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**Greater
Prince
William** **TRAILS**
COALITION

Greater Prince William Trails Coalition
Next Quarterly Meeting on June 15, 10:00-11:30am

We will gather in-person at the **Potomac Science Center** of George Mason University, and offer a Zoom option as well for this hybrid meeting.

NOTE: we added 30 minutes for the meeting, because we have a packed agenda:

- 1) **Trails and Blueways Council** proposals on how to complete the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail through the towns of Occoquan and Dumfries and through PW County before 2031, the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Yorktown
- 2) how to complete the **National Capital Trails Network** by 2030, as planned by the Transportation Planning Board to help meet the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 50% of the 2005 level by 2030
- 3) identifying possible synergies between GPWTC efforts to build Trails Map 3.0 with VDOT's plans for a state trails map, and a review of what's happening now regarding bike/ped planning and safety initiatives in NOVA

Please register to **attend in person** (*we gotta bring the right number of donuts...*) or to **join via Zoom**.



Second Sunday Hike on June 11 from 1:00-3:00pm

The next Second Sunday hike of the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition is June 11, 1:00-3:00pm. It's a schmooze opportunity every month, where we get to know other trail advocates while also making a site visit.

In June we will explore the north side of Powells Creek, going west (upstream) from Leesylvania State Park. **Sign up** so you get the logistics for parking - and for a notification if weather forces us to cancel.



Join Our "Mapping Safety Barriers" Panel Discussion at the 2023 Washington Region Vision Zero Summit on June 14

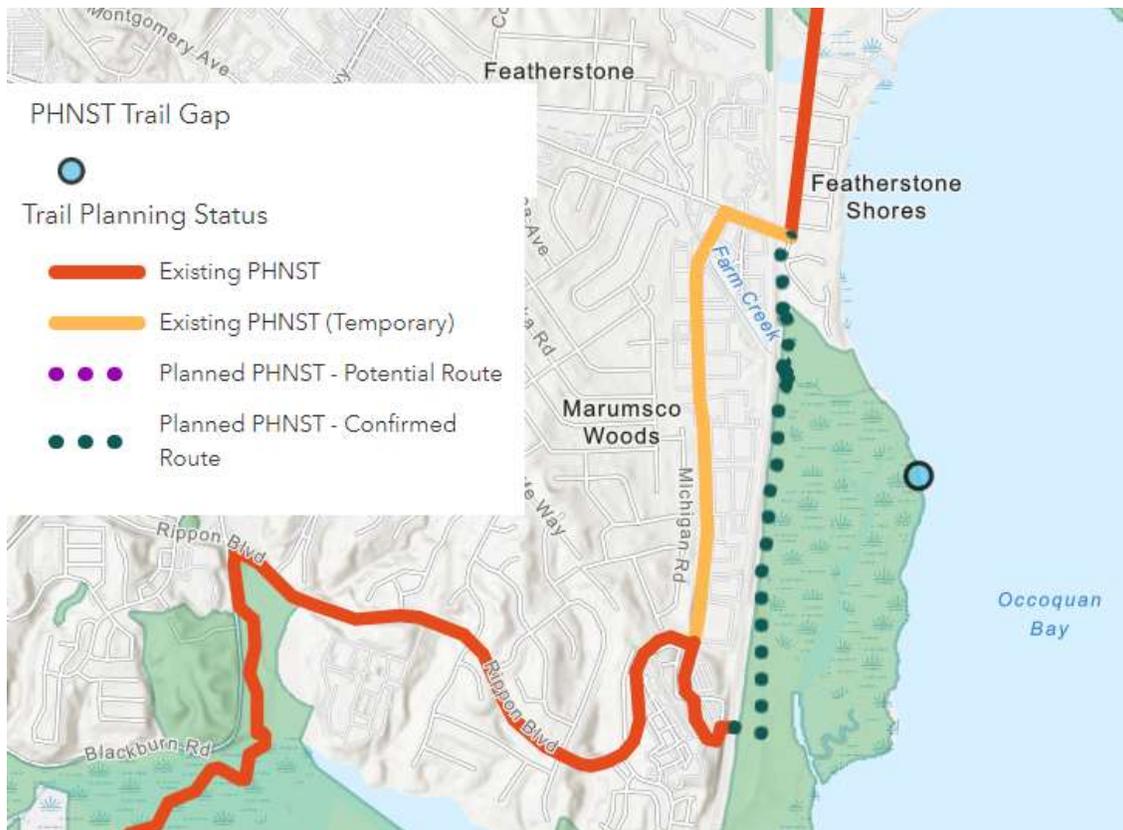
The theme of this year's summit, organized by the Washington Area Bicycling Association (WABA), is "Community Engagement and Safe Streets." There will be a series of Zoom presentations throughout the day.

The Greater Prince William Trails Coalition and the Community Healthcare Coalition of Greater Prince William have partnered to offer a panel discussion on our project to map specific trail gaps, dangerous intersections, and other safety barriers that deter people from walking/biking to schools, parks, libraries, etc.

Register, mark your calendar, and join our online discussion on June 14 (1:00-1:30pm).



*Ever wonder what Neabsco Boardwalk would look like if you asked **ChatGPT** to generate an Impressionist oil painting image of it?*



Yes, Real-World Funding!

On June 6, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors plan to authorize spending **\$2,625,000** to begin construction of a one-mile segment of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST). That challenging-to-build segment will traverse the Featherstone Wildlife Refuge from the Rippon Virginia Railway Express (VRE) station to Featherstone Road.

The supervisors are also expected to allocate **\$1,145,000** to construct a pedestrian bridge over US Route 1 to connect the Woodbridge Virginia Railway Express Station (VRE) to the future North Woodbridge Town Center. That funding would come from the 30% of gas tax revenue provided by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA).



Bike to Work Day, May 19

Above: at the VRE station in Manassas with Mayor Davis-Younger and six City employees

Below: Alanna Mensing, Michele Burton, and Amanda Vitko at the Manassas Park VRE station



Manassas Named Bronze-level “Bicycle Friendly Community”

On May 31, Manassas became **one of 45 cities and towns** to earn “Bicycle Friendly Community” awards from the League of American Bicyclists. *Manassas was the only new community to win an award in 2023; 44 other communities were renewals.*

Across the United States, there are now 506 Bicycle Friendly Communities. They all share five essential elements (the “5 E’s”):

Equity & Accessibility: A Bicycle Friendly America for Everyone

Engineering: Creating safe and convenient places to ride and park

Education: Giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride

Encouragement: Creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling

Evaluation & Planning: Planning for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option





Hedges Run Bridge Installed on Occoquan Greenway

The 110-foot Occoquan Greenway bridge over Hedges Run stream was installed on May 19 - see [**New Occoquan Greenway Bridge Offers New Trail Connection for Pedestrians and Bicyclists**](#) - check out the [**time lapse video**](#).

Bridge is on Segment 3 of the [**Occoquan Greenway map**](#). It is high enough for the Service Authority to drive vehicles beneath the bridge to maintain utility pipes.
(photos by Neil Nelson)

In other news...

- The memory of Kim Hosen, founder of the [**Prince William Conservation Alliance**](#) (PWCA) and a steady advocate for improving bike/pedestrian access to parks and creating walkable live-work-play communities in Prince William County, was honored at the Board of County Supervisors meeting on May 23. [**\(Video starts at 1:38**](#) in the meeting.)
- Non-profit organizations and/or public entities within small to mid-sized communities (~50,000 to ~500,000 population) are encouraged to apply for the new [**Community Connectors grant program**](#) by June 15.
- The Transportation Planning Board used the "pecha kucha" (chit-chat) format in an April webinar, [**Promoting Vibrant Communities and Safer Roads**](#), to share short, fast-paced material on pedestrian safety plans, trail design, and bike safety education, Regional Roadway Safety Program, and Transportation/Land Use Connections (TLC) studies.

- A May 23 story in *Potomac Local*, “**City officials outline coming pedestrian, bike lane improvements,**” notes that the City of Manassas has added 15 miles of bike lanes since the **Transportation Master Plan** was adopted in 2019.
- **To curb crashes, Virginia installs more pedestrian beacons** (*Virginia Mercury*, May 24)
- No need to re-invent the wheel. Federal Highway Administration offers “**best practices**” **guidance** for bike and pedestrian programs.
- The bike/pedestrian **safety improvement project** at the corner of Old Centreville Road and Somersworth Drive has been completed.
- **Partnership for the National Trails System** has just distributed its June E-News. To get the newsletters from that organization, **sign up**.



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