lane, Existing
Shared Use Path, Existing
Bike Racks
Bike Lockers
Bike Repair Station
Railroad
City Schools
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Sites
Airport Terminal
Prince William Medical Center
Train Stations
CITY OF MANASSAS PARK
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
DRAFT
* The map depiction shown is only a draft version and has not been finalized.
Manassas
HISTORIC HEART. MODERN BEAT.
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

TABLE 1

Project	TransAction Project Name/ ID	Description	Funding Request (Not to Exceed)
Route 234 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility (over I-95)	Route 234: Anne Moncure Wall Park to Route 1/ 445	Construct a missing section of sidewalk on Route 234 over I-95	$12,000,000
Route 234 Operational Improvements	Route 234 Arterial Operations Improvements/ 25	Deployment of intelligent signal monitoring/control technology to improve travel on Route 234	$10,000,000
Route 1 at Route 123 Interchange	Route 123/Route 1 Interchange/ 218	Construct extension of Route 123 over Route 1 to connect with Express Drive.	$75,000,000
Triangle Mobility Hub and First/Last Mile Connection Improvements	High-Capacity Transit Extension to Potomac Mills/Triangle/ 38	Construct a hub on Graham Park Road for existing OmniRide bus services and future high-capacity transit operating on the Route 1 corridor. Project includes transit amenities and pedestrian improvements.	$10,000,000
The Landing at Prince William Transit Center	The Landing at Prince William/ 379	Construct a transit center to serve existing commuter lots and support transit service expansion.	$25,000,000
Route 234 and Sudley Manor Drive Interchange	Construct Interchange on Route 234 at Sudley Manor	Construct innovative improvements at intersection of Route 234 and Sudley Manor	$130,000,000

Prince William County Will Request $$$ From Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA) for a Bike/Pedestrian Project

NVTA determines what projects will be funded with 70% of the special gas tax revenues collected in Northern Virginia.

In the last NVTA funding cycle **in 2021**, the county requested $478 million to construct new road projects and $0 for bike/pedestrian infrastructure. **In 2019**, the county had requested over $237 million for road expansion projects and $0 for bike/pedestrian infrastructure.

Times may be changing, if only slightly. On June 27 the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) planned to request $265 million in FY28 and FY29 funding, including $215 million for road projects, $35 million for transit projects, and $12 million for one bike/pedestrian project (see table, above).

As usual, the county submission to NVTA was scheduled as a “consent agenda” item with no details and for a decision before any public comment. The proposal was postponed at the last minute, but it will reappear soon - presumably with the $12 million proposal for a bike path from Montclair to Route 1.

NOTE: The proposed $130,000 million interchange on Route 234 at Sudley Manor Drive does not include constructing any part of the planned shared use path along Route 234, even though that trail is included in the 2040 Mobility Chapter. *None of the major improvements constructed along Route 234/Prince William Parkway have included building any of the officially-planned segments of the* ***National Capital Trails Network****.*

June 27 Trails and Blueways Council (TBC) Meeting Notes

- **Digital Gateway rezoning** discussions continue between county staff and applicants. Staff in Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (DPRT) are negotiating locations of future trails. Staff in Public Works are negotiating width/character of buffers adjacent to trails that might provide some screening of buildings.
- DPRT is seeking **Trail Monitors**. DPRT volunteer policy has been drafted, based on existing Historic Preservation program. Assuming policy is approved by Board of County Supervisors, DPRT will be able to sign all future volunteer agreements for trail construction and maintenance. (After real-world experience, policy may be revised this winter.)

- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST) subcommittee has ground-truthed alternative routes for many gaps. Next meeting will be in early August
- **Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts** (MORE) has improved trails at **Long Park**, especially to create erosion-resistant stream crossings
- **Broad Run Off Road** "Long & Short of It - XC MTB Race" on June 16 at Long Park had 75 participants and raised over $1,200 - **see photos**
- Route 123-Old Bridge Road design is being reconsidered because **STARS draft design** impacted too many existing structures. Two TBC members are assessing bike/pedestrian options.

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

Active Transportation in Virginia

In Other News…

- If you missed WABA's 2023 Vision Zero Summit, all sessions ae **now posted** on YouTube - including a **Mapping Bikeability/Walkability Barriers** presentation about a project to identify safe routes to schools, parks, and libraries in Prince William County.
- **Bike-related fatalities on the rise in Virginia** (*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 19, 2023) NOTE: the Virginia Bicycle Safety Act passed in 2021 requires drivers to stay at least 3 feet away from bicyclists or to change lanes when passing.
- The Governors Highway Safety Association reports that **U.S. Pedestrian Deaths Are at Highest Level in 41 Years**
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law expanded funding opportunities, promoted Complete Streets policies, and modified eligibility related to bicycling and walking. On July 13, the Federal Highway Administration will **present a webinar** on "Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning, Program, and Project Development Guidance."
- Funding for trail maintenance is always a challenge - see **Breaking with staff recommendation, Prince William supervisors agree to fund private trail upkeep** (*Inside NOVA*, June 29, 2023)
- As noted by the **Capital Trails Coalition**, the National Capital Trails Network just received significant new funding - see **Six trail projects in D.C. region get millions from federal grants** (*Washington Post*, June 28, 2023)
- "Our Virginia's Outdoors" offers free and other **membership levels** for any individual or organization interested in promoting Virginia's outdoors for all - and see "The future of Virginia's outdoors depends on us" (Virginia Mercury, June 20, 2023)

- Did you know that Google, as it was planning self-driving cars, considered coating the exterior of those cars with a *special adhesive that would cause any pedestrians struck by the vehicle to stick to the car* rather than be thrown by the impact? See "**Pedestrian Safety: There's No Technical Fix**" (Strong Towns, June 5, 2023)
- Interested in the climate and how greenhouse gas reduction can be accomplished by a "mode shift" from cars to bike/pedestrian trips? See **Advancing Trails to Support Multimodal Networks** **from** the Pedestrian and Bike Information Center (PBIC).
- The National Park Service is seeking public input on the potential impacts of **e-bikes in parks** across the National Park System. **Comments** will be received until July 21.
- Check out the Federal Highway Administration's **Summer 2023 Pedestrian and Bike Forum Newsletter**
- July is **Park and Recreation Month: Where Community Grows**

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