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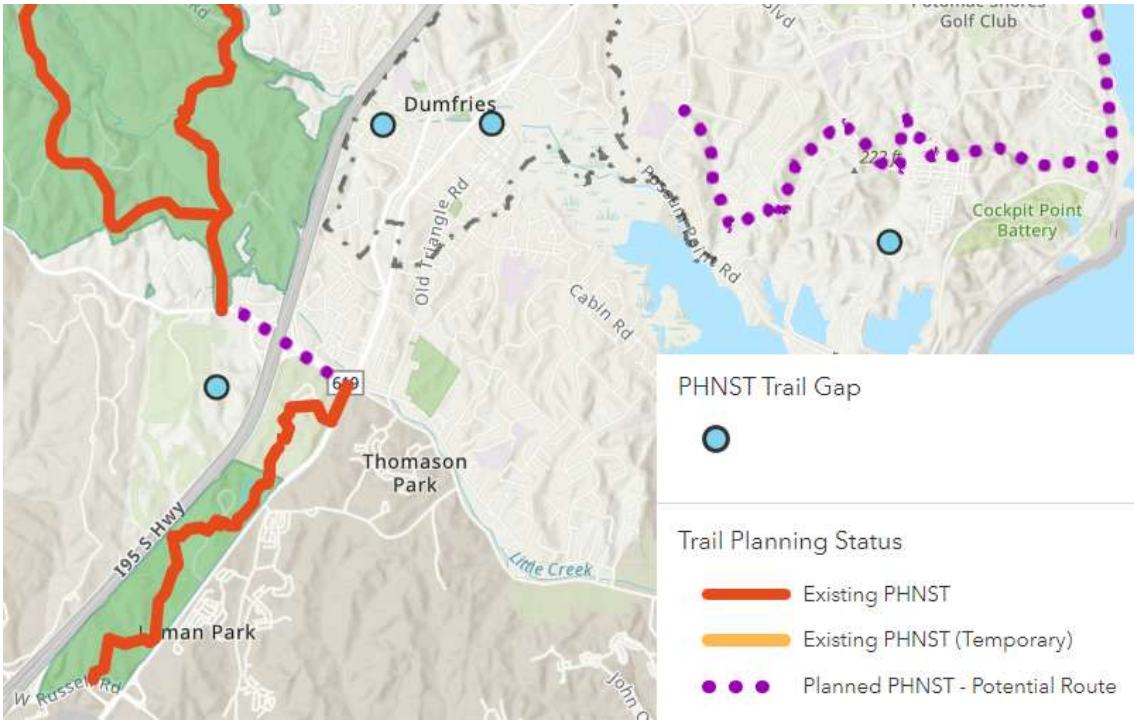
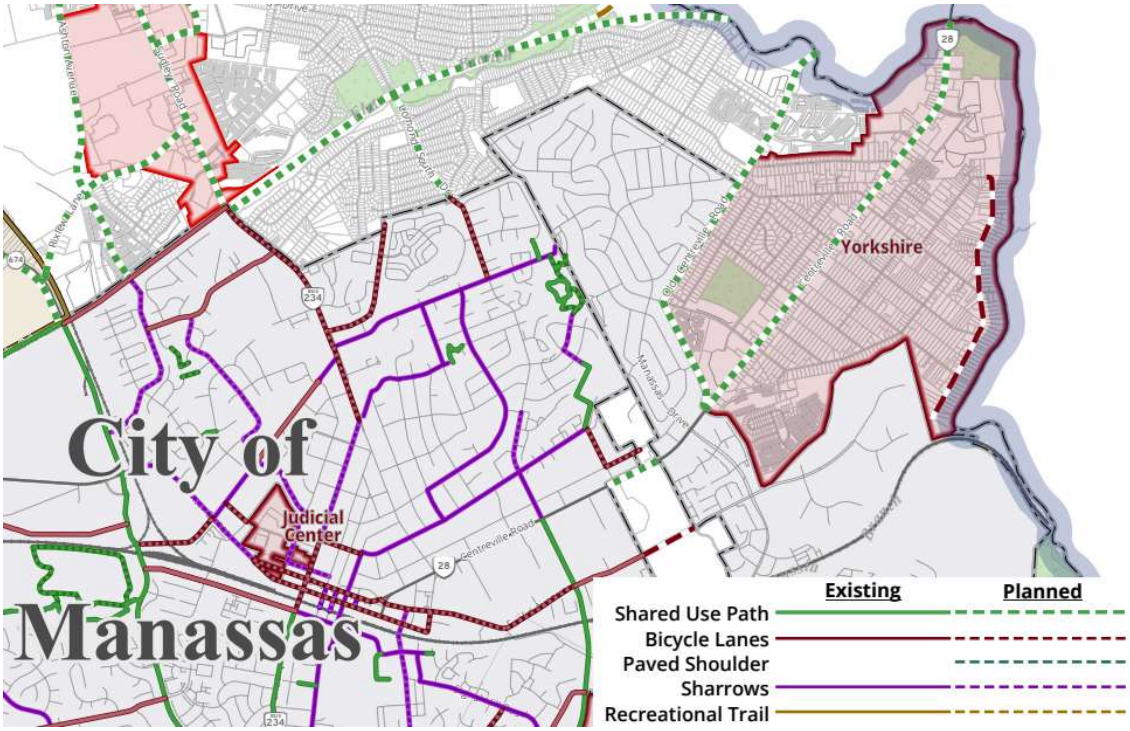
Greater Prince William TRAILS COALITION



Update: Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

The Prince William County **Trails and Blueways Council** has formed a PHNST subcommittee, chaired by David Brickley. At its first meeting on April 20, the subcommittee reviewed the gaps identified in the 2022 Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) **Corridor Analysis**. Subcommittee members were assigned to study and make recommendations on 13 specific gaps, with reports due May 10. NVRC will provide technical assistance on filling gaps, data analysis, and assist with finding funds. One agenda item for the Coalition's June 15 Quarterly Meeting will be a review of PHNST gap-closing proposals.

In addition, Prince William County is using a $500,000 **Federal Lands Access Program** (FLAP) grant to hire a consultant to assist with the gap analysis for two places - from the Town of Occoquan to Belmont Bay, and from the Town of Dumfries to the south.



Yorkshire Multimodal Corridor Planning Study

In April, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) **approved** an $80,000 Yorkshire Multimodal Corridor Planning Study, saying:
The Yorkshire corridor is both a regional Activity Center and an Equity Emphasis Area with a large immigrant population, yet it is extremely pedestrian-unfriendly. Over $100 million in federal and regional transportation funding is slated for investment in the Route 28 corridor, which runs directly through the Yorkshire Activity Center.

While these large transportation projects focus primarily on roadway operations, the timing of this work presents an opportunity to implement additional improvements to create a more walkable, transit-oriented corridor to include bus pull-off areas, bus shelters, and pedestrian/bicycle facilities/amenities.

The study, which will identify gaps and make recommendations for improvements, will require close coordination with Manassas, Manassas Park, as well as the OmniRide system.

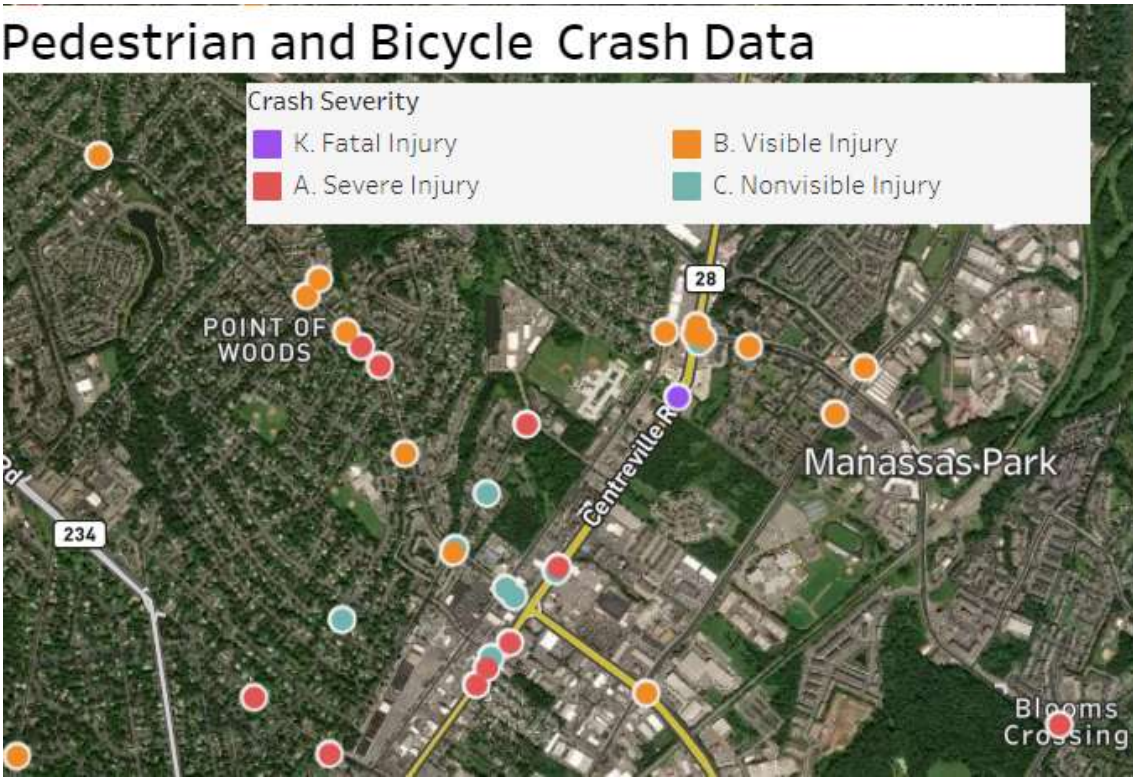
~~Happy~~ *Safe* Trails To You

Roy Rogers sang **Happy Trails to You**. At the Commonwealth Transportation Board meeting on May 1 to discuss the Six Year Improvement Plan for transportation funding, the theme was “Safe Trails for You.”

The Secretary of Transportation, Sheppard Miller III, started the meeting by highlighting the unacceptably high number of bike/pedestrian fatalities in Virginia. Multiple speakers in leadership roles echoed his concern.

One speaker noted the close correlation between the location of bike/pedestrian injuries/fatalities and the socio-economic status of communities. As shown in the **Virginia Health Opportunity Index**, “Health Matters; Place Matters.”

Prince William County Department of Transportation, in coordination with the City of Manassas and the towns of Occoquan, Haymarket and Dumfries, will be preparing a Comprehensive Safety Action Plan after receiving a $992,000 **Federal "Safe Streets and Roads for All" grant** in February.



At the Coalition's Quarterly Meeting on April 209, John Lincoln in the Virginia Department of Health showed a **new dashboard** to identify the location of crashes involving pedestrians/bicyclists in Northern Virginia. It streamlines the data on **VDOT's statewide crash dashboard**.

Have you identified a particular intersection or trails gap that should be addressed as a priority? Let us know at the Greater Prince William Trails Coalition - send description, pictures, and recommendations to **info@gpwtrails.org**

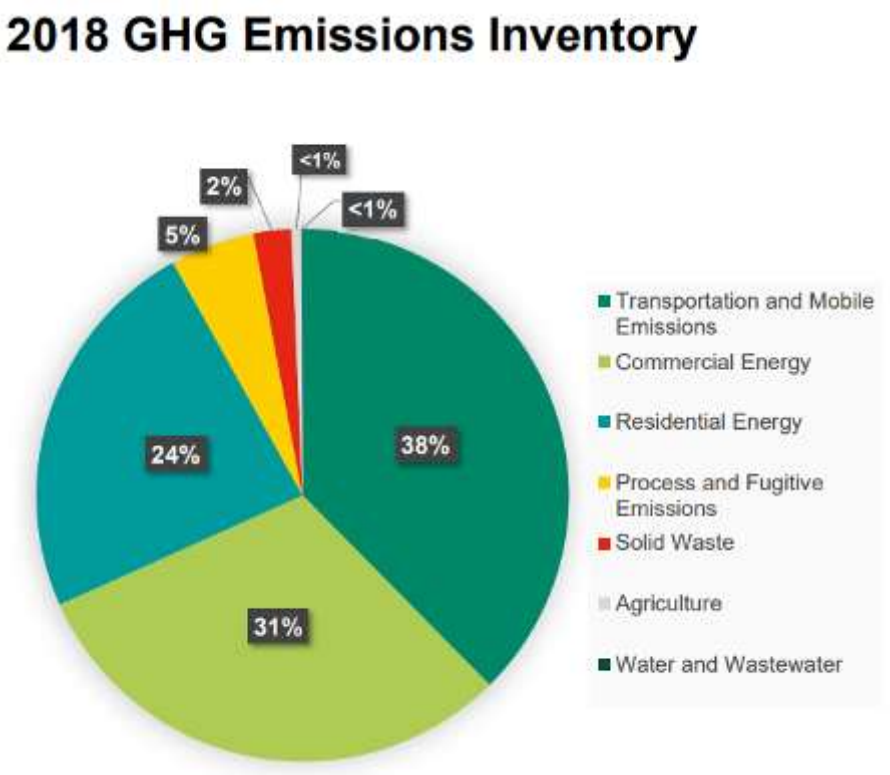
Join Andrea Bailey, Potomac District Supervisor, on Prince William County's 3rd Annual 5k Walk for Mental Health Awareness. ***Register online*** *to walk or volunteer.*

Second Sunday Hike - May 14, 1:00-3:00pm

On the Second Sunday of every month, the organizations which created the **Greater Prince William Trails Coalition** offer a hike to explore places in Prince William, Manassas, and Manassas Park.

This month, we will explore Potomac Shores south of Powells Creek. **Please register** to get details, including the location of the starting point. Registration will allow us to notify you if the hike is postponed or cancelled because of weather conditions.

Questions? Contact **secretary@pwtsc.org**

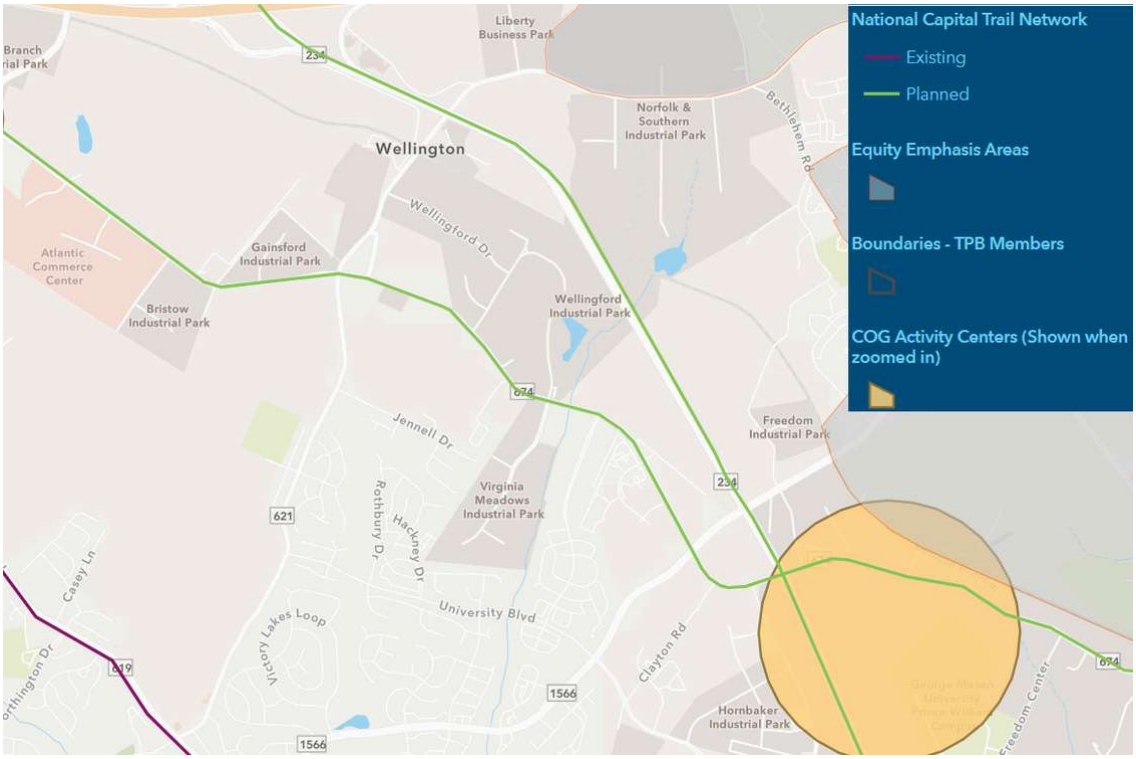


Trails and Climate Change - the "Mode Shift" Opportunity

Prince William County's Sustainability office will host a town hall on May 17 to get public input regarding **65 action strategies** to meet the county's objective to cut greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 to 50% of the 2005 level. In the end, 25 action strategies will be fleshed out in more detail.

There are eight proposed action strategies dealing with transportation. Bike/pedestrian trips generate fewer emission than cars, so the Transportation Planning Board included **completion of the National Capital Trails Network** in its regional plan to meet the 2030 target.

If you want to share your perspective on Prince William County's Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP), **register** for the town hall or complete the online survey.



*The **National Capital Trail Network** includes a bike route along Route 234/Prince William Parkway all the way between I-66 and Route 1, plus routes on Wellington and Linton Hall roads.*

In other news…

- The FY24 budget for Prince William County cut 3.5 FTE in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism - but then **added funding for contract services**, in order to accomplish the work which would have been done by DPRT staff. Having advocates speak out can make a difference…
- **Four Northern Virginia transportation projects to receive study funds** (InsideNOVA, May 2, 2023), including Yorkshire Multimodal Corridor Planning

Study to create a more walkable, transit-oriented corridor with pedestrian/bicycle facilities/amenities.

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