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## **Community and Energy Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP) Vote Anticipated October 24**

As regular readers of this newsletter know, the **latest version of the CESMP** includes a fast-track action strategy to “*improve active transportation infrastructure, sidewalk and trail connectivity, and overall safety to support walking, biking, and rolling.*”

The October 24 **agenda** for the Prince William Board of County Supervisors is expected to include a vote on the CESMP. In Prince William County, the last two inventories of greenhouse gas emissions identified cars/trucks as the greatest local source.

If you want to suggest that General Revenue funding should be included in the FY25 budget for building bike/pedestrian routes already approved in the **2040 Mobility Chapter**, you can **contact the elected supervisors**.



## Clean Up the Occoquan River, Catharpin Creek - and Help Fix a Boardwalk

**Friends of the Occoquan** will hold a rain-or-shine cleanup of the Occoquan River from 9:00am-noon on Saturday, October 14 starting at Lake Ridge Marina, Town of Occoquan, Bull Run Marina, Fountainhead Park, and Occoquan Regional Park. Pre-register by sending an e-mail to [foto@friendsoftheccoquan.org](mailto:foto@friendsoftheccoquan.org) with the volunteer names, selected location, and checkin time.

*(Image source above: Vicky Somma, [Occoquan River Cleanup 2013](#))*

Also on October 14 between 9:00am-noon, join in cleaning the Catharpin Creek in the Little Bull Run Watershed. Cleanup supplies, refreshments, and free t-shirts will be provided to volunteers - **register online**. This event is sponsored by Compass Datacenters through the Prince William Soil and Conservation District's Adopt-A-Stream/Pond Program.

The **Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition** has organized a paddle-the-river cleanup on October 28. **Please register** in case the event is rescheduled due to bad weather, and to help plan the logistics.

Boaters will launch at 10:00 am from the Lake Jackson Dam and paddle to Bull Run Marina, a distance of 9.6 miles. Trip will take about 4 hours. A van with trailer will be positioned at Bull Run Marina to return paddlers & boats to the start point, and additional vehicles to be available at Bull Run Marina (depending on the number of participants).

The Prince William Trails and Streams Coalition is also fixing a section of boardwalk on Powells Creek on November 10-11 (and on Sunday, November 12 if needed...).

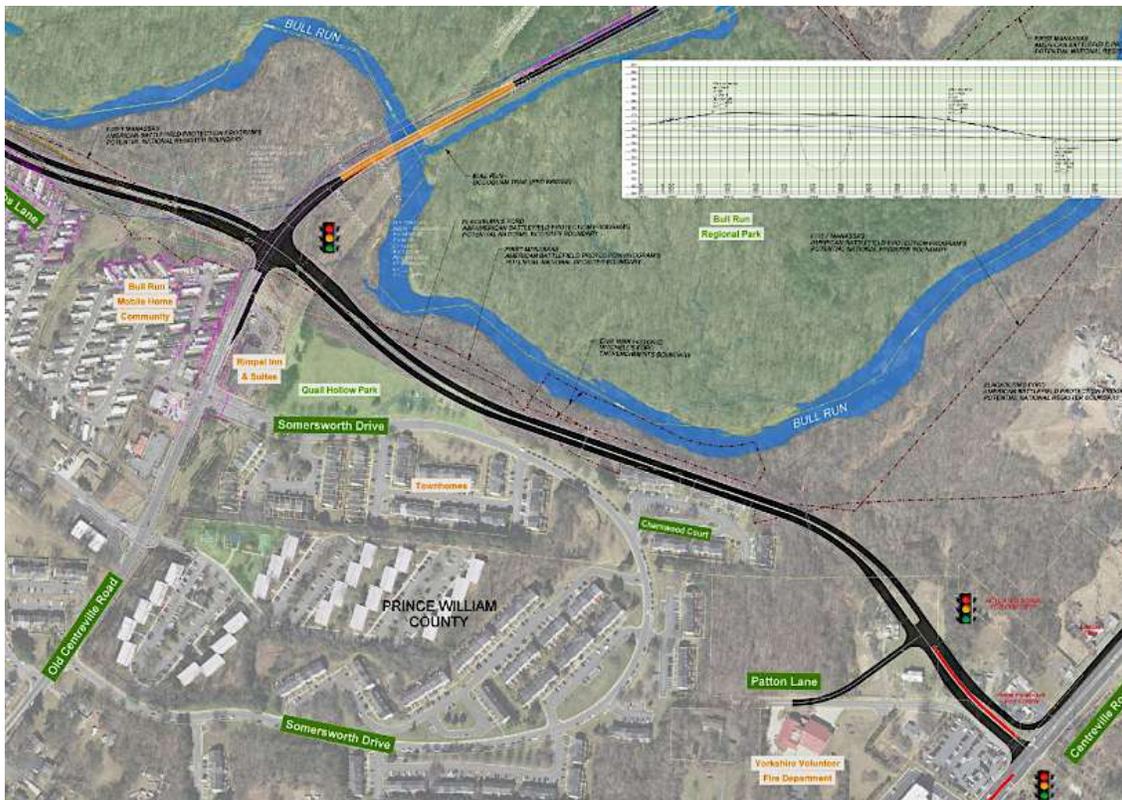
Project is between Leesylvania State Park and Route 1, in the Port Potomac and Powell's Landing communities.

Volunteers are need; **please register** if you can help. Park on Scuppers Lane (**marked on map**) at the powerline corridor.



## At the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)...

- The **2024 Regional Trails Summit** on October 24 now has a waiting list, with 70 slots already filled
- NVRC is **hiring a Regional Trails Coordinator**. Applications for this part-time (20 hours/week) job are due by October 24. Please spread the word.



## New Route 28 Bypass Alignment Proposed

In part because Prince William County can not condemn private property in Fairfax County in order to build the proposed **Alignment 2B** of the **Route 28 Bypass**, the county's Transportation Department has created a new **Modified Alignment 2A**.

At its **October 10 meeting**, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors approved spending \$1 million to assess the new alignment. The new alignment would avoid crossing into Fairfax County. The bypass would not cross Bull Run on a new bridge; instead, it would curve east to intersect existing Route 28 at Patton Lane.

There was little discussion by the supervisors of how the shared use path proposed in the old Alignment 2B would be altered in Modified Alignment 2A. However, the new alignment clearly would not provide a new bike/pedestrian crossing over Bull Run at Old Centreville/ Road.



### Safety Study Near High Schools

On October 10, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors had an agenda item to **cancel plans** to build a \$23 million pedestrian bridge over Route 15 near Battlefield High School.

The item was deferred until Spring 2024. In the meantime, the county's Transportation Department will complete a study of pedestrian crossings near high schools and identify what safety improvements are appropriate.

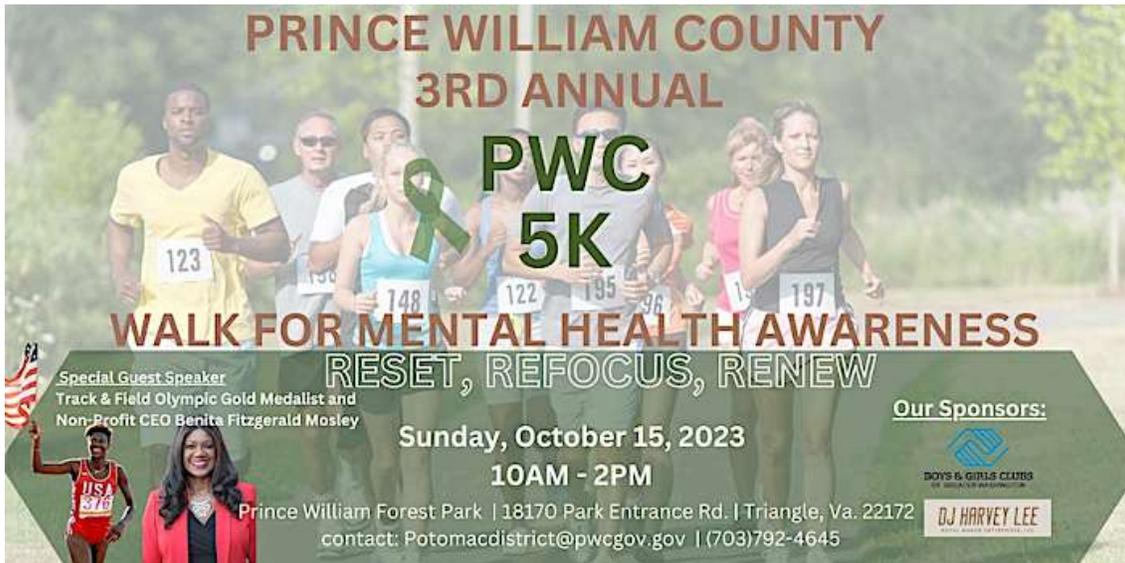
The BOCS had previously approved \$2 million for the Route 15 bridge. If cancelled, all but the \$70,000 spent for initial planning is likely to be returned to the general use transportation proffer fund. If the Route 15 bridge is cancelled, supervisors could allocate the remaining funding to other trails-related projects, potentially in the Gainesville District.



## Bike/Pedestrian Projects Update

The quarterly **Mobility Report** to the Board of County Supervisors on October 10 included:

- A new sidewalk will be added on Old Bridge Road between Oakwood Drive and Forest Hill Road. Utility relocations are currently being planned. The construction bid for the \$1.7 million project will be advertised in Spring, 2024.
- On Prince William Parkway, a sidewalk will be added to cross I-95. That \$4.8 million project is just starting the design process.



### In Other News...

- 3rd Annual PWC 5K Walk for Mental Health Awareness is Saturday, October 14, 10:00am-2:00pm at Prince William Forest Park. **Register online.**

- The **Virginia Walkability Action Institute** (VWAI) is a statewide initiative by the **Virginia Department of Health** (VDH) to enhance walkability in Virginia. It provides training and technical assistance to state and municipal staff in multidisciplinary fields such as health, transportation, planning, parks and recreation, and public works departments.
- **How electric bikes could stop being a luxury item** (*Washington Post*, October 5)
- **Roanoke Valley Alleghany Regional Commission announces bike rack program** (*Cardinal News*, October 10) “*The program’s goal is to provide bicycle parking to areas and destinations that need better access for non-motorized modes of transportation, are underserved, see high numbers of visitors, are popular gathering places or provide a public service.*”
- The League of American Bicyclists has a **Roundup Of Bike Parking Resources**.
- Did you know the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy offers a **Trail-Building Toolbox** with information on, among many other topics, **street crossing designs?**
- **Editorial: California’s transportation spending doesn’t match its climate promises** (*LA Times*, October 10)
- To join the November 2 webinar from Transportation Planning Board (TPB) on “Promoting Vibrant Communities And Safer Roads: A Look at FY 2023 Transportation Land-Use Connections and Regional Roadway Safety Projects,” **register online**.
- **What’s a STROAD and Why Does It Matter?** (from Strong Towns) *No, they’re not fans of stroads...*
- **Safer streets for pedestrians at the heart of new Montgomery Co. master plan** (WTOP, October 10)
- **New signs encourage Vienna pedestrians and drivers to see "Eye to Eye"** (*Tysons Reporter*, October 10). NOTE: October is **Pedestrian Safety Month**.



*Neabsco Creek upsteem of Cloverdale Park, as seen on the Second Sunday hike in October.*



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